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Conditions and Constraints of
Street

 **Girl
Children**

Dr. Rekha Chaubey

Publisher



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CONDITIONS AND
CONSTRAINTS OF STREET
GIRL CHILDREN

Writer:

Dr. Rekha Chaubey

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

S N Sen BV PG College,

Kanpur, UttarPradesh, INDIA



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Dr. Rekha Chaubey
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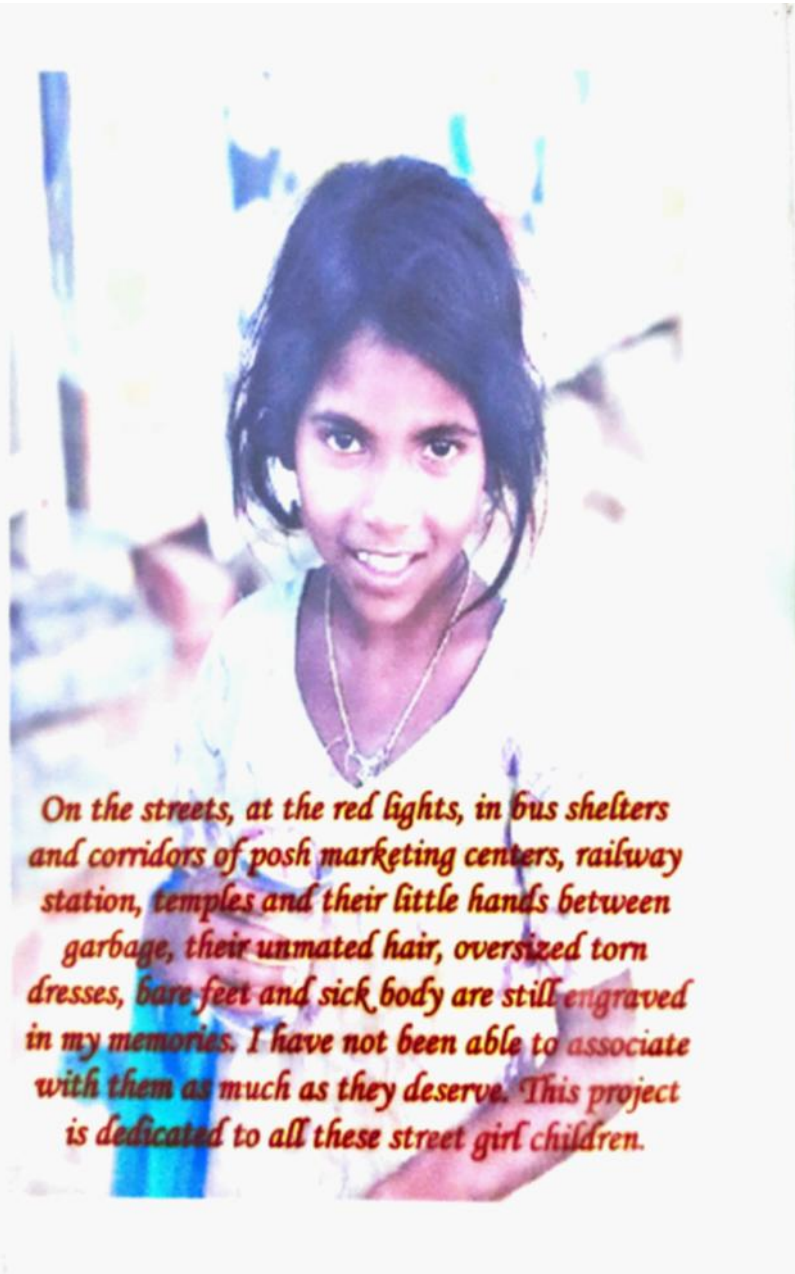
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A rectangular frame with a double-line border. At each of the four corners, there is a small, intricate floral ornament. The text is centered within the frame.

*Dedicated to My
Loving Parents*



On the streets, at the red lights, in bus shelters and corridors of posh marketing centers, railway station, temples and their little hands between garbage, their unmated hair, oversized torn dresses, bare feet and sick body are still engraved in my memories. I have not been able to associate with them as much as they deserve. This project is dedicated to all these street girl children.

PREFACE

The phenomenon of street girl is a grim reminder of the failure of society to protect and nurture its greatest asset-children. It is one of the most serious anomalies of modern society. The nation that fails to ensure the survival, protection and development of its girl children is doomed to destruction. It is society's responsibility towards child survival, protection and development but unfortunately the desperate situation of the poor families forced children to live and work on the streets and supplement the family income in order to save them and their family from starving.

Street girls are at more risks than the boys. Despite similarities between the male and female street children, the street girls do confront different problems and needs. The range and magnitude of issues and the types of violence experienced by street girls are enormous. The street girls are beset with special problems of their life and living on the streets that are applicable only to their kind and deserve a separate treatment. **Therefore, we felt that it is urgently required and is a crying need to study at the micro level conditions and constraints of street girls of Kanpur city.**

The cheerful faces and smiles of street girls were not enough to conceal the most obvious signs of poverty and hardships, overworked hands, frayed clothes and frail bodies. There is plethora of problems of poverty, hunger, health care and malnutrition. These street girls are victims of cruel circumstances and social compulsions for no faults of theirs. While they pine for a loving hand or even moments of affectionate concern, the world around them goes on with little care for the unfortunate girls who are creatures of the same God. It is not enough that we know why they are on the streets. Social conscience must assert itself to ensure that street girls are helped to join the main stream and contribute to social good in a meaningful way of which they are certainly capable.

There are many projects and studies visible on street boys and whatever projects are there for street girls fail to focus on specific needs of girls. We hope, data collected and conclusions derived during the research will certainly be very useful and will be forerunner to the future studies on the subject.

The study will also help us to understand the issue and perhaps help in developing relevant programmes and policies for their betterment of the conditions and removing their constraints.

Dr. Rekha Chaubey

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I have benefited a great deal with the discussions I had with my teachers from time to time in the department of sociology. It gives me immense pleasure in expressing my debt of gratitude which I owe to my colleague Dr. Nishi Prakash, head, Sociology department, for her inspiration and cordial cooperation.

I take this precious moment to express my heartiest thanks to all my friends and colleagues who flanked me unselfishly.

I am extremely indebted to my reverend father late Dr. Rajendra Pandey for his eternal blessings and my mother Smt Chandravati Pandey, for her love and affection and lesson of hard work that virtually helped me to undertake this endeavour.

I avail myself to this rare opportunity to express my heartiest thanks to my husband Dr. Ashok Kumar Chaubey for inspiring me write this book, constant moral support, keen interest and his endurance to provide me concordant state of mind to successfully complete the task.

I am yet to find words of my command to mention and express my love and affection to my beloved children Dr. Anupriya and Mangalam, who endured patience during my pre occupation with this book, supported my endeavour and felt pride for their mother to accomplish this task of writing this book. I also want to place on

record my gratitude to the family members and my siblings for their affection, support and cooperation from time to time.

It is my great privilege to thank my college office staffs who has helped me to finish this book without any hindrance. At this moment my faint memories prevent me for acknowledging all those who have helped me in one or the other ways.

I must acknowledge my gratefulness to street girls for helping me to collecting the data and thankful to the parents of girls for permitting me to carry on with my work.

I hope that this small effort of mine will be of use and relevance in policy formulation and programme, for the street girls in the city of Kanpur in particular and the country in general.

Kanpur

Dr. Rekha Chaubey
Associate professor
Sociology department
SN Sen BV PG College
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

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Introduction

The study presents the conditions and constraints of the poorest of the poor-the girls, who have been cast into the streets of Kanpur city.

In India, the phenomenon of street children seems to have acquired a gigantic dimension in the wake of rapid industrialization and urbanization. The problem of street children is global and exists in both the developed as well as developing countries, with the difference in its size and magnitude. Significant increase in the pace of urbanization, migration from rural areas and disintegration of the traditional family structure in India is characterized by a strong concentration of urban population in city, the emergence of slums and the urban poor and the increase in population of children and young under eighteen years of age. Children constitute one third of the Indian humanity. The urban poverty and the 'fourth world' living have become the common characteristics of the new human habitat.

The phenomenon of street children is a grim reminder of the failure of society to protect and nurture its greatest asset-children. It is one of the most serious anomalies of modern society. The vulnerability of children to abuse and exploitation has raised considerable concern in many quarters. The desperate situation of the poor families forced children to live and work on the streets and supplement the family income in order to save themselves and their parents from starving.

Who are homeless or Street Children?

Over 100 million children are struggling for their survival in destitute and distress. Childhood is synonymous with parental love, family protection, the joy of discovering things, play activities, initiation

into a social life. Unfortunately millions of children all over the world, live on the street or they are children of the street.

Street children 'the term flashes before our eyes scenes of infants lying naked on heaps of stone as their mothers toil away breaking stones or doing other work on the roadside, children looking for fragments of food from garbage dumps, children huddling up at night on the pavements, under a bridge, in drain pipes or in some unclaimed shelters, trying to cover themselves with a piece of dirty cloth during chilly nights, children in tattered clothes, who have possibly never been washed ,playing, gambling or engaged in various forms on begging, children cleaning utensils often bigger in size than themselves with their tiny hands, picking up rags from heaps of filthy urban waste, polishing shoes and washing cars, involved in pick pocketing, drug peddling and prostitution and children simply not doing anything but just loafing about streets.

To know the conditions and constraints of street girl children requires an understanding of who they are and how they can be identified.

“A street child is a child who lives on the streets of a city. A person under aged 16 who is living in a publically or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, motels, vehicles, campground, parks, on the street, in substandard housing or doubled up with friends and relatives, found in railway stations, on bus stops, near temples or durgah, pundals, markets, under and over bridges due to lack of housing considered as street children. They lack fixed, regular and adequate residence and their primary night time residence. They are mistreated, neglected and their homes do not provide them with even the basic necessities. They are deprived of family care and protection.”

Although it is very difficult to define street children as dictionary fails to provide any definition of street children and there is no definition

that can be unanimously accepted. There is no precise criterion to identify street children is another problem. The term is very wide and covers a juvenile delinquents, child laborer, school dropouts and maladjusted children. As these categories of children also at various times, spend a significant part of their day in the street without sharing other common characteristics. Another problem is that various epithets used for street children, 'children without families', 'high risk children', 'unattached children', 'children in need of care and protection', 'abandoned children' overlap.

Despite difficulties in defining street children one can come across the definition given by UNICEF.

“The term denotes a place of congregation, but also a certain set of working and living conditions. First, the vast majority are on the streets to make a living their families and for themselves. The return may be paltry and may be in kind rather than in cash, for these children the street is above all a work place. Second, they spend a large amount of time in the street frequently because of low returns of their labour. Third, most make their way in the informal sector as petty hawkers, shoeshine boys, scavengers of raw material or even thieves and street prostitutes. Fourth by the nature of their work and life, they are normally on their own, largely unprotected by adults. For vulnerable to many dangers and abuses and they tend to receive few services essential to their protection and development.”

The UNICEF definition lays emphasis on five elements in the meaning of street children:

- a) A place of congregation that is street
- b) A certain set of working predicament
- c) A set of living conditions
- d) Large amount of time spent in the streets and
- e) Lack of protection and vulnerability to dangers and abuses.

In the wisdom of UK Committee for UNICEF, not all street children are alike; hence one way of defining them is on the basis of their relationship with their families. The United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF provides the basis for categorization of Street Children, which can be placed in three categories:

1) The children on the street

These children consist primarily of working children who still have family connection of a more or less regular nature. They maintain contact with their families. They are children on the streets.

2) Children of the Street

Children of the street actually live on the street (or outside of a normal family environment). Family ties may exist but are tenuous and are maintained only casually or occasionally. These children are of the street.

3) Abandoned Children

This third group may appear to form part of the second group and in daily activities are particularly indistinguishable. These children are entirely on their own, not just for material but also for psychological survival. Children who have no ties to their families such as orphans, refugees and runaways live on the streets. They are also the children of the street.

Keeping in view the definitions and categorization of discussed above in view the following characteristics is suggested.

A street child is one who:

- Lives on the street, waste land ,public place most of the time;
- Works in the street on jobs of low status and low income;
- Lives in the exposed conditions of the street;
- Has no or little parental or social, protection and supervision;
- Has either continuous, intermittent or no family contacts at all;

- And are vulnerable to the hazards of living conditions.

Here we have followed the definition of UNICEF. Street children refer to all children who work in the streets of urban areas and refer to those children without a stable home or shelter.

Since there are varieties of urban poor and the risks vary by age group and by sex. Age wise children and sex wise girls are most vulnerable sections of the population than others. The discrimination between sons and daughters still stand in the way of the girl children being able to achieve their full potential. Despite similarities between problems of the male and female street children, the street girls do confront different problems and needs. This study focuses on street girls because they are at more risks than the boys. The project aims at the study of conditions and constraints of the girl children below 16 years of age—who have been cast into the streets of the Kanpur city.

Origin of the Research Problem

The street girl's conditions and constraints are more vulnerable than the street boys. The street girls are beset with special problems of their life and living on the streets that are applicable only to their kind and deserve a separate treatment. Therefore, we felt that it is urgently required and is a crying need to study at the micro level conditions and constraints of street girls of Kanpur city. The principal aim of the study is to make an in depth inquiry of the *conditions and constraints of street girl children in the urban centre of Kanpur city*.

The range and magnitude of issues and the types of violence experienced by street girls are enormous. Street girls suffer from the worst form of deprivation and denial of basic necessities like shelter, food, clothing, sanitation, health, education, physical protection, security and recreation as well as child labour and exploitation, sexual discrimination, neglect, poverty, lack of knowledge about human rights, prostitution and trafficking, depression, suicide, self-harm, rape, the

impact of witnessing violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, gangs and girl-on-girl violence, media violence, teen pregnancies, and cultural exclusion and insensitivity and so on.

Girls on the streets have more difficulties and are often overlooked by researchers. *This project brings to the light personal and familial profile of street girls, provides insight of hazardous working conditions and economic exploitation, basic needs deprivation-physical, psychological and social needs, health and specific adolescence problems as well as sexual abuse and harassment of the street girls.*

Child survival: National and International Importance

The most valuable of nation's resources is its children. It is a national and international responsibility to enhance and preserve this supreme national asset-the children. It is the bounded duty of the nation to ensure that every child is adequately housed, clothed, fed and trained and to make sure that each and every child gets the optimum conditions for its growth enabling thereby its survival, protection and development. The nation that fails to ensure the survival, protection and development of its children is doomed to destruction. No nation can therefore to leave this supreme asset-the children-at the mercy and caprice of individuals.

Children are too important at every level of social organization-from global to family. At the micro level, the birth of the child is both an aspiration and hope of every family which in turn, has important implications for the ménage and kin group. At the macro level, children are important in different ways national and international consequences. Children replace a continually aging citizenry, thereby save a nation from committing suicide. Children are too much important for international and national relationships, for, it is they, who translate strength in numbers philosophy into social reality, without whom great power status is impossible. Children also affect society's economy

and distribution of social advantage. It is incumbent upon a nation to make sure that each and every child gets the optimum conditions for its growth enabling thereby its survival, protection and development. It is because of these and many other reasons that the child 'deserves the best mankind has to give'.

Society does not treat children as desired. For long child was treated as parental property; hence, child abuse was not made an issue. But it is important to give setback to the traditional vision of child. Girl children especially street girls are mal treated, abused and neglected; therefore it has become currently a significant issue before nation.

Girl Child maltreatment: A disgrace for societies

Our relationship to the world around us is what may be called a double reality: the normative system embodying what ought to be differs from the factual order embodying what is. This can be seen in the case of the treatment meted to the girl child. Child mal treatment has occurred historically and in fact, as old as mankind. In the process, numerous girl children could not get what they deserved. Without doubt this is disgrace to society. But the conditions and constraints of street girls are worst.

In traditional societies, the pattern of child treatment was almost defined and definite. The child was treated as parental property. The authoritarian relationship contributed to the socialization of the child which tended to ascribed in terms of age, sex and kinship. Things that involved disciplines and responsibility in transmission were usually handed over to authoritarian relations. The vulnerability of the child to the ills of the time was contained by the traditional social system. Child mal treatment, was, therefore not an issue.

The traditional social system of the yesterday got a serious setback. Urbanization compelled with industrialization engulfed the rural areas on a massive scale throwing more and more population from rural to urban cities. The process of erosion of some of traditional

values proceeded swiftly and such modern values and ethos as social rationality, adoption of science and technology, economic transformation, modern individualism, liberty, democratic freedom, civil society and secularization to cite a few, entered the very kernel of total world view of modern society. These and many other events attempts in the direction of carrying out a modern society from within the decaying traditional attachments on a large scale. It is here where child mal treatment came to be viewed as menace to society in the making and girl child mal treatment as a discrete 'problem' came to be identified. Today, no doubt that abuse, neglect and mal treatment and variety of unhealthy pattern of parent child relations and miserable conditions and constraints of street girls are significant issue for policy and research.

The Importance of Identifying Street Girls

The cheerful faces and smiles of street girls were not enough to conceal the most obvious signs of poverty and hardships, overworked hands, frayed clothes and frail bodies. These street girls are victims of cruel circumstances and social compulsions for no faults of theirs. While they pine for a loving hand or even moments of affectionate concern, the world around them goes on with little care for the unfortunate girls who are creatures of the same God. It is not enough that we know why they are on the streets. Social conscience must assert itself to ensure that street girls are helped to join the main stream and contribute to social good in a meaningful way of which they are certainly capable.

There is plethora of problems street girls suffer from:

- They do represent different problems and needs than street boys.
- There is underestimation of street girls which leads people to feel that providing services to street girls is not a priority.
- The street girl-child has a lower status in India and enjoys fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood as compared to

the street boy-child.

- The street boy-child has first right on family and community resources than street girl child.
- The street girl-child is also neglected in matters of feeding and health care.
- Street girls are often looked down upon in many societies and are easily exploited in many ways.
- They usually have less economic opportunities than street boys.
- Educational opportunities are denied to them and street educators usually engage street boys in various activities while paying little attention to street girls.

As a result even discrimination is seen in research also. There are many projects and studies visible on street boys and whatever projects are there for street girls fail to focus on specific needs of girls. Girls may not be as visible as boys in the everyday street life. But they are there in great numbers and are increasing so.

Why there are fewer girls –child on the streets?

In general there are fewer girls than boys actually living on the streets. The proportion of girls among street children is reported to be less than 30 per cent in the developing countries and about 50 per cent in many developed countries. There are several reasons why there are fewer street girls:

- Fewer girls may be abandoned by their families. Girls are often socialized and (taught by their families and culture) to be submissive and caring and therefore they lead to have fewer behavioural problems as compared to boys. Since girls have fewer behavioural problems, they have less conflict with their families and do not need to leave their home.
- Families might get rid of girls by other means .e.g. marrying them off when they are as young as 13.

- The authorities or individuals members of the community may pick up girls on the street more quickly. For example, girls may be recruited to do domestic work in private households or to work in commercial sex industry.
- Street girls may be less visible to researchers or educators. Some street girls disguise themselves as boys to protect themselves from harassment by the police, welfare workers, employers' and other street children and other may only appear on the streets at night.
- In many cultures, there is much greater pressure for girls to stay at home than boys.
- Research shows that girls will put up with abuse at home for longer than boys but once girls make the decision to leave home, the rupture is more permanent than boys.
- Girls are also less visible as they often forced or lured into brothels.

Genesis of the problem

No country and virtually no city anywhere in the world today are without the presence of street children. Both developed and developing countries face a broad spectrum of problems posed by these children, yet few steps have been taken to address the issue. According to U.N. High Commission for Human Rights, India has the largest number of street children in the World around 18 million.

There may be positive gains of city and its civilization, but it has created immense social problems ramifications of which have affected the quality of much of human kind. It has given rise to new human habitat-slums and homelessness .children from the poverty stricken families have been cast in to the streets of the cities. Some of the children have migrated along with their parents and stay on the streets or their families have been on the pavements for a long period of time and these children are born and brought up on the street itself; while

others have run away from their native place for various reasons and have landed on the streets of metropolitan cities. Various studies provide different causes of children to come on the street.

The phenomenon of street children, an offspring of the modern urban environment, represents one of humanity's most complex and serious challenges. There are various causes responsible for the floating number of street children. There are two causal dimensions: individual and structural dimensions. Individual dimensions includes with those micro characteristics that reside within people such as psychological, physical and mental illness, breakdown of structure of family, family pathology such as alcohol and drug addiction, domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse and poverty. Structural dimensions include those macro characteristics' beyond individual such as urbanization, industrialization, migration, asymmetry development, war, natural calamities and geographically strenuous regions. Social exclusion and marginalization of children especially of girl children is more vulnerable than boys.

The push factors at their birthplace such as poverty, inadequate family support, peer influence and the pull factors in the city like fantasy to meet movie stars, unrealistic images of city life through media and desire to explore new life in the metropolitan city bring them to cities. Socio cultural factors and pulls of urban life indeed have a role. One comes across many street children who have run away from home or been forcibly thrown out, due to conflicts with parents, broken home, ill treatment by family members, or attracted to the city life.

Children may end up on the streets for several basic reasons. They may have no choice – they are abandoned, orphaned, or disowned by their parents. Secondly, they may choose to live in the streets because of mistreatment or neglect or because their homes do not or cannot provide them with basic necessities. Many children also work in the streets because their earnings are needed by their families. But homes and families are part of the larger society and the underlying

reasons for the poverty or breakdown of homes and families may be social, economic, political or environmental or any combination of these. In 1993 report of, WHO offered the following list of causes for the phenomenon such as family breakdown, armed conflict, poverty, natural and man-made disasters, famine, physical and sexual abuse, exploitation by adults, dislocation through migration, urbanization and overcrowding, acculturation, disinheritance or being disowned. The orphaning of children as a result of HIV/AIDS is another cause that might be added to this list.

The factors which may drive youngsters to the big cities could be a means of living, the lure of metropolis, and an irrepressible urge to get going and keep going without bearings. Yet it is doubtful if by themselves any or all of these factors would have been enough to drag a child to the street had his own home not rejected him and threw him.

The effects of war and natural disaster have increased the migration to the cities. Urban poverty has promoted the substantial growth of the street children phenomenon. Certain basic factors accompany family loss, it is most usually not a something that happens overnight, but a gradual process or cycle which begins with rural to urban migration, frustration and deprivation (family abandonment) and the inability of the mother to cope economically or otherwise. Causes of this phenomenon of street children are poverty in rural areas, family fragmentation, school dropouts and vagrancy. Families who struggle for livelihood in slums and deteriorating social environment in urban poor neighborhood also contribute to the growing number of street boys as well as girls.

Street children are the casualties of economic growth, war, poverty, and domestic violence, physical and mental abuse. Every child has a reason for being on the street. It is here where we can find the root origin of the street children phenomena. In fact, the street children are a symptom of a deep and disturbing trend in society.

Significance of the study

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. But the child cannot wait.” So it is our responsibility to protect and ensure the development of child.

Forces of modernization, industrialization, urbanization and poverty have adversely affected family life. Marital disharmony, separations or divorces, family tensions, death of parents, ill treatment by parents or step parents, selling of children as bonded labour and the apathetic attitude of society at large, a sizeable number of girl children are forced to stay and work on the street away from the family. Street girls are more vulnerable of street kids. There is underestimation of street girls which leads people to feel that providing services to street girls is not a priority. The street girl-child has a lower status in India and enjoys fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood as compared to the boy-child.

Hence it is urgently required to study at the micro level conditions and constraints of street girls to seek and improve their conditions because by doing so, we would be:

- Ensuring that young boys and girls have equal opportunities.
- Boosting their low self esteem. They may than participate in income generating activities and thus break the pattern of vulnerability.
- Ensuring that street girls have improved nutritional status.
- Helping minimize the possibility of early unwanted and high - risk pregnancies by providing them with information about sexual and reproductive health.
- Ensuring the return in investment into future generations, as young women with all some education tend to ensure that their own children are educated.

In this chapter we have presented the over view of street children phenomenon, definition of street children ,origin of the problem ,child survival –national and international importance, girl child maltreatment, importance of identifying street girls, reasons for fewer girls on the street ,genesis of the problem, and significance of the study.

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A brief overview of the street girl children phenomenon was provided in the opening chapter which afforded us a set of assumptions and interrelated concepts for depicting, grasping and comprehending the problem under investigation. Now it is time to delimit the scope of inquiry and elaborate the methods for adopting for conducting the study. The central aim of the inquiry is to explore at the micro level the “Conditions and Constraints of the Street Girl Children of Kanpur”

Objectives of the study

The **main objectives** of the study are: to study the conditions of the street girls and to understand the constraints street girls confront in their way of advancement of self and society.

The incisive objective

- To study the personal background of street girls;
- To examine the family milieu of street girls;
- To analyze the economic predicament they are entangled in;
- To assess the physical, psychological and social needs deprivation of street girls for their growth and development;
- To examine the health and specific problems of the adolescent street girls;
- To analyse the sexual abuse on street girls;
- To recommend strategies , policies and programme development for the improvement of conditions of street girls;

Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the study emerge from the earlier studies as well as from general social conditions prevailed in society. The specific

hypotheses are as follows:

- The street girls are likely to come from families with poor socio-economic background and embroiled in difficult circumstances;
- The work street girls are engaged in for their survival lie at the bottom of occupational hierarchy;
- The basic needs –physiological, psychological and social are likely to remain unmet to a large extent to the street girls;
- They are sexually abused to a large extent;
- The existing services and programmes are likely to be inadequate and beyond the access of street girls.

Methodology

Methodology refers to the procedures of research or techniques including description, explanation and justification of methods of data collection and handling. Methodology reflects the logic of scientific investigation that deals with the procedures for building up conceptual and logical knowledge based. The reliability and validity in research findings in the social research depend very much on the soundness of methodology used. The accuracy, exactness, and significance of the study depend heavily on the methodology used in research investigation.

Keeping the nature and objectives of the present study in view, this section has been described under the following heads for its systematic presentation.

1. Review of literature
2. Conceptual framework
3. Research Design
4. The universe and sample
5. Techniques of the study
6. Field work

7. Data analysis
8. Limitations

1. Review of literature

Before initiating any study, a critical and thorough insight of the studies already conducted relating to topic of the problem, becomes imperative for conceptual clarity and methodological improvement in the research work to be conducted. Keeping the above in view the studies already conducted related to problem was reviewed.

There are, however, a number of studies done by scholars in different countries on street children, but, very little work has been done on street girls. What is true of studies in India is also true of works done abroad.

William Foote White's (1955) *Street Corner's Society* is a classic study of street children. Cohen's study (1955) on Delinquent boys attempted to characterize the gangs which are delinquent or gravitate towards delinquent and criminal activities.

One of the most classical expositions of some of the historical as well as contextual questions that arise in dealing with this issue both in thought and action is the essay by Dr. Emma Rothschild (2000) entitled "An Infinity of Girls".

Jain Devaki (2001) *Women and child rights in the context of Globalization*, Speech delivered At Roundtable on "Building bridges for equality – mobilizing actions" for the human rights of children and women, organized by UNICEF presents the conditions of girl child.

Ganesh (2001) *Child abuse stems from family – a study: Vulgar talks, gestures also forms of abuse*, provides the detailed study of circumstances in which children are forced to involve in such activities.

Agrawal, Rashmi, (2003), *Street Children: A Socio-Psychological Study*: the book depicted a wide picture of conditions of street children, gave a glimpse over the problems faced by the street children.

A Study was conducted across several cities of the country which was sponsored and conducted by Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) under the topic Situational Analysis of Street Children (1991) by Phillips, Panicker, Desai, Arimpoor, D'Lima, Gosalia, Reddy, Ghosh and Pandey provides detailed study on extent and problem of street children.

2. Conceptual Framework

Street children defined

“A street child is any minor for whom the street has become his or her habitual abode and who is without adequate protection”.

The United Kingdom committee for UNICEF provides the basis for categorization of street children. Our street girl children were categorized on the two bases.

- 1) *“Children on the streets,” or those who are engaged in some street trade and usually return at night to their shelter; and*
- 2) *“Children of the streets,” who voluntarily seek shelter, companionship, and livelihood on the streets;*

For the purpose of study, researcher has taken two categories of street girls: girls on the street and girls of the street.

3. Research design

The inquiry is based on an exploratory-cum-descriptive design to achieve the specific objectives and test the validity of certain hypothesis. Exploratory research design was chosen in order to gain conceptual clarity and familiarity with the condition and constraints of street girls by making use of personal observation, common sense and different case studies. The descriptive research design was used for portraying accurately the characteristics of street girls and arrives at accurate picture of different parameters affecting the conditions and constraints of street girls.

4. The universe and Sample

a. Selection of the Study Area

The first step was to determine the territorial unit where the inquiry was carried out .The present study has been carried out purposely in Kanpur city .Kanpur is the largest city of the state of Uttar Pradesh and eight among the twenty largest cities of India with a population of 45, 72,951 as per 2011 census and the female population is 21, 03,837.

It was not possible to cover entire city, and, hence, we decide to go in sampling which will be representative –that is, a close approximation of certain characteristics of the target group. There is blend and mix of stratified random and purposive samplings. It is selected in manner that where concentration of street girls were more and were selected deliberately.

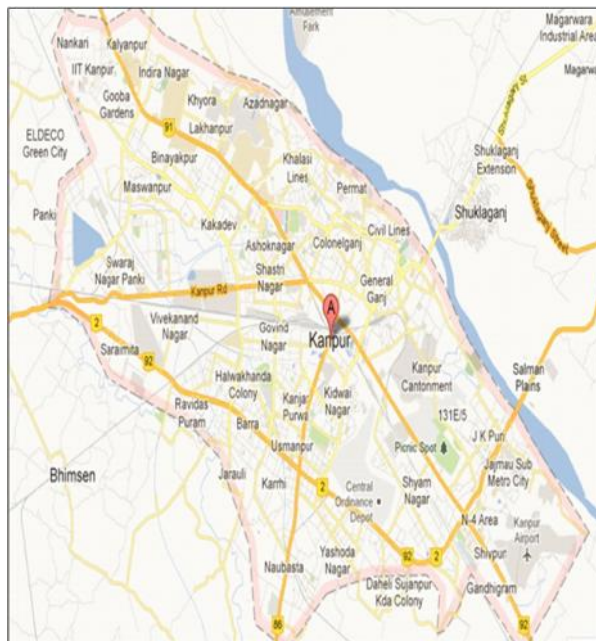
Table 2.1: Distribution of street girls in Kanpur city

Zones	Name of ward	No of respondent- total=100
1	Parade, Parmath ,Moti Mahal, Gwaltoli, Anwarganj	20
3	Babupurwa, Begampurwa, Kidawi Nagar	50
4	Panki, Juhi, Dadanagar, KakadeoKalyanpur	30

Administratively Kanpur is divided in six Territorial Zones and 110 wards. It was not possible for the researcher to collect the data from all the wards of Kanpur city so few wards and Mohallas was purposively selected because these areas were dominant areas of street girls. Zone 1, 3 and 4 was selected and the Mohallas of the selected ward was chosen- Parade, Parmath, Gwaltoli, Kalyanpur, Lakhnpur, Gol Chauraha, moti jeel, Anwarganj, kakadeo, Babupurwa, begampurwa, kidawi nagar,

Panki, juhi, Dadanagar and Fazalganj .





b. Selection of Respondents

Once the territorial unit was determined, the next step was to ascertain the numbers of street girls in the selected wards. Girls on the street is such an invisible population that it was very difficult to estimate their numbers. So one to one interaction was made to identify and approach street girls.

According to 2011 census report, the estimated population of India was 1210.2 million, out of which 65.5 million or 22.5 percent of the population lived in slums. The slum- dwelling population of India had risen from 27.9 million in 1981 to 6.5 million in 2011. India is the home to the world's largest population of street children. In the census 2011, nearly 43.5 lakh children lived on the streets. As reported by 2011 census, the total population of Kanpur was around 5 million whereas the slum population was 15.35 percent of total population.

Table 2.2: Total Slum Population of Kanpur, Census 2011

City	Total Population (in thousands')	Slum Population (in thousands')	% of Slum to Total Population	Sex Ratio in Slum areas	Child Sex Ratio areas
Kanpur	4,581	703	15.35	859	865

Our respondent sample consists of 100 street girls - below 16 years, who work and live in streets of urban areas. Age group of street girls was stratified in four categories: age group of less than 5 years (the pre genital phallic stage), 6-8 years of age (latency stage), 9-10 years of age (puberty), and below 16 years age (adolescence).

It was very difficult to find street girls on the fixed place and fixed time because these girls move from one place to another for their survival. We found these street girls in railway station, bus stops, street junctions, bridges, parking areas, Pundals, in front of temples, Durgah, parks, shops and market area or roaming on the streets girls without supervision of any adult.

It was very difficult to create rapport with the street girls. They were afraid in telling the truth or answer questions. So ice breaking exercises was adopted such as storytelling and giving things just to establish rapport and introducing the subject matter of the study to street girls in subtle manner. Researcher had to establish friendly chat. After some discussion and persuasion many of girls cast aside their hesitation and provided the information required.

5. Techniques of the study

Looking at the subtle nature of the problem, two broad techniques of study was adopted: qualitative and quantitative. The qualitative technique used in the study is observation and case study. Both methods of observation participant and non-participant were used.

The quantitative technique was employed interview schedule through which primary data was collected on conditions and constraints of street girls. The questions included in it were open -ended and closed. The primary data were gathered on specially designed and pre-tested schedule through survey method by interviewing personally the street girls. A pre-test on 10 street girls was done as a preliminary exercise both to test the effectiveness of the questions in the schedule and as also handling of the situation by the researcher.

The secondary information related to street girls were collected over a period of time from various secondary sources like city directory, Government and NGO's published and unpublished reports, books, journals, internet etc. Both primary and secondary data were collected, processed and analysed.

6. The field work

Field work was divided in three phases which was completed in one and half years.

The first phase was preparation of philosophical and theoretical ground for the fieldwork through a study of relevant literature which was helpful in formulation of the inquiry.

Second phase in which pilot survey of the Kanpur city was conducted and at this stage rapport was established with the street girls, local influential and officials.

In the final phase data was collected with the help of interview schedule. The filling of interview schedule was taken after re-establishing the necessary rapport with the respondents and people. The difficulties were, however, overcome by affinity and understanding.

The fieldwork was started in August, 2011 and interviews continued up to August, 2012. The final report was prepared by October 2012.

The source of inspiration for and involvement in the study of conditions of street girls were both experiential and academic. This study helped us to gain more insights into the problems with all its peculiarities.





Interaction With Street Girl Children

7. Data Analysis

The data received from the street girls were not in 'question answer form' always, but by casual conversation, sometimes. The data in the schedule was coded manually, then classified and analysed. The data was analysed by simple frequency in percentage and tables.

8. Limitations

An in-depth of the study in to this section of the populace researcher did face many limitations.

- The Time bound schedule for the study made us impossible to cover the total girls. The coverage of girls in the sample is less than what was desired.
- Street girls were found precisely in the vicinity of such railway stations, bus stops, bridges, shops and so on. The atmosphere for interviewing was constantly charged with movements and noise which made concentration difficult. Such interviews also

arouse the curiosity of the passengers by as well as other street children, and if not the interviewer, the interviewee often gets distracted.

- As street girls have no fixed locations of staying, researcher often had to move from one place to another to get full information from the same child. Often researcher has to meet one child several times.
- They were totally unused to of answering questions and were reluctant to answer.
- Some girls were found early in the morning or late evenings as rag pickers or beggars, so researcher has to search these girls both in early morning or late evenings also besides day time.
- Street girls are abused, neglected and abandoned in and by the society so they have very little or no trust in outsiders. As these street girls treated researcher with suspicion, it was rather difficult to make the street girls agreeable to answer freely the questions put to them.
- Researcher often had to face strong resistance from the street girls friends, parents and people around, many of them did not want to co-operate.
- Street girls have rather lackadaisical conception of time and hence feel no compulsion to finish the interview or cooperate with the interviewer in getting through an interview schedule.
- In case of below the age of 10 years street girls a lot of information was collected from their parents and guardians. It intimate questions. The natural shyness and subdued personalities of these girls stood in the way of their coming out with correct information about themselves.
- In case of many street girls, especially the teenagers ,many women who acted as touts or pimps and exploited these girls in exchange of meals and protection, resisted in fear of losing the source of income.

- Finally, no data and document is available about street girls of Kanpur.

The successful conclusion of a study of this size and magnitude was challenge in itself. Despite all the limitations mentioned above and the operational difficulties, the study was successfully completed. The study with minimum time and cost was able to throw light on many important findings that will serve as the benchmark and support to government to formulate legislation, policies and schemes for the improvement of conditions and constraints of street girls.

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It is time now to turn our attention to the empirical analysis at the most specific level. This chapter is directed towards discussion of the social background of the street girls. In the analysis of the conditions of the street girls our main aspect is to ascertain their personal as well as their familial conditions and focus on the extent and magnitude of the constraints.

Social characteristics of the human species include both life-cycle and life-style. This chapter will give the vivid picture of the street girls profile, their family background and their life cycle and life style they confront and possess.

I. Personal Background of Street Girls

Here we have focused on the life-cycle of the street girls such as age, caste and religion.

Age

All societies recognize age as basis of status. Age is a definite, highly visible physiological fact apparent at birth. It effects individuals and, is interwoven with other social-structural elements. People are strongly influenced by the age norms, the rules that define what is appropriate for people to be and to do at various ages. The information regarding the age of street girls is presented in the following table.

Table 3.1: Age of the street Girls

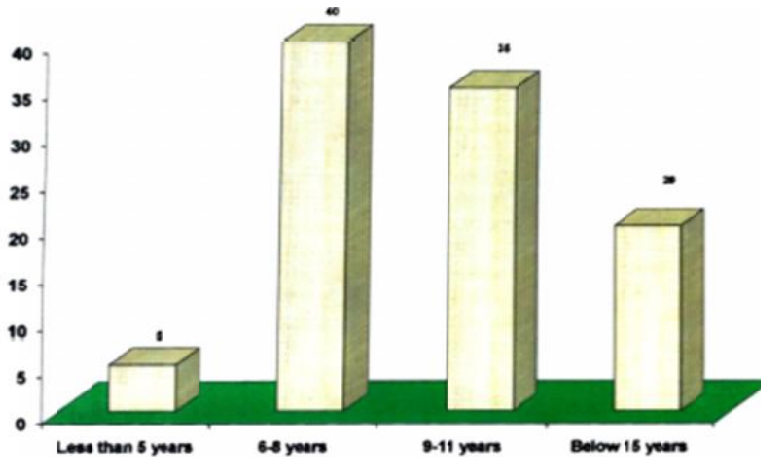
Age group	Street girls
Less than 5 years	05
6-8 years	40
9-11 years	35
Below 15 years	20
Number of cases	100

It reveals from the table 3.1 that 35 per cent girls are between 9-11 years of age (puberty), followed by 6-8 years of age 40 per cent (latency stage), and 5 per cent of girls belong to age group of less than 5 years (the pre genital phallic stage) and 20 per cent below 15 years of age (adolescence).

An overall picture that emerges from these data is that the majority of the street girls are in the age group of 9-11 years followed by 6-8 years. It is evident from the data that higher the age of the street girls lower their number. It appears that as the street girls grow young they become less visible in the streets. They do not disappear from the streets but they become invisible in the open streets but remain hidden in secret street corner due to kind of clandestine occupations they are forced into.

The developmental stage from sixth years to the onset of puberty is a period of elaboration, strengthening of the defence mechanism which arose in the pre genital stage, to protect the individual against anxiety producing conflicts. Due to lack of family homelessness and proper socialization and channelization of emotions, congenial neighbourhood, lack of schooling, these children suffer from psychosocial crisis such as inferiority complex. This is the age when children's conceptualization of other people increases. But unfortunately these street girls fail to acquire mastery and competence and develop their personality adequately. It is indeed sad to say that so small and young girls are on the streets for their survival and are neglected by our society.

Fig 1: Age of Street Girls



Religion

Here we have inquired about the ideological dimension of street girl's religiosity. Ideological dimension consists of set of beliefs which the individual holds concerning the divine or whatever he/she takes to be the ultimate reality or transcendental authority. The relevant data regarding religion of street girls is contained in following table.

Table 3.2: Religion of street girls

Religion	Street girls
Hindu	70
Muslim	10
Do not know	20
No. of cases	100

It mirrors from the table 3.2 that vast majority of street girls were Hindus (70 per cent) followed by Muslim (10 per cent) .20 per cent of girls were unable to tell their exact religion.

Caste

Every Hindu necessarily belongs to the caste of his parents, and in that caste he/she inevitably remains. No accumulation of wealth and no exercise of talents can alter his or her caste status. The hierarchical constitution of caste system gave rise to two types of broad groupings of the Hindu community- the higher ritual order constituting of Brahmins, Kshatriya and Vaishya and the lower ritual order constituting of the backward and scheduled caste. Such a system of social stratification has been responsible for the social stagnation in the country to a large extent. The relevant information about the caste heritage of the street girls is compressed in below table.

Table 3.3: Caste of Street Girls

Caste	Street Girls
General	10
Scheduled caste	30
Backward caste	20
Do not know	40
No of Caste	100

The above table 3.3 elucidate that majority of street girls belongs to the scheduled caste 30 per cent followed by backward caste 20 per cent and 10 per cent belong to general caste. Unfortunately 40 per cent of girls were unable to tell their caste.

Having examined the life cycle of the street girl children the age, caste and religion, it would be appropriate now to examine the background of their street living and their life style. In doing so we propose to examine street contact of the street girls in terms with whom they live, their family contact, duration of living on the street, native place from where they have migrated.

With Whom the Street Girls Live

Majority of the street girls live with their parents, brothers, sisters

or relatives. The following table explains the status of the street girls with whom they live.

Table 3.4: With Whom They Live

Members with whom the girls live	Street girls
Live with both parents	40
Live with only mother	18
Live with only father	12
Live with relatives	30
No. of cases	100

The table 3.4 shows that maximum number of street girls live with their both parents (40 per cent), with their one parent father (12 per cent) and mother (18 per cent), with relatives' brothers and cousins (30 per cent). Not a single girl was found who lived alone.

Nature of Contact with Their Family

Two categories of street girls were distinguished on the basis of family contact: children having continuous family contact (girls on the street) and occasional family contact (girls of the street). The following table illustrate the category as well as nature of contact with their families.

Table 3.5: Nature of contact with Their Family

Nature of contact with the family	Street girls
Continuous contact	70
Occasional contact	30
No. of cases	100

It is manifest from the table 3.5 that plurality of street girls (70 per cent) has continuous family contact with their families, but they work on the street, where as (30 per cent) street girls have occasional contact with their families. Those who live with their parents go regularly

home in the night. But those living with their relatives occasionally visit their families. Researcher did not find any abandoned street girl visible on the street.

Duration of Living on the Streets

The duration of living children on the streets has implications for them. Longer a child lives on the streets, more acquainted it becomes with the street life and surroundings. For the newly ventured ones, initially street life may seem stranger and difficult. So we ascertained as to how long the street girls are living on the streets.

Table 3.6: Duration of Living on the street

Duration of Living on the streets	Street girls
Less than 4 years	23
5-8 years	22
9-12 years	15
Since birth	40
Number of cases	100

It is evident from the table 3.6 that large proportion of the girls were living on the street since birth (40 per cent), less than 4 years (23 per cent), for 5-8 years (22 per cent) and only 15 per cent girls were living for 9-12 years. It seems that street girls are on street since birth or so long period of time because their families are living on the street and have no fixed and adequate shelter. They seem to be much acquainted with the street life although not happy.

The Migratory Characteristics of the Street Girls

Families of the girls are mainly migrated from rural to urban areas for life survival. Kanpur is big commercial centre with a large number of factories, workshops, industries and innumerable offices. The potentiality of employment is immeasurable. Lured by the promise of jobs in the cities, most migrant failed to find work. Trapped in

poverty, parents often neglect their youngsters specially girl-children. Though the most pervasive and important reason is poverty, other reasons like natural calamities, litigation in the families, landlessness also are important reasons. Families come to the city with high expectation and full of hopes but their dream is shattered in the case of many migrants. The children of these families have no alternative to spending all their day in the open street or doing some road side odd jobs. We found out the migratory characteristics of the street girls.

Table 3.7: The migratory characteristics of the street girls

Whether migrated	Street girls
Yes	80
No	20
Total	100

The table 3.7 exemplify that bulk of girls families are migrated from rural to urban areas. 80 per cent of girls families are immigrant where as 20 per cent are city born.

Native place of Street Girls

Girls belong to different states and cities. Coming to question of native place from where the girls belong is explained in the following table.

Table 3.8: State to which Street Girls Belong

Native place	Street girls
Bihar	10
UP	50
MP	05
Rajasthan	10
Do not know	25
Number of cases	100

The table 3.8 highlights that mass number of street girls belong to Uttar Pradesh 50 per cent followed by Bihar and Rajasthan 10 per cent respectively. 25 per cent girls were unable to tell their native place which they belong. They were unaware of that.

II. Family background of street girls

Until today the family has occupied a central place among the primary social institutions. Families serve as a channel through which material and social resources reach children, it is the family which provides the basic material goods for survival growth and development of the child. Families provide social and affection as well as material supports. Production of healthy children depends much on how well the families function.

But in too many cases today, however the family setting is just the opposite. In recent past due to many causes the nature of the family has been undergoing changes and a variety of problems related to family has surfaced, an unexpectedly high volume of violent behaviour is noticed within families, most notably in the forms of husband and wife abuse, parental abuse of their children and children's abuse of their parents and one another. The unhealthy developments such as these in the family have far reaching repercussions on the child. The levels of tensions, conflict and violence in families made children to leave home or pushed-out of home. In the poverty stricken families, parents often neglect and abandoned the children or force them to eke out a living to contain their desperate situation.

Thousands of girls primarily in urban areas work and live in the streets. Different categories of children in especially difficult circumstances can be identified; some of them maintain family links while undertaking street work to help their family to survive, while others are completely cut off from their families, making streets or public places their home and community. They live in very ill position.

Family is the cradle of all civic virtues. Children brought up in

families, both rich and poor imbibe certain values without any conscious effort. They learn the joy of sharing and respecting the rights of others by just seeing those virtues being practiced their homes. There is a fair chance of becoming good citizens. Things are so different in case of street children. To them the law of jungle and survival of the fittest is the highest virtue. There is no mother around them to provide experience of softer emotions. The world around them is cruel and selfish. So there is lack of civic responsibilities in these children.

Given the ideal conception of the families and appearance of disturbing trends, let us examine the family milieu of street girls of our sample. The family context of the street girls will be examined in terms of nature of the family, parental status, family -child relations and exploitation of the street girls by parents.

Nature of the Family of Street Girls

The Nature of the family of the street girl's family has been ascertained from a variety of angles such as, the size of the family, parents' occupation, income and the things they own and their relationship with their girl children.

Size of the family

Here we have focused on the family size which will give picture not only of the total members of the family but also its strength hangers on. The relevant data is presented in following table.

Table 3.9: Size of the family

Size of the family members	Street girls
less than 3 members	15
4-6 members	30
7-9 members	35
Above 10 members	20
Number of cases	100

It exhibits from table 3.9 that majority of street girl's family have 7-9 members (35 per cent) followed by 4-6 members (30 per cent) and 10-12 members (20 per cent). By contrast the proportion of small sized family is relatively small, that is 1-3 members having only 15 per cent. If we collapsed together the above table we get three types of family sizes small, medium and large. It transpires that, large size families out space the medium and small size family (55 per cent, 20 cent and 15 cent).

Our finding thus indicates that there is pre ponderous of the large size family. There is a street girl family carry heavy quantum of burden in terms of hanger – on. Poor family, the desperate situation induces women to produce more children as their last hope of survival. Its long run implication is that with the increase of hangers -on in the poor family, the children especially girls are forced to join the work force at home as well as outside to cities in very hazardous work.





**No School, No Play, Only Way of Existence: Begging
Occupation of the parents**

Work is our most important activity as human beings .Through work we create our world and ourselves. The products of our labour reflect our nature and from the basis for our self evaluations. Further through work we experience ourselves as active beings that shape the world about us. We therefore enquired about the specific work of the parents engaged in.

Table 3.10: Employment status of parents of street girls

Employment status	Father	Mother
Servant	02	05
Laborer	08	05
Beggar	15	18
Rag picker	20	10
Self employed	05	02
Do not know	-	-
Unemployed	20	30
No parents (dead)	30	30
Number of cases	100	100

It transpires from the table 3.10 that 50 percent of fathers of the street girls are employed where as 40 percent mothers are employed. The mother's employment status gives a dismal reading. Majority of women are not in paid jobs.

Income of the family

Income has to do with the amount of money people receive or what people get. Income is important for individuals and families for several angles. First, income gives power to control utilities which, in turn, is a hallmark of social status. Secondly, income facilitates access to public and private services-educational, medical and recreational. Thirdly, the life style is determined, to a large extent, by the income which, in turn conditions the group one interacts with. It serves as an important aspect of status. The relevant data regarding income is presented in table.

Table 3.11: Income of the parents (per day)

Income	Father	Mother
Less than Rs 50	25	25
Rs 50 - 100	15	10
Rs 100- 150	10	05
Unemployed	20	30
Do not know	0	0
No parents	30	30
Number of cases	100	100

The table 3.11 asserts that income of both the parents is unsatisfactory. Howsoever 25 per cent of parents earn Rs 100-150 per day, which is just in the line of destitution. This is one of the important factors for floating number of girls on the street because it is really difficult to survive in so meagre income.

Familial relation and street girls

Girls need more care and protection than boys because of their specific needs. Proper development of the girls depends on harmonious familial relations. In any family setting two important bonds significant for the child are parent-child relations and sibling relations.

Relationship between parents

Relationship between parents definitely effect the whole personality and development of child. Through them only they socialize and conceptualize the relations. The relationship between street girl's parents is revealed in the following table.

Table 3.12: Relation between parents

Relations between parents	Street girl percentage
Good	15
Moderate	20
Poor	35
No parents	30
Number of cases	100

It displays from the table 3.12 that majority of street girls relationship with their parents are poor (35 per cent), moderate (20 per cent) and good (15 per cent).

Need fulfilment by the guardian

The basic needs are however met by their parents but some other necessities and desires beyond basic need are not fulfilled by their parents and relatives. They have to suppress their desires or have to involve in other illegal activities to earn money in order to fulfil their desires. Still their adequate requirements are unfulfilled.

Table 3.13: Need fulfilment by guardian

Need fulfilment	Street girls
Yes	40
No	60
Number of cases	100

It is elucidated from the table 3.13 that 60 per cent street girls’ response was negative. They told that their basic needs like food and clothing are not by their parents then how can they fulfil their other desires. However 40 per cent girls told they howsoever manage to fulfil their desires.

In what has gone before the personal and family back ground of the street girls were analyzed. The majority of street girls belong to age group of 9-11 years. The proportion of youngsters is and adolescent is relatively small. A large majority of street girls are Hindus. The majority of street girls belong to the scheduled caste and other backward caste. The large group consists of those who have continuous family contact even though they eke out their living in the streets. The proportion of street girls with occasional family contact is relatively small. The majority of street girls are living on the streets since birth. The significant factors leading the girls to streets are poverty forced by parents or step parents. The sample population is dominated by street girls migrated from rural areas.

The family size is by and large sizable. Looking at the occupation and income of the parents, it can be said that families have to bear back-breaking burden of the hangers on. The meagre income earned by both parents is insufficient to meet their ends in such hard days. The occupation they do is also non-remunerable and of low standard. The familial relations seem to be not very cordial as they have to struggle a lot for their survival. The street girl children phenomena seem to be the product of the poor families.

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Work gives a person the recognition of being engaged in something worth and is commonly seen as the measure of an individual's worth. Work is a major social mechanism for placing people in the larger social structure and affording them their identities. In the following chapter we have focused on the street girl's economic conditions and constraints.

The Constitution of India made special provisions for the care, protection, prevention of exploitation, as well as, moral and material abandonment of children. Article 24 lays down that "no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment". The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution mentions in Article 39(e) that "the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and the citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength." In addition India is a signatory to ILO Conventions that prohibit employment of children under the age of 15.

But social reality tells a different tale. A nation which is committed to such lofty ideals favours the child labour which is psychologically disastrous, economically unsound and above all is a social evil. Children who are vulnerable to street life include those who have been abandoned by their families or starving parents or sent to cities for because of families intense poverty, often with hope that child will be able to earn money for their family. Street girl's work is a part of the larger problem of the child labour. They are prevented from unfolding their potential by entering into employment at a tender age. Street girls are deprived of education, training and skills due to early participation in work force and thus emptied of the future capacity for earning level of living.

Millions of street girls work to help their families because the adults do not have appropriate employment and income thus forfeiting schooling and opportunities to play and rest, poor and bonded families often “sell” their children to contractors who promise lucrative jobs in the cities and the street girls end up being employed in brothels, hotels and domestic work.

A study found that girl children were sent to work by compulsion and not by choice, mostly by parents, when working outside the family, street girls put in an average of 21 hours of labour per week, 25 per cent of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation in India are below 18 years of age.

The kinds of work street girls are involved in lies at the lowest rung of occupational ladder. Due to poverty and hunger street girls accept any kind of work for meagre return in order to stay alive. These children mostly live by illegitimate activities such as theft; pick pocketing, prostitution, snatching and running away goods etc. and consider themselves as legitimate workers. The occupation they follow are as beggars, helpers in all sorts of shop or do work as house servants, selling petty things or any handicraft products, singing or playing instruments in the trains or bus stops, sorting out rubbish dumps for metal or plastic objects to sell, sweeping floors in offices and home also work in myriads of small scale and unorganized factories. They have to work under harsh conditions and handle work that is dirty and dangerous which normally people refuse to do. Common jobs girl's do is rag picking through garbage in order to collect recycle material. They can be seen alongside pigs and dogs searching through trash heaps on their hands and knees.

Whatever be the job, the name of the game is survival from day to day and hour to hour. In existential terms, the street is usually perceived as a place of hunger, suffering, exclusion, trauma and solitude. The dirty and dangerous work street girl children do take only short time to destroy their health.

Here our attention will be on the economic conditions and constraints of street girls.

The nature of the Street Girl's work

Right from the day the street girls venture on to the streets, they become embroiled in the struggle for survival which means work. They start looking for jobs and jump over whatever they could lay their hands on in the hope of staying alive even if it is hard unending grind for a pathetic paltry return. Street girls are illiterate, unskilled and unemployed. They lack the income generating activities. Jobs open to young, unmarried girls is poorly paid, unpleasant and often leave the girls open to adult exploitation and frequently sexual abuse.

Street girls are employed working in informal sectors. Some are either employed as domestic servants or offering their services in the household as unpaid workers. The employment of the majority of street girls are in the hidden or underground informal economy which employs that there is unstable as well a casual wage work (any way of living which lacks a moderate degree of security of income and employment). They have no contract of employment, no formal channels for setting disputes, no insurance against sickness or injury, no minimum wages and no redress against an unjust employer and no bargaining power.

The following table shows the kind of work street girls are involved in:

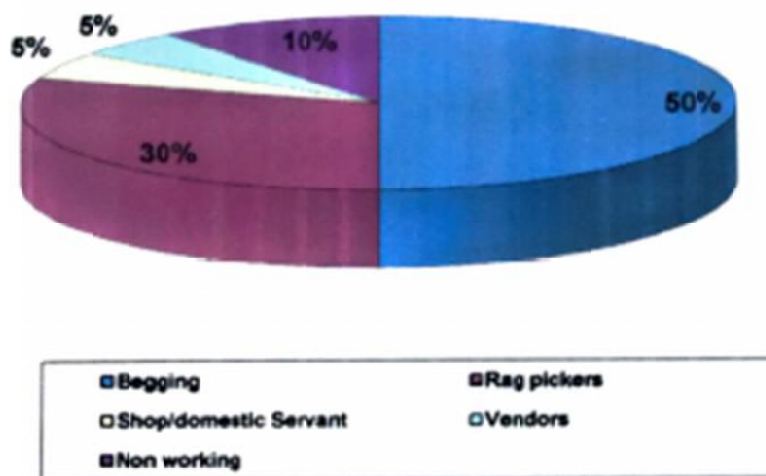
Table 4.1: Kind of Work street girls Do

Kind of work	Street girls
Begging	50
Rag pickers	30
Shop/domestic Servant	05
Vendors	05
Non working	10
No of cases	100

It mirrors from the table 4.1 that the majority of the street girl were involved in begging (50 per cent), rag pickers (30 per cent) and as servants and vendors (5 per cent) respectively. (10 per cent) just accompany their elder sisters, brothers or friends without intention of earning.

Strange, yet a fact, that not a single street girls are employed in the formal sector. Girls were involved in collecting discarded plastics and paper from open garbage for feeding thousands of factories set up for recycling material from waste and begging. Street girls lack a moderate degree of security of income and employment. They were in disadvantageous situation in the labour market. It is true that nobody prefer to keep these street girls as domestic servants in families as they are afraid of theft as they have no fixed shelter.

Fig 2 : Kind of Work Street girls Do



Survival Area

Street girls under ages 16 live in a publically or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations motels, vehicles, campground, parks, on the street in substandard housing or

doubled with friends and relatives, found in railway stations, on bus stops, near temples, durgah, pundals, markets, under and over bridges due to lack of housing considered as street children. They lack fixed, regular and adequate residence.

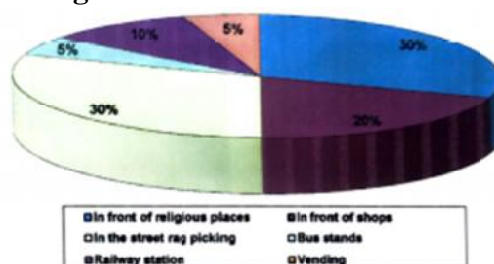
We found the street girls not on a fixed place but they used to roam here and there. It was very difficult to meet the same girl again on the same fixed place and time. The following table shows their survival area.

Table 4.2: Survival Area of Street Girls

Survival Area	Street girls
In front of religious places	30
In front of shops	20
In the street rag picking	30
Bus stands	05
Railway station	10
Vending	05
Number of cases	100

The table 4.2 asserts that majority of street girls 30 per cent were found in front of religious places such as temples, Gurudwara or Durgah especially on the special occasions, some weekdays and festivals mostly begging. 30 per cent girls were found on the streets as rag pickers. They were mostly seen in the early morning, sometimes afternoon and sometimes late in the evenings, 20 per cent of girls

Fig. 3: Survival Area of Street Girls



were found in front of shops and markets. 5 per cent girls were seen as vendors selling things such as toys, Pan Masala, water pouches or other petty things. 5 per cent girls were found on the bus stops and 10 percent nearby railway stations .One thing was very peculiar that they have no fixed place or fixed time.

LITTLE HANDS IN GARBAGE



In search of Help, in search of Hope

Factors responsible for street girls to work on the street

The genesis of street girls is an offspring of the modern environment, represents one of humanity most complex and serious challenges. There are various causes responsible for the floating number of street girls such as individual and structural causes. Individual causes includes with those micro characteristics that reside within people such as psychological, physical and mental illness, breakdown of structure of family, family pathology, domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse and poverty. Structural causes include those characteristics which are beyond individual such as urbanization, industrialization, migration, asymmetry development, war, natural calamities and geographical strenuous regions.

There are fewer girls visible on the streets than the street boys. In the present study we tried out the causes which made girls to live and work on the streets. Following table exemplifies the causes of girls to live on the street.

Table 4.3: Causes which forced girls to live and work on the street

Causes	Street Girls
Poverty	40
Forced by Parents	28
Illness of Guardians	10
Fulfilment of requirement	10
Other causes	12
No. of Cases	100

The table 4.3 transpires that 40 per cent girls are on the streets due to poverty, 28 per cent girls are forced by their own parents, single parents or step parents, 10 per cent are due to illness of their parents, guardians or with whom they live and for fulfilment of their requirement respectively. Only 12 per cent girls are due to runways from their homes, broken homes, allurements of city life and peer pressure.

It is quite clear that family poverty is major causes of girls to come on the streets. The prevalence of girl child on the street is, by and large, a problem of poor and destitute families. The starving parents let their children to do any kind of job.

Hours of Work

The street girls have to work beyond normal adult work hours of working, live in the life of destitution. They are termed as “the poorest of the poor.” Despite the hard labour and long hours of breathless work, the return is meagre. The starving girl child is exploited by the employer, parents and poor situation to work for long hours in unhygienic conditions with abnormally low wages.

Street girls’ work include monotonous work in early childhood ,heavy work load and long hours of work on the street and even in home which destroys their health and no training for future. The following table highlights the hour’s street girl work per day.

Table 4.4: Hours of Work

Hours of work	Street Girls
Less than 5 hours	15
5-8 hours	55
8-11 hours	20
Do not work	10
Number of cases	100

Street girls work for long hours of work in their tender age .The finding shows that 55 per cent of girls work for 5-8 hours in a day, 20 per cent girls work for 8-11 hours where as only 15 per cent street girls work only for 5 hours and sometimes less than that 10 per cent do not work as they are too young in their age as well as there are other members to support their family.

Struggle for Livelihood



Chase for Survival

Rest Time

It transpires that majority of street girls do not get enough time to take rest. They wander on the street since the start of the day for rag picking and begging. Besides this they have to do household chores also such as cooking, washing clothes, cleaning vessels, taking care of kids of family. Bringing water from far away and many other

unaccountable works. Being a girl she is exploited at home as well as outside the home. Lack of rest period tremendously affects their health as well as their physical and mental development.

Income

Income is important from several angles. Income gives a person the power to control the utilities which is the hall mark of social prestige and status. Income permits access to private and public services-educational, medical, recreational etc. Income determines the style of life of an individual which condition the group one interacts with. Income helps to gratify the desires and work as motivator. But unfortunately the small and young street girls live in the line of destitution or below destitution or poverty stricken.

It was observed that street girls earn their livelihood mainly as a beggar and rag picker which is at the lowest rung of the occupational ladder. They work for full day for long hours on low wages in order to ensure their survival.

Table 4.5: Per day income of street girls

Per day income	Street Girls
Less than Rs. 50	40
Rs. 50-100	10
Rs. 100-150	05
Do not earn	30
Do not work	10
Number of cases	100

The table 4.5 exhibit that street girls earn very meagre income. 40 per cent street girls earn only less than Rs. 50 per day, 10 per cent earn Rs.50-100, only 05 per cent earn Rs. 100-150. Their earnings fluctuate and depends on the special days or some festivals or occasions. Sometimes depends on their luck if somebody gives them in mercy or pity.

These girls belong to the group which may be termed as 'poorest of the poor'. Looking at the working hours of work and the corresponding income, it becomes clear that street girls to have to work beyond normal adult hours of working for living and get very less in return.

When asked to whom they give their earnings, the response can be seen in the following table.

Fig. 4 : Per Day Income of Street Girls

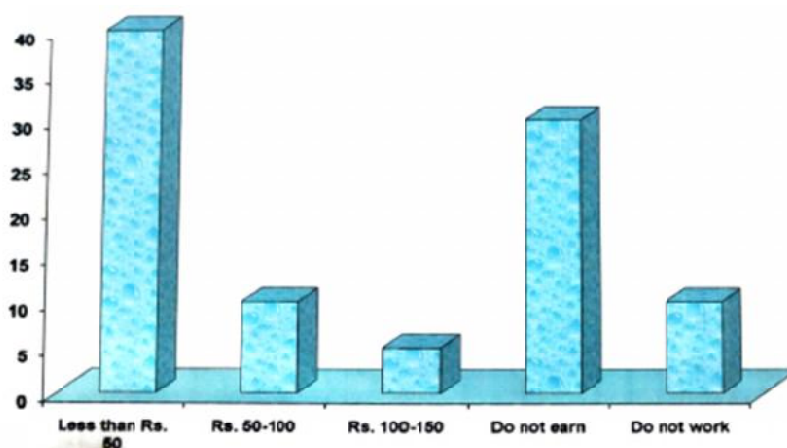


Table 4.6: To whom street girls give their income

To whom they give their income	Street girls
Mother	20
Father	10
Relatives	15
Friends	05
Keep ourselves	10
Do not earn	30
Do not work	10
Number of cases	100

The table 4.6 exemplify that girls those who earn whatever money by any way give to their mothers (20 per cent), father (10 per cent), relatives (15 per cent), friends (5 per cent), keep themselves (10 per cent). 30 per cent girls do not earn as they work as registers. 10 per cent girls do not work.

Savings

If the income is small the saving is expected to be small. The following table displays their saving.

Table 4.7: Savings of street girls

Whether save money	Street girls
Yes	05
No	95
Number of cases	100

The table 4.7 reveals that as many as 95 per cent of girls have no saving. Only a small percentage 05 per cent are able to save somewhat. They have no savings to meet their uncertainties and contingencies of life. This implies that whatever income accrues to the street girl is spent or taken away by their parent and relatives and they are left with no saving to meet their emergencies and uncertainties by life. The girls those who save little many with them buy eatables for them of their choice or purchase artificial ornament for themselves. Sometime they make fun with their friends.

It is tragic that street girls are sometimes forced by their parents or relatives to earn and bring target money and how so ever if girls are unable to fulfil desires of their parents and relatives they are maltreated, beaten or scolded. The following table manifests the relevant data.

Table 4.8: Behaviour of parents/relatives when not earned expected money

Behaviour of parents and relatives	Street girls
Behave badly	50
Behave normal	10
Do not earn	40
Number of cases	100

The table 4.8 highlights that when street girls are unable to bring expected money parents and relatives use abusive languages, beat, sometimes do not give food and behave badly (50 per cent), Only 10 per cent parents do not pressurize their daughters to bring target money and behave normal. 40 per cent girls do not work as they are involve in rag picking or just accompany their family members.

Household activities

Household work is mainly attributed to girls which are included services that go far beyond house-keeping activities such as cleaning, washing, cooking etc. Street girls wander from the day outside as well as are involved in household activities .The following table shows the vivid picture of their household street girls are involved in

Table 4.9: Household activities street girls involved in

House hold activity	Street girl
Cooking	05
Cleaning vessels	10
Washing clothes	05
Bringing water	30
Look after kids	10
Do all work	30
Do not work	10
No. of cases	100

The table 4.9 focuses that 30 per cent girls do all the household chores of their home of all age group girls. Remaining girls are involved in cooking (5 per cent), cleaning vessels (10 per cent), washing clothes (5 per cent), bringing water (30 per cent) and look after kids (10 per cent). 10 per cent do not do any work as they are too small and there are other members to help their parents.

Geeta (age 14) said that,

“Being the eldest I am burdened with lot of responsibilities I have to perform all the household chores and have to look after my younger siblings. Whatever remaining time I get I wander in streets and beg. I hardly have any time for myself. I feel very sad.”

In what has gone before, we examined the economic predicament of the street girls. The main occupations of the street girls were beggars and rag pickers. All the street girls work in the household and hidden sector of informal economy. They do the unstable, casual work for which they get poor wages and have no bargaining power. The kind of work they do lies at the lowest rung of occupational ladder. They work under harsh conditions and handle work that is dirty and dangerous which normally people refuse to do. They work for full time outside and inside the house beyond adult working hours. They do not set rest time. The return is very meagre. The income is just below the line of destitution. They are maltreated at home when not earned the expected money. These street girls have minimal or no saving to meet their contingencies of life. Street girls have no contract of employment; no formal channels for setting disputes, no insurance against severe injury no minimum wages, no redress against unfit employer. They earn in an inhuman way of livelihood.

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05 **The Basic Needs Deprivation**

Our attention now turns on the analysis of street girl's basic and social psychological needs deprivation. The analysis of chapter will tell us where they stand in terms of deprivation of their basic needs and what is needed to be done.

Needs are defined on the basis of objective and subjective criteria - 'true' and 'basic' and 'non-basic' and 'false' needs. Usually basic needs are defined as those needs that are directly related to physical survival and most elementary conditions of a meaningful life in the society. When we talk of dimensions of basic needs, it is, of course relative and depends on circumstances of time and place. Generally there is agreement about what needs are most basic but it is almost impossible to define the modes of application of higher non-basic needs, such as need for leisure, self-realization, satisfaction and cultural development.

Our study focuses on two needs of street girls. First, basic needs which include physiological needs such as adequate food shelter, clothing, water, sanitation education and recreation. The second need is socio-psychological needs that are related with love, affection, care interaction, security and safety. These needs become necessary, for they are essential for their development as a human being.

Basic Physiological Needs

Everyone has a right to an adequate standard of living for himself and for his family, including adequate food, clothing, and housing and to the continuous improvement of the living conditions.

Food

Food is the basic need of life and sustenance. Hunger is seen as an important enemy and freedom from hunger a basic human right. Even so, not every individual on the face of this planet is able to satiate

this primordial needs. The quality of life is meaningless without health which has direct linkage with diet. Unless persons get the minimum food to survive today, there will be no future tomorrow to enjoy.

Most of the street girls were deprived of food. Our focus is on the availability of food, the way hunger is overcome and availability of food of choice. The following table exhibits the availability of food.

Table 5.1: Availability of Food

Availability of Food	Street Girls
Home	35
Outside	40
Not available	25
No. of Cases	100

It transpires from the table 5.1 that only 35 percent street girls get sufficient food from their own home whereas 65 per cent girls get food either from outside (40 per cent) or do not get sufficient food (25 per cent).

Some times these girls have to remain contended with one meal or two meals a day. Sometimes these street girls do not take breakfast, work hard and roam on the street for long hours with empty stomach. Many a times their parents bring leftovers from where they work, otherwise these girls satisfy their hunger by begging, from religious places, theft from shops or other places ,eat leftovers, from dustbins and sometimes get from intimate friends .

Very rarely these girls get food of their own choice. That too depends on the mercy of others. The following table displays the availability of food of their choice.

Table 5.2: Availability of Food of choice

Availability of food of choice	Street Girls
On Festival and ceremony	15
From religious places	05
Give Passers by	10
Own earned money	10
Do not get	60
No. of Cases	100

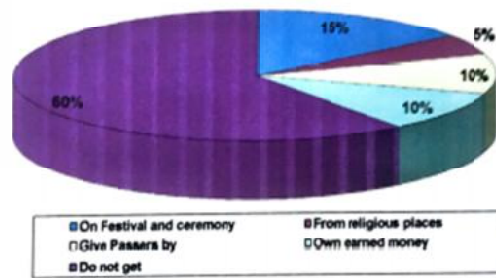
From the table 5.2 it is manifest that very rarely street girls get food of their own choice. They were eager to eat food and snacks like other children eat and drink but unfortunately it is not available to them, easily. They get food of their choice on some important festivals and ceremonies such as marriage or death (15 per cent), from religious places temples, Gurudwaras etc. (05 per cent), get from the passers by (10 per cent) and from their own money (10 per cent).60 per cent girls have never tasted food of their own choice.

Seeta (7 years old) said that,

“Whenever I see other children of my age eating mouth watering dishes and enjoying, I feel so bad. I feel so deprived. I curse my destiny, I dream of a better life.”

It is found that street girls were greatly deprived of sufficient and nutritional food. Health and nourishment are intimately linked in childhood. The lack of adequate food stunt their growth and development and increase susceptibility to diseases. They suffer from under nourishment and vitamin deficiency.

Fig. 5: Availability of Food of Choice



Beneath Their Eyes Lie their Shattered Dreams



Life On Leftover Shelter

The shelter is one of the important basic needs of human beings for which he/she has been struggling ever since. The choice of house is limited by the income and occupation. The absence of decent house means lack of status, prestige and power in society. Poverty is closely related to poor shelter. Many who live with their parents have poor houses located mostly in slums or street. The following table explains the types of houses they reside in.

Table 5.3: Types of house

Types of House	Street Girls
Polythene	50
Kuchcha/mud	20
Straw	30
No. of Cases	100

From the table 5.3 it is apparent that 50 percent girls reside in Plastic or polythene houses, 30 per cent in straw and bamboo, and 20 per cent in mud or Kuchcha houses, were temporary in nature and able to protect them and their families properly. In lack of house, the street girls' social interaction becomes limited and they were forced to live in a neighborhood with similar people. Poor localities mean denial of public goods and services such as electricity and water supply. They have no toilets and bathroom. So they all go to toilet on roads or in open areas. They were unable to use Sulabh Toilets, as they take user charges.

Street girls have no proper night shelter. Either they sleep in one covered room with their whole family members or sleep out side with family members. The following table unfurls their night shelter.

Table 5.4: Night Shelter of Street Girls

Night Shelter	Street Girls
Inside Home with family	70
Outside home with family	30
No. of Cases	100

The table 5.4 elucidate that 70 percent of street girls sleep in night with their family members inside the house and 30 percent sleep outside with one or the other family members. This questions their social security and safety as well as and health hazards.

Clothing

Clothing is also a basic requirement but these street girls do not possess even minimum clothing. Street girls do wear clothes but their condition is bad. Their clothes are soiled and dirty or bear holes or patches. In inclement weather severe cold or stormy- the clothes are in sufficient to protect the children from hazards of element. 80 per cent girls do not have sufficient clothes to wear. The following table indicates the arrangement of clothes for them.

Kind of Work : Ragpicking



Homelessness a Curse

Table 5.5: Clothes arranged

Clothes arranged	Street Girls
On Festivals	10
On Occasions	10
Regular Purchase	02
never purchased	78
No. of Cases	100

The table 5.5 reveals that only 20 percent street girl's parents or relatives purchase clothes on festivals or occasion such as marriage or any ceremony. 78 per cent parents have never bought single clothes for their kids. They get clothes from their work place or outside so no need to buy. Moreover they can not afford and clothes are not in their priorities. Only 02 percent families purchase clothes for their children.

Education

Education is essential for every child. It develops the faculties of a person, acquaints him with the world around him and satisfies the need of intellectual development.

Educations of street girls are very unsatisfactory. They have never been to school. Only 2 per cent girls have gone to school nearby just for few days in greed of food. The reasons they gave were poverty and workload. They were even not aware that free schooling is provided by government. The reality says different tale.

Recreation

Depending upon opportunities and means for recreation, the person relaxes his/her body and mind becomes creative. Recreation is essential for a person. The following table focuses how the street girls indulge themselves in recreation in spite of lack of recreation facilities available to them.

Table 5.6: Recreation Avail by Street Girls

Means Available	Street Girls
Television	65
Cinema	05
Games	10
Market, Mela & Others	20
No. of Cases	100

The table 5.6 bring to the view that street girls do not possess television in their homes but they do entertain themselves from watching TV in neighborhood, friend's houses or in front of shops. 5 per cent watch cinema with their pocket money and with their friend circle. 10 per cent street girls still play Gulli Danda and other traditional outdoor games. 10 per cent street girls go to see Mela, market, circus or swings. When asked that how they arranged money for recreation, most of them entertain themselves with free recreation.

Table 5.7: Source of money for recreation

Source of Money	Street Girls
Parents	05
Friends	10
Our own money	10
Free recreation	75
No. of Cases	100

The table 5.7 depicts that 05 per cent street girls get money for recreation from their parents, 10 per cent by intimate friends and 10 per cent girls spent their own money on recreation .75 per cent street girls avail free of cost recreation.

II. Social-Psychological Needs

The social-psychological needs are those for social approval and for giving and receiving friendship needs for interacting with other people. The belongingness and love needs include such needs as affection, affiliation and identification. Love refers to fondness or

warmth and affection but these girls lack love and affection from their parents as well as society.

The following table reflects on the parent child relationship and behavior of parents with their girl children.

Table 5.8: Behaviour of Family Members towards street girls

Behaviour of Family Members	Street Girls
Satisfactory	20
Unsatisfactory	80
No. of Cases	100

It mirrors from the table 5.8 that 80 per cent of Street girls' parents and relatives behave very badly with their children. They were physically, emotionally and mentally abused and even beaten many times. It is really disheartening to see their torture from their parents and relatives. When asked why beaten, the following table manifests the vivid picture of the causes of physical and mental abuse.

Table 5.9: Reasons for abuse

Reasons for abuse	Street Girls
Asking for food	20
For doing household work	30
Asking for money	10
For not earning	20
Wrong Act	10
Not abused	10
No. of Cases	100

The table 5.9 shows that 90 per cent street girls were physically and mentally abused for asking of food, for not doing household work, asking for money, not for earning money and involving in wrong act. Only 10 per cent street girls were not abused.

They share their feelings and emotions with their friends as interactional and sharing need is also important. Very few girls share

their matter with their parents. They neither understand nor have they time to listen the problems of their children. They too had their own problems. Street girls have their own friend circles. They share, play and quarrel with their peer groups. The egoistic need refers to needs for prestige, success, self respect and confidence, recognition, appreciation and contentment. But these street girls lack socio-psychological need fulfilment which results in underdeveloped personality. They were in great aggression and emotionally disturbed. Besides family members' passers by, shopkeepers, children of rich families also use abusive comments on them. They feel sad, humiliated, and angry and always curse their family and society.

The following table analyses the thought arises when deprived of basic needs.

Fig. 6 : Reasons of Abuse

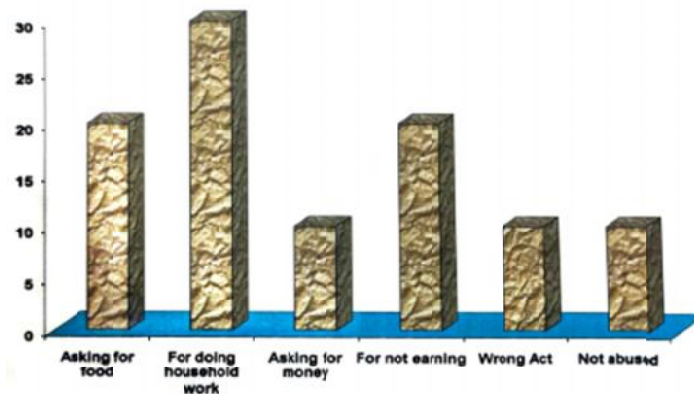


Table 5.10: Thought arousal when deprived of basic needs

Thought arousal when deprived of basic needs fulfillment	Street Girls
Curse Destiny	25
Curse Parents	20
Anger Burst	25
Feel Helpless	10
Involve in Illegal Act	05
Fulfill from Home	10
No. of Cases	100

It is evident from the table 5.10 that when street girls are deprived of basic needs they express their thought and anger in many ways. These girls blame destiny (25 per cent), curse parents (20 per cent), angry (25 per cent), feel helpless (10 per cent) and involve in illegal act (05 per cent). Only 10 per cent girls are satisfied as there needs are fulfilled at home.

It is assumed that greater the social acceptance of the parents and family, the greater is the child's sense of social security. Safety needs refers to the motivation to be protected from danger threat and deprivation. These street girls are always in fear with policemen, shopkeepers, neighbors', etc.

In the analysis of basic need deprivation researcher found that street girls were deprived of all the basic need required for survival. 65 per cent street girls get food either from outside or do not get sufficient food. 60 per cent girls have never tasted food of their own choice. Street girl' families have no proper and permanent shelter. Girls' lack proper night shelter and always have threat of safety. 78 per cent street girls' parents have never bought single clothes for their kids. 98 per cent girls have never been to school. Most of the street girls recreate themselves in some or the other way mostly free of cost.

The deprivation of socio psychological needs such as love and affection, social interaction, egoistic, security needs, and social acceptance and contentment have severe impact on girls psyche. It reveals from the analysis that 80 per cent of street girls' parents and relatives behave very badly with their daughters. They had to hear abusive comments from the passerby's everyday. There is no doubt that the effect of hurt, pain, anger, humiliation and loss of self esteem is enormous. Street girls who have been repeatedly subjected to physical and mental abuse carry the effects of it all through their life.

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Street girls are beset with special problem of their life and living on the street that are sui-generis applicable only to their kind and deserve a separate treatment and attitude. In this chapter our attention is focused upon health and specific problems of adolescent street girls confront.

Patriarchal norms, low status of women and preference for male children are the primary reasons that threaten survival of female children in India. The alarming fact is that female infanticide or foetuses has increased over the past few decades. While in 1960 there were 976 girls born for every 1000 boys, in 2001, there are only 927 girls for every 1000 boys and in 2012, there are only 940 girls for every 1000 boys. In addition to the deaths of infants and children due to malnourishment and disease, innumerable and unrecorded numbers of girl children are killed within hours of being born while many others are killed in the womb itself. 1 out of every 6 girls does not live to see her 15th birthday. Street girls health conditions are worst than normal housed girls.

Health

Health is one of the basic human needs and access to health services an undeniable right of every one. Health has a broader meaning referring to a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and merely the absence of disease and infirmity. Health encompasses psycho- socio- somatic development of the human being.

But unfortunately street girls constitute the section of population which has least benefitted from these advancements in which these girl children often precluded the actual enjoyment of the right to have access to health facilities on par with other sections of society. The situations turn out to be further worse due to shortage of health facilities

and functionaries in the localities where they live .Poverty is one of the main hindrance for their malnutrition and poor health .Street girls face multiple, profound risks to their health.

Homeless girls are more likely to experience chronic health problems and infectious diseases than housed children. Constant physical and mental strain and living in environment least protected against health hazards makes street girls highly prone to infectious diseases. Exposure to contaminated environmental dangers of weather and unavailability of the basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, bathing and toilet facilities prone more to diseases to street girls.

Poor nutrition also contributes to street girl's poor health. Surviving on streets, street children have no scope for getting two square meals every day. Reliance on junk and discarded, often stale food does not provide enough calorific nutrition necessary for their physical growth. They suffer from malnutrition. There is lack of attention to nutritional needs essential for their future role as child bearer and care giver. Homeless girl children are six times more likely than other children to have stunted growth and seven times more likely to experience iron deficiencies leading to anaemia. Children born into homelessness are more likely to have low weights due to lack proper food and nutrition. Street girls generally lack access to consistent health care and this lack of care increases severity of illness. They receive poor preventive care.

They lack basic resources to sustain a healthy living .They usually have no financial means to buy decent clothing and no money to buy food, which is crucial for their development .Street girls live in the places where they are not adequately protected from the environment. They rarely have access to facilities that they need for hygiene and sanitation, such as toilets and clean and safe water supply. The difficult surroundings often affect health of street girls.

Heavy work load on them also effect the growth of their height and weight and are thwarted as they carry heavy loads on their heads and backs. At the very tender age they start consuming tobacco or drugs which retard their physical growth. There is increasing rate of reproductive health problems among adolescent girls. Lack of knowledge and facilities for both pre adolescent and adolescent girls regarding menstruation and other developmental needs also affect their health.

Here our focus is on the preventive and curative health status. The following discussion will be on their cleanliness habits, diseases, place of treatment and vaccination status.

Cleanliness

Respondents were inquired about their cleanliness of teeth, bathing and washing clothes .The following table gives the picture of their personal hygiene.

Table 6.1: Regularity of Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene	Daily	Sometimes	Rarely	Total no. of cases
Teeth	10	70	20	100
Bathing	20	50	30	100
Washing clothes	10	65	25	100

The table 6.1 explains that street girls clean their teeth daily (10 per cent),cleans sometimes (70per cent) and cleans rarely (20 per cent),take bath daily (92 per cent),bath sometimes (50 per cent) and bath rarely (30 per cent),washes their clothes daily (10 per cent), sometimes (65 per cent) and bath rarely 25 (per cent). It seems that if some girls were aware of their hygiene and cleanliness, but due to lack of availability of water and toilets they were unable to take care of their personal cleanliness.

Diseases

Most of the street children experience two or more illnesses per month. They suffer from most chronic health problems such as endocrine dysfunctions or neurological disorders. As compared with housed children, homeless children suffer from five times the rate of diarrheal infections as housed children. They also suffer from tuberculosis, asthma, fatigue, anaemia, nerve damage.

Researcher found that out of 100 sample 80 per cent of street girls were suffering from some or the other diseases. They were malnourished; pale thin seems to be weak. Due to poverty, basic need deprivation and unavailability of access to health services, parents of these girls do not care of their children. It is also found that parents of these girls are reluctant about the health of their girl child. Street girls suffer from many diseases such as T.B, Skin problems, Asthma and many other diseases. Surprising they were unable to identify their diseases.

Treatment

The following table pictures the health status and treatment taken when they get ill.

Table 6.2: Place of treatment

Place of treatment	Street Girls
Government	05
Private	Nil
Registered medical practitioners	05
Home remedies	80
No treatment	10
No of cases	100

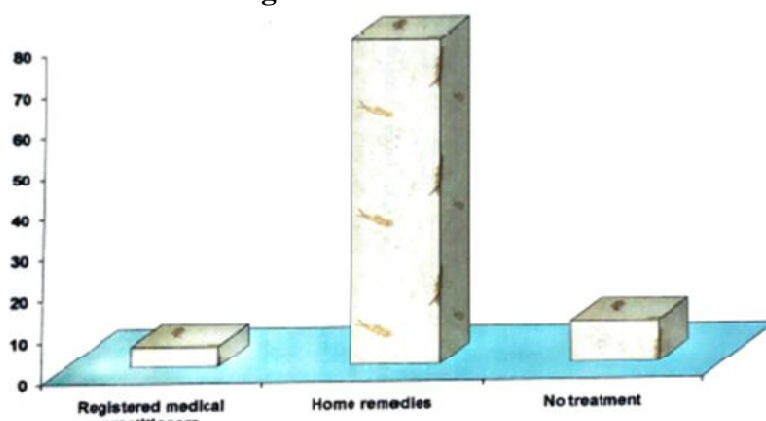
The table 6.2 transpires that 80 per cent of street girls were treated at home and with herbal remedies. Only 5 percent go to government hospital and parents, registered medical practitioner respectively. 10 per cent girls were poorly neglected and do not get

even home remedies. It is irony that 90 per cent street girls have never visited to any hospital because they either get home treatment or neglected.

Neeru (age 11 years) responded that,

“Being a girl child I am always neglected. Whenever I suffer from illness nobody attends me and bothers to take me to hospital. I feel annoyed, why did I survive. I hate my parents.

Fig. 7 : Place of Treatment



Immunization

Most of the street girls have never visited hospitals or doctors. Traditional practices detrimental to health or development of street girls. Lack of access to immunization and medical services often leads them to permanent deformities and disabilities. When asked whether immunized against diseases the response was negative.

Table 6.3: Immunization

Immunized	Street girls
Yes	02
No	65
Do not know	33
No of cases	100

The table 6.3 depicts that majority of girls were not immunized and were prone to various diseases. 2 per cent of girls which respond in positive were immunized only against polio. Some of them have taken polio drops provided free by government but this number is also very less mainly due to unawareness. Remaining 33 percent girls do not remember that any immunization have been given to them.

Addiction to Drugs

During investigation the researcher found that most of the street girl's family members and friends take some or the other types of drug like Pan Masala, Tobacco, Bidi, and Alcohol etc. Just to forget their ill condition and sooner they become addicted to some drugs. Their children also imitate them. It is so surprising that most of the girls of age group of 9-15 years were taking Pan Masala and tobacco. They do not get proper meal but some or the other way they arrange to buy Pan Masala and drugs. When inquired how they become addicted, the reply can be seen from the following table.

Table 6.4: Reasons for addiction

Reason for addiction	Street girls
Peer pressure	15
Family influence	20
For pleasure	05
Tension released	10
Do not take	50
No of cases	100

The table 6.4 focuses that 50 percent of street girls were addicted due to some or other reasons. 20 percent of girls were influenced by family members because their father, mother or relatives were addicted. 15 per cent girls were habitual of Pan masala due to pressure of their friends and once they have tasted they cannot leave it. 10 per cent were consuming drugs to release their tension. 5 per cent of girls were involved for pleasure and fun.

It seems that more the poorer, more the drug addicts. The reason behind addiction is found that labor class homeless families have no any means of recreation so they involve themselves in such activities like taking alcohol in group or alone or family members. Other causes were found that take drugs to release themselves from their tiredness and tension to forget their ill conditions. They were usually addicted to various types of drugs. This has direct impact on their children.

Specific adolescent needs and Developmental Constraints

The process of growing up as a female in our society is a complex phenomenon. With the onset of puberty, the girl child is transformed in a women. They are not aware of the physical and hormonal changes of their bodies. During adolescence, young people go through many changes as they move from childhood into physical maturity. Early, pre pubescent changes occur when the secondary sexual characteristics appear.

Girls may begin to develop breast buds as early as 8 years old. Breasts develop fully between ages 12 and 18. Menarche (the beginning of menstrual periods) typically occurs about 2 years after early breast and pubic hair appear. It may occur as early as age 10, or as late as age 15. Girls have a rapid growth in height between ages 9.5 and 14.5, peaking at around age 12.

The sudden and rapid physical changes that adolescents go through make adolescents very self-conscious, sensitive, and worried about their own body changes. They may make painful comparisons about themselves with their peers. Because physical changes may not occur in a smooth, regular schedule, adolescents may go through awkward stages, both about their appearance and physical coordination. Girls may be anxious if they are not ready for the beginning of their menstrual periods.

During adolescence, it is normal for young people to begin to separate from their parents and establish their own identity. In some cases, this may occur without a problem from their parents and other

family members. However, in some families, the adolescent’s rebellion may lead to conflict as the parents try to keep control. As adolescents pull away from their parents in a search for their own identity, their friends become more important. Their peer group may become a safe haven, in which the adolescent can test new ideas. In early adolescence, the peer group usually consists of non-romantic friendships, often including “cliques,” gangs, or clubs. Members of the peer group often try to act alike, dress alike, have secret codes or rituals, and participate in the same activities. As the youth girls moves into mid-adolescence and beyond, the peer group expands to include romantic friendships.

More than 50 percent girls of our sample have attained puberty and entered the genital and adolescent stage. At this stage the street girls needs toilet facilities and privacy during menses, retiring place, guidance about development problem and facts of life and medical assistance. But unfortunately these girls have no access to such facilities Here, we examine the specific problems faced by the street girls during their menstruation, awareness and privacy. The following table emphasis the number of girls having started menstruation.

Table 6.5: Status of menstruation

Status of menstruation	Street girls
Yes	48
No	52
No of cases	100

The table 6.5 elucidates that 48 percent of street girls have started menses where as 52 percent has yet not started because of underage or due to malnutrition and anemia.

Although girls were reluctant and feeling shy on such private and question but how so ever due to rapport of researcher they were ready to answer the question when researcher enquire whether their menses is regular or not the response was that 30 percent girls have regular periods and 18 percent of them have irregular.

The following table shows with whom they share their problems

Table 6.6: With whom they share

Shared with	Street girls
Mother	18
friends	20
relatives	05
Do not share	05
Not started menses	52
No of cases	100

The table 6.6 transpires that street girls shared their problems occurred during menses for the first time with their friends (20 percent), mother (18 percent), relatives (5 per cent) and 5 percent girls do not share this problem to anyone but tackle themselves.

It was found the majority of street girls were unaware of usage of sanitary napkins .those who know, but cannot afford .Very few street girls have purchased napkins from their own money but only for once or twice almost all the street girls use dirty old clothes. Their health is adversely affected.

From the above findings it is clear that most of girls due to lack of availability of water, toilets they are unable to take care of their personal cleanliness ,suffer from many diseases such as T.B, asthma and skin diseases, they were treated with only home remedies, 98 percent girls are not vaccinated. Most of them were drug addicted. 48 percent street girls have attained puberty; only 43 percent girls shared their problems with their friends, relatives or parents. As far as their development needs are concerned they lack all the basic requirement of toilets and privacy during their menses, can not afford sanitary napkins so suffer from many diseases.

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Throughout the greater part of human history men tended to regard women as inferior and of lower order. Elevated in rhetoric, crushed in fact, girls have far too long, been made victim of men's many tyrannical cruelties as injustice. Causing carnal catastrophe is one of the most demeaning devices men have adapted to smother and subjugate girls and thereby, sustain their own superiority. As a matter stands, the danger of sexual exploitations ever present, and a large number of street girls experience some form of physical or sexual abuse. In this chapter we will focus on the sexual abuse of street girls.

Sexual abuse of children is becoming a harsh reality all over the world. Child abuse is shrouded in secrecy and there is a conspiracy of silence around the entire subject. Lack of empirical evidence and qualitative information on the dimensions of girl child abuse and neglect makes it difficult to address the issue in a comprehensive manner. Besides other abuses, sexual abuse is one of the most shameful abuses.

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. As defined by the World Health Organization, "child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend is unable to give informed consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society. Child sexual abuse is evidenced by this activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person. This may include but is not limited to: the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful activity, the exploitative use of a child in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials."

However, there are many forms of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse include: asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities, indecent exposure of the genitals to a child, displaying pornography to a child, actual sexual contact against a child, physical contact with the child's genitals, or using a child to produce child pornography, assault, including rape and sodomy, touching or fondling a child, exhibitionism-forcing a child to exhibit his/her private body parts, photographing a child in nude and forcible kissing.

In most cases sexually abused children go unreported . Very often children do not even realize that they are being abused. On a study on Women's Experiences of incest and childhood sexual abuse conducted by RAHI, some of the respondents have stated that till the questionnaire was administered to them they did not realize that they had been abused as children. They had buried the incident as a painful and shameful one not to be ever told to anyone.

The subject of child sexual abuse is still a taboo in India. A very large percentage of people feel that this is a largely western problem and that child sexual abuse does not happen in India. Part of the reason of course lies in a traditional conservative family and community structure that does not talk about sex and sexuality at all. Parents do not speak to children about sexuality as well as physical and emotional changes that take place during their growing years. Moreover much of this sexual violence is inflicted by family members or other people residing in or visiting a child's family home-people normally trusted by children and often responsible for their care. As a result of this, all forms of sexual abuse that a child faces do not get reported to anyone.

The girl, whose mother has not spoken to her even about a basic issue like menstruation, is unable to tell her mother about the uncle or neighbor who has made sexual advances towards her. This silence encourages the abuser so that he is emboldened to continue the abuse and to press his advantage to subject the child to more

severe forms of sexual abuse. Very often children do not even realize that they are being abused.

Some deep seated fear has always moved Indian families to keep their girls and their 'virginity' safe and many kinds of social and cultural practices have been built around ensuring this. This shows that there is knowledge of the fact that a girl child is unsafe though nobody talks about it. However this fear is only around girls and the safety net is generally not extended to boys. In many places, adults were outspoken about the risk of sexual violence their children faced at school, in the streets or at play in the community, but rarely did adults speak of children's risk of sexual abuse within the home and family sexual violence against children foster a pervasive culture of silence, where children cannot speak about sexual violence in the home, and where adults do not know what to do or say if they suspect someone they know is sexually abusing a child.

Constraints of child sexual abuse include guilt and self-blame, flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, fear of things associated with the abuse (including objects, smells, places, doctor's visits, etc.), self-esteem issues, sexual dysfunction pain, addiction, self-injury, suicidal ideation, somatic complaints, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, other mental illnesses including border line personality disorder and dissociative, identity disorder, propensity to re-victimization in adulthood, bulimia nervosa, physical injury to the child, among other problems.

Needless to say, sexual abuse of girls is a personal crisis with full of problems of immense magnitude psycho-socio-somatic, all at once being so complex that defy description. Psychologically, the sufferer becomes the prey of perpetual guilt of her modesty having been outraged at alien hands for the rest of her life. The mental trauma, at times, may so deep that the victims may become mentally deranged or may run away from home to fall prey to prostitution, or may seek solace in suicide. The severity of the impact of sexual impact varies

depending upon whether the victim is a child or a youngster. Socially the sexual experience against wishes confuses the victims' views about the relationship between sexuality, normal life, violence and humiliation.

Studies have identified difficult situation of abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination committed against girls on the streets. Existing socio-economic conditions render some children vulnerable and more at risk to sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect. They have to face teenage pregnancy, stereotyped negative portrayal sex objects or victims in advertisements, proliferation of pornography that promote and reinforce sexual abuse, involvement of commercial sexual exploitation and work in bars, high incidence of sexual abuse specially incestuous rape and sodomy among girl children's, incase, act of usually victims of child abuse and more effected by HIV/AIDS. Thousands of street girls are working as sex workers. Exploitation of these children takes horrible forms. The rich from the developed world visit developed countries for producing pornographic videos and these girls are easily preyed to them.

Streets teen girls experience most of the same problem as floating sex workers and in addition, are frequently subjected to sexual violence. It is reported that 70 % of street girls have been victims of sexual abuse; while another study puts the figure as 80% .Study found that girls who turn to streets are generally younger than street boys. Girls are often invisible as they do not travel around the city at night.

Street girls are seen as a socio-economy phenomenon rather than a social category- a phenomenon created by social systems, gender rules political and economic.

In the following chapter sexual abuse of street girls are discussed. The street girls in their teenage are most vulnerable and highly sexually abused. Although they were shy and hesitated when sex related questions were asked. How so ever after lots of efforts and promise to keep the information confidential they become ready to respond.

Whether sexually abused

Most of the girls of different age group are some or other way sexually abused. The following table unfurls the sexually abused girls.

Table 7.1: Whether sexually abused

Whether sexually abused	Street girls
Yes	70
No	30
Total	100

The table 7.1 exhibits that 70 per cent of street girls were sexually abused whereas 30 per cent of girls were not abused. Either they were unable to answer or hiding the information. How so ever most of the girls were below 10 years of age so they were unaware of such sexual abuse.

Forms of sexual abuse

In the society the different forms of sexual abuse such as assault including rape, touching or fondling of private parts, exhibition of private body parts, photographing nude, forcible kissing and exposing a child to a pornographic materials. Getting answer to these questions from the street girls was a very tedious job. The following table focuses the different forms of sexual abuse with street girls.

Table 7.2: Forms of sexual abuse

Forms of sexual abuse	Street girls
Fondle private parts	15
Exhibit private parts	20
Photographed nude	05
Forcible kissing	05
Sex	10
Abusive comments	15
No sexual abuse	30
Total	100

The table 7.2 elucidates that street girls have to face different forms of sexual abuse on the streets most of the time. The response shows that they had experience of fondle private parts (15 per cent), exhibit private body parts(20 per cent) ,had sex(10 per cent), hear abusive comments(15 per cent) and photographed nude and forced for kissing(05 per cent) respectively. 30 per cent girls had no experience of sexual abuse.

Seema (age 13 years) said that,

“I have a deep seated fear in my heart after the sexual abuse incidence. I cannot sleep peacefully and get nightmares. I am always fear with my relatives and friends. I fear that they can take my advantage if they get chance. I feel angry but at the same time helpless.”

Persons who sexually assaulted

The researcher examined the categories of person sexually assaulted these street girls. The list is endless and also shameful. These teenage girls as well as adolescent girls are sexually assaulted by their cousins, brothers, neighbours, friends, strangers, employer, father, sometimes by the family acquainted person’s teachers, maternal/paternal uncle.

Fig. 8 : Forms of Sexual Abuse

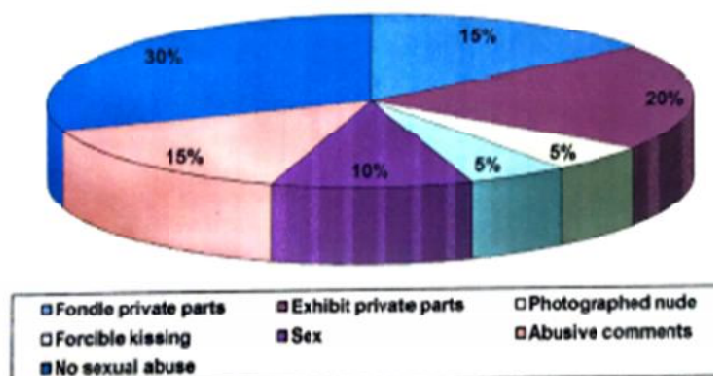


Table 7.3: Person who sexually assaulted

Person who sexually assaulted	Street girls
Brother/father	05
Cousins/relatives	25
Friends	20
Neighbours	15
Employer	05
Not assaulted	30
Total	100

The table 7.3 highlights that 25 per cent girls were assaulted by cousins and relatives, 20 per cent by friends, 15 per cent by neighbors, 5 per cent by brothers & fathers and employers respectively. 30 per cent girls were not assaulted.

Consent

Reality is this that most of the girls below age 10 years do not know about sex and effect of sexual act but due to advancement of media, T.V. programs above 10 years of age girls know the act and sometimes deliberately or forcibly involve in this act. The following table mirrors the consent of the girls for sexual assault.

Table 7.4: Consent of street girls

Consent	Street girls
Yes	30
No	40
Not assaulted	30
Total	100

The table 7.4 brings to view that 30 per cent girls were involved in sexual act from their own will and 40 per cent were forced by others whereas 30 per cent were not assaulted.

Reasons for involvement in sexual act

During the study the researcher found the various causes for involving in sexual act such as poverty, lack of fulfilment of basic need, liking for good food and clothing and pleasure. Street girls sometimes willingly accept this sexual assault and it is done with their consent. The table below shows the reasons for involvement in sexual act.

Table 7.5: Reasons of involvement in sexual act

Reasons	Street girls
Money	15
Basic need fulfillment	10
Pleasure	05
Forced by assaulter	20
Forced by parents and relatives	20
Do not involve	30
Number of cases	100

The table 7.5 explains that 30 per cent girls were not involved in sexual activities .40 per cent was forced by others to involve in sexual act either by assaulter or parents or relatives. Street girls involved for money (15 per cent), food and clothing and basic need fulfillment (10 per cent) and for pleasure (5 per cent).

Street girls are so innocent and also needy that they easily become prey of assaulter. The assaulter gives temptation of money, food, cold drinks, junk food ,clothes, showing movies or do fake promises for marriage or job. Usually these girls are tempted for petty things.

The Grief Behind the Smile



The Exploitation of Childhood

Consitutes The Evil The Most Hideous
The Most Unbearable to The Human Heart

Reporting of Sexual Assault

This project also elicited information whether or not the respondent had disclosed their experience to anyone. The below table illustrates with whom they have reported their sexual assault.

Table 7.6: With whom reported

With whom reported	Street girls
Shared with brother and sisters	05
Shared with friends	15
Told to parents	10
Reported to police	00
Not reported	40
Not abused	30
Total	100

The table 7.6 reveals that majority of girls 40 per cent did not report or shared their problem to anyone. Only 05 per cent shared with brother, sisters, 15 per cent shared with their friends and 10 per cent girls shared the incident with their parents. No one reported the matter to police.

When researcher asked why they did not share or report the matter to anyone. The following table explains the causes.

Table 7.7: Reasons for not reporting

Reasons for not reporting	Street girls
Feel shy	10
Feel guilty	10
No use of reporting	20
Shared the incident	30
Not abused	30
Total	100

It is apparent from the table 7.7 that 10 per cent of street girls were not reported the sexual incident to any one due to shyness and due to guilt respectively. 20 per cent felt no any use of reporting the incident as no body gives ears to their matter. Only 30 per cent reported either to their family members or friends but no action was taken by any one. 30 per cent girls were not abused.

Constraint faced by Street Girls

These street girls those who are mostly unaware of effect of sexual abuse fall in to great problem such as pregnancy, other sexually transmitted diseases. The table gives the glimpse about the constraint faced by them.

Table 7.8: Constraint faced by streets girls

Constraint faced	Street girls
Pregnancy	05
Pain in private parts	10
Guilt	10
AIDS/HIV	00
Diseases	20
No problem	25
Not abused	30
Total	100

It is evident from the table 7.8 that 10 per cent girls complain about pain in private parts, 20 per cent were facing problem of bleed-

ing and different related diseases such as continuous fever, insomnia, whereas on only 5 per cent respondent told about their pregnancy. 25 per cent girls face no problems as they responded. Surprisingly these street girls were not aware about sexually transmitted diseases .30 per cent girls were not abused.

Analysis of this chapter reveals that 70 per cent girls are sexually abused in different ways. Most of them are abused by their close relatives and are forced by others. Those who are involved from their own will are basically tempted for money and for the fulfillment of their basic needs such as food and clothing. Most of the small girls do not know that they are sexually abused although few of them have reported their matter to their parents as well as relatives and friend but it was unheard. Most of them have not complained due to shyness, guilt and uselessness of reporting. Most of them were suffering from many sexually transmitted diseases but unfortunately no steps were taken from their family.

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The project aims at the study of conditions and constraints of the girls, who have been cast into the streets of the cities. They do confront different problems and needs. Their conditions are more vulnerable than street boys. The central aim of the inquiry is to explore at the micro level the “**Conditions and Constraints of the Street Girls**” (A Sociological Study with special reference to Kanpur District, U.P)”

The study is divided in eight chapters. Over view of street children phenomenon, definition of street children, origin of the problem, child survival –national and international importance, girl child maltreatment, importance of identifying street girls, reasons for fewer girls on the street, genesis of the problem and significance of the study is discussed in the first chapter.

The second chapter is based on scope and methodology of the study.

The **main objectives** of the study were: to study the conditions of the street girls and to understand the constraints street girls confront in their way of advancement of self and society.

The inquiry was based on an exploratory-cum-descriptive design. Two broad techniques of study were adopted: qualitative and quantitative. The qualitative techniques used in the study were observation and case study. The quantitative technique employed interview schedule through which primary data was collected on conditions and constraints of street girls. The questions included in it were open -ended and closed. The hypotheses made by the researcher were proved true.

In the third chapter we have discussed the profile of street girls. Our sample consisted of 100 street girls. The majority of street girls were of age group of 9-11 years. A large majority of street girls were

Hindus. The vast number of street girls belongs to the scheduled caste and other backward caste. The street girls were not the homogenous group. Researcher found two types of groups. The large group consists of those who have continuous family contact even though they eke out their living in the streets. The proportion of street girls with occasional family contact is relatively small. The majority of street girls were living on the streets since birth. The factors leading the girls to streets were poverty and forced by parents or step parents. The sample population is dominated by street girls migrated from rural areas. The family size was by and large sizable. Looking at the occupation and income of the parents, it can be said that families had to bear back-breaking burden of the hangers on. The meagre income earned by both parents was insufficient to meet their ends in such hard days. The occupation they involved was also non-remunerable and of low standard. The familial relations seem to be not very cordial as they have to struggle a lot for their survival. The street girl phenomena seem to be the product of the poor families.

In chapter fourth the economic predicament of the street girls were discussed. The main occupations of the street girls were beggars and rag pickers. Majority of street girls worked in the household and hidden sector of informal economy. They do the unstable, casual work for which they get poor wages and have no bargaining power. The kind of work they do lies at the lowest rung of occupational ladder. They work under harsh conditions and handle work that is dirty and dangerous which normally people refuse to do. They work for full time outside and inside the house beyond adult working hours. They do not get rest time. The income is just below the line of destitution. They are maltreated in case of not earning the expected money. These street girls have minimal or no saving to meet their contingencies of life. Their needs are not adequately met by their guardians.

In the analysis of chapter fifth, basic needs deprivation was focused. The findings shows that girls were deprived of all the basic

need required for survival. 65 per cent street girls get food either from outside or do not get sufficient food. 60 per cent girls have never tasted food of their own choice. Street girl' families have no proper and permanent shelter. They lack adequate clothings. They have no proper night shelter and always have threat of safety..98 per cent girls have never been to school. All street girls recreate themselves in some or the other way mostly free of cost, Surpringly 25 per cent girls somehow manage to recreate themselves by their own selves.

In the socio-psychological needs love and affection, social interaction, egoistic, safety, security needs, social acceptance and contentment were found unsatisfactory. These deprivations have severe impact on girls psyche. It reveals from the analysis that 80 per cent of street girls' parents and relatives behave very badly with their daughter. There is no doubt that the effect of hurt, pain, anger, humiliation and loss of self esteem is enormous. Street girls who have been repeatedly subjected to physical and mental abuse carry the effects of it all through their life and often also end up as perpetrators of violence themselves.

In chapter sixth researcher examined the health and specific needs of adolescent girls. Most of street girls were not aware about their personal cleanliness, they have no access to water and sanitation facilities, suffer from many diseases such as T.B. asthma and skin diseases, get no proper treatment and lack of immunization. They encounter many problems that come in the process of their development .They lack privacy and toilet facilities during menses. There is no retiring place for the street girls. They by and large do not get anyone who may provide guidance and tell about the facts of life. There was no proper sharing. They had very little and no access to physician when they urgently needed. Street girls lack a protective night shelter. Most of them were drug addicted. 48 percent street girls have attained puberty; only 43 percent girls shared their problems with their friends, relatives or parents. As far as their development needs were concerned they lack all the basic requirement of toilets and privacy during their

menses, can not afford to buy sanitary napkins so suffer from many diseases.

Analysis of chapter seventh highlights the sexual abuse of street girls. It reveals from the findings that 70 per cent girls were sexually abused in different ways. Most of them were abused by their close relatives and friends. They were forced by others. Those who are involved from their will were basically for money and petty things. They have reported to their parents but it was unheard. Most of them were suffering from many sexually transmitted diseases. But ironically their problem is unheard and ignored by their parents and by society.

Chapter eight included conclusion and suggestions. Suggestions

The phenomenon of street girl child is a socio – psychological problem which has to be understood through a multi –faceted approach having a community base. A lot is being having done by the government agencies and non-governmental organization, but lot is yet to be done. Constructive solution and their implementation are to be worked out bringing about the required attitudinal changes.

Too many programs were started by the govt agency and NGOS for the betterment of street girls in India .But the impact of these programmes are not visible and effective. The researcher found that there are many obstacles in implementation of the programmes for the street girls and their families. There is a need of serious efforts and think of ways and means of reaching out facilities effectively to these street girls.

The life of street girls is as difficult as of a street boy .But she is more vulnerable than a boy because of her gender. Her life on the street is more exploitative and oppressive than a boy. Special attention is required for the street girls.

Based on the major findings, which have emanated out of the study, a few suggestion have been furnished here, which may be useful

to planners and administrators to tackle the specific problems face by the street girls in big cities like Kanpur.

- The human rights of street girls need be protected with utmost care.
- The concept of PURA (providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) should be developed in rural areas to check the migration of rural poor in the industrial cities for their livelihood and survival.
- The implementation and execution policy must be reoriented, so that the parents of street girls could get benefit of housing scheme in the cities.
- Easy loan facilities through nationalised banks should be offered to their parents, so that they could start their own work or shops.
- Awareness about the self help groups schemes/programmes. So that the families of street girls actively participate in group activities for their livelihood.
- Providing the free schooling to the street girls
- The school programme should be organised more informally and attractively as to draw the girls to them.
- Job and social security's to the street girls
- Provide the basic need like shelter, food, health and hygienic to the street girls and their family.
- Day and night facilities of toilets to the street girls and their parents
- Recreation and cultural facilities in nearby areas.
- Provide primary health centres, should offer free medical checkups and give free treatments to street girls and their families.
- Health care centres and health education to adolescence street girls

- Night shelter and residential care is particularly useful in case of adolescent street girls without family support. They need a secure atmosphere and would opt for a group home where “house parents” perform the role of the family head or parents.
- They should be encouraged through professional and career guidance programme to choose the career according to their attitudes and abilities.
- Meal should be provided to all the street girl children not as midday but also at night so that they need not to adopt begging or illegal methods to earn their livelihood.
- Improving the parenting Counselling and guidance to street girls and their family members.
- Parents of street girls should prevent and punished for ill treatment with girls and exploitation of girls.
- Drug rehabilitation must form part of successful intervention strategies for substance abusing street girls, a need largely overlooked by public policy and service provide.
- Non-governmental organizations should be extensively involved in the programmes for care and protection of street girls and their knowledge and experience should be used by the government to work out models.

The phenomenon of street girls is a socio-psychological – economic-demographic problem which has to be dealt with through a multi-faced approach.

It is said that opportunity knocks at everyone’s door sometimes or the other but how does that happen to those who have no doors or even the hope of having one. Still we can say that,

Let us light the candles at every dark corner..

Let us join hand in hand

and Let us make an effort to help blossom those innocent faces
to remove the autumn of their lives and bring a new dawn for the
street girls ..

a ray of hope

a promise of betterment

and remove the blot from their lives and

help them to transform into children from street children.

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APPENDIX-B
Interview Schedule
(Purely for academic purpose)
Conditions and Constraints of Street Girl Children

Profile of the street girls

1. Name
2. Zone/Address
3. Age
 1. Less than 5 years
 2. 6-8 years
 3. 9-11 years
 4. Below 15 years
4. Religion
 1. Hindu
 2. Muslim
 3. Other religions
 4. Do not know
5. Caste
 1. General
 2. OBC
 3. Schedule caste
 4. Do not know
6. What is the nature of contact with your family?
 1. Continuous contact
 2. Occasional contact
7. With whom you live?
 1. Both parents
 2. Mother
 3. Father
 4. Relatives
 5. Any other
8. For how long you are living on the street?
 1. Less than 4 years
 2. 5-8 years
 3. 9-12 years
 4. Since birth
9. Whether your family has migrated?
Yes /no

10. Which is your native place?
 1. Bihar
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Madhya Pradesh
 4. Rajasthan
 5. Any other
 6. Do not know
11. How many members are there in your family?
 1. Less than 3 members
 2. 4-6 members
 3. 7-9 members
 4. 10 and above
12. What is the employment status of your both parents?
 1. Servant
 2. Labourer
 3. Beggar
 4. Rag picker
 5. Self employed
 6. Un-employed
 7. No parents
13. What is the income of your parents?
 1. Less than Rs 50
 2. Rs 50-100
 3. Rs 100-150
 4. Unemployed
 5. Do not know
 6. No parents
14. How is the relationship between your parents?
 1. Good
 2. Moderate
 3. Poor
 4. No parents
15. Whether your needs are met in family?
Yes/no

Economic Conditions

16. What kind of work you do?
 1. Begging
 2. Rag picking
 3. Work in shop as servant
 4. Vendor
 5. Not working

17. Where is your survival area?
 1. In front of religious places
 2. In front of shops
 3. In the street rag-picking
 4. Bus stand
 5. Railway station
 6. Vending
 7. Not working
18. What factors led you to come and work on the streets?
 1. Poverty of family
 2. Death of parents
 3. Illness of guardians
 4. Fulfilment of requirement
 5. Pressure of family
 6. Not working but on the street but accompanying
19. How many hours do you work?
 1. Less than 5 hours
 2. 5-8 hours
 3. 8-11 hours
 4. Do not work
20. Do you get time to take rest?
Yes/no
21. What is your per day income?
 1. Less than Rs 50
 2. Rs 50-100
 3. Rs 100-150
 4. Do not earn
 5. Do not work

22. Whom do you give your earnings?
1. Mother
 2. Father
 3. Relative
 4. Friends
 5. Keep ourselves
 6. Do not earn
 7. Do not work
23. Do you have savings?
Yes/no
24. Which household activities you do at home?
1. Cooking
 2. Washing clothes
 3. Cleaning vessels
 4. Bring water
 5. Look after kids
 6. Do all work
 7. Do not work

Basic Need Deprivation

25. From where do you get sufficient food?
1. Home
 2. Outside
 3. Not available
26. When do you get food of your choice?
1. On festivals and occasions
 2. From temples
 3. Given by passer by
 4. Our own money
 5. Do not get
27. What type of house you live in?
1. Kuchcha house
 2. Polythene
 3. Straw
28. Where do you sleep at night?
1. inside home with family
 2. Outside with family

29. Whether any clothes is purchased for you?
1. On occasions
 2. On festivals
 3. Regular purchase
 4. Never purchased
30. Whether you have been to school?
Yes/no
31. How do you recreate your self?
1. TV
 2. Cinema
 3. Games
 4. Market/Mela/others
32. From where do you get money for recreation?
1. Parents
 2. Friends
 3. Own money
 4. Free creation
33. How do your parents behave with you?
1. Satisfactory
 2. Unsatisfactory
34. Why your parents misbehave with you?
1. Asking for food
 2. For work
 3. Asking for money
 4. For not earning
 5. Wrong act
 6. Satisfactory
35. How do you feel when your basic needs are not fulfilled?
1. Curse destiny
 2. Anger
 3. Feel helpless
 4. Involve in illegal act
 5. Fulfil needs

Health and specific problems of adolescent street girls

36. How frequent you take care of your personal hygiene?
1. Teeth- daily/sometimes/rarely.
 2. Bathing.
 3. Washes clothes.
37. Do you suffer from any diseases?
Yes/no

38. Where do you go for treatment?
1. Government hospital
 2. Private hospital
 3. Registered medical practitioners
 4. Home remedies
 5. No treatment
39. Are you immunized?
Yes/no
40. Are you addicted?
Yes /no
41. How do you get addicted?
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Family influence | 2. Friend influence |
| 3. For pleasure | 4. For tension release |
| 5. Do not take drugs | |
42. Have you attained puberty?
Yes/no
43. With whom you shared your developmental problems when faced?
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mother | 2. Friends |
| 3. Relatives | 4. Do not share |
| 5. Not attained puberty | |
44. Do you get adequate facilities of toilet and privacy during periods?
Yes/no

Sexual abuse

45. Have you ever been sexually abused?
Yes/no

46. In what way/forms you are abused?
1. Fondle private parts
 2. Exhibit private parts
 3. Photographed nude
 4. Forcible kissing
 5. Sex
 6. Abusive comments
 7. No abuse
47. Who sexually assault you?
1. Father/brother
 2. Cousins
 3. Relatives
 4. Friends
 5. Neighbour
 6. Employer
 7. Not assaulted
48. Whether your consent was involved?
Yes/no/not assaulted
49. What factors /temptation forced you to involve in sexual act?
1. Money
 2. For basic need fulfilment
 3. Pleasure
 4. Forced by assaulter
 5. Forced by parents/relative
 6. Not assaulted
50. With whom you have reported the matter?
1. Parents
 2. Brothers/sisters
 3. Friends
 4. Reported to police
 5. Not reported
 6. Not abused
51. Why you did not reported the matter to anyone?
1. Feel shy
 2. Feel guilty
 3. No use of reporting
 4. Shared the matter
 5. Not abused

52. What constraints are faced by you after assault?

1. Fear of assault
2. Pain in private parts
3. Guilt
4. Diseases
5. Not abused

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Dr Rekha Chaubey

Dr Rekha Chaubey who has, had a brilliant academic career is currently an Associate Professor at S.N.Sen. P. G. College, Kanpur. She has obtained her doctoral degree in Sociology from Banaras Hindu University. She has published several books and number of articles in various Sociology and social work journals and has also supervised number of Ph.D. students. Her areas of interest are Sociology of Women, Social Stratification and Sociological theory.



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Opp. New Panchjanya Vidya Mandir, Near Tiranga Chowk,
Kushalpur, Raipur, Dist.- Raipur, Chhattisgarh,
INDIA Pin - 492001 Phone : +91 9425210308
E-mail: shodhsamagam1@gmail.com,
www.shodhsamagam.com