

Protection Assessment of Children Living in Francis Town Lahore Pakistan

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Abstract

The old adage child is the father of man holds true for all times in the life of a human being. It is believed that a child has all the potentialities which if properly developed will transfer him into a better man for any work of life. The individual differences among the grown people are the result of the environment in which they are groomed. Child protection is a major issue in the world and many articles of UN, CRC recognize the rights of children to protect them if they are in the situation of dangers helpless or may be at risk of being harmed. So the main objective of this research is to assess the prevalence, circumstances and needs of children in the community Francis Town and based on the assessment, to develop recommendations for the purpose of the interventions. The study has found that one third (1/3) of the children were going to school while one third children were out of school. 87% children were not working for money, while 16% were working for money. Early child marriages, disabilities, conflict with law, different abuses, HIV/AIDS, child trafficking and smuggling were the main problems of this community. So the number of inexpensive primary and government schools need to set up for the easy accessibility of education. Govt. should take steps to remove physical abuse/ verbal abuse among children. People must be aware about HIV/AIDS and deadly diseases through the institute of education, media and awareness campaigns. The law-enforcing agencies must be mobilized to control the extent of drug trafficking in town.

Keywords: Social Abuse, Child protection, Health Awareness & Community development.

Introduction

In November 2003 International Labor Organization ILO/IPEC conducted baseline surveys on child labor in Pakistan. In the last two years ILO/IPEC conducted baseline surveys on child labor in four areas, i.e. coal mining, the glass bangle-making and surgical industries, tanneries, searching and

deep sea fishing. The studies identified hazardous occupation (Employment of Children Act 1991).

One of the most visible violations of child protection rights in Pakistan is child labor. The prevalence of child labor is high and widely accepted in society. It is estimated

that more than 3.6 million children in Pakistan work in a formal sector⁷. Two of the most exploitative forms are in carpet weaving and brick kilns. The minimum age for admission to employment as stated in Employment of Children Act is 14 years but varies in between other laws. However, children below that age can be found working in family establishments or in non-hazardous occupation⁸. Many child laborers, notably those working as domestic services are completely without protection and vulnerable to range of abuse. (Child labor survey 1996)

In Pakistan, Tobacco smoking is legal, but under certain circumstances is banned. The habit in the youth of Pakistan and in farmers is mostly found, and is thought to be responsible for various health problems and deaths in the country. Smoking produces many health problems in smokers. According to some surveys, 40% of males and 8% of females are regular smokers. Pakistan has the highest consumption of tobacco in South Asia (Anonymous, 2013). Traditionally, the child has been a subordinate person in our society, and adulthood hood has been postponed a little longer in each succeeding generation. The child of earlier times could do very little fight the existing system, and the times of his emancipation from whom he had become identified with the established culture. He had not only little desire to reset, but he was encouraged by society to marry rear children and earn a livelihood for himself and family. This was in accord with the dictates of a society that stressed individual endeavor, ambitions and independence for the adult. (Rehmatullah, S., 2003).

The infant enters this world as a biological organism preoccupied with his own physical comforts he soon becomes a human being, with a set of attitudes and values, likes and dislikes, goals and purposes, patterns of response, and a deep abiding concept of the sort of person he is. He gets these through a process which turns him from an animal into a person with a human personality put more formally, Socialization is the process whereby one internalizes the norms of his groups so that a distinct "Self" emerge, unique to this individual. (Helen M., Kenneth K. (1970).

An important developmental task of childhood is socialization learning the expectation and values of one's society. The basic goal of socialization is Internationalization in cooperating society's values into the self to such an extent that violation of these standards provides a sense of guilt. In this section we will discuss the two areas of childhood development in which socialization plays an important part which are the development of gender roles and the development of moral behavior and thought. (Elizabeth W. M, 1988).

The right to food, and its variations, is a human right protecting the right for people to feed themselves in dignity, implying that sufficient food is available, that people have the means to access it, and that it adequately meets the individual's dietary needs. The right to food protects the right of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The Pakistan floods this summer impacted the lives and livelihoods of some 20 million people, around 10 million of whom required emergency food assistance. An estimated 36 % of Pakistanis live below the poverty line

and almost half are illiterate. Poorer households typically spend over 60% of their income on food. 50% of all Pakistanis have little or no access to clean toilets and drinking water, a condition that renders them vulnerable to infectious diseases. (Pakistan hunger facts, 2010).

Medical reports reveal that one child dies every minute from the expanded program on immunization diseases, diarrhea and acute respiratory tract infection. They also reveal that every year about 400,000 infants die during the first year of their life. Child health in Pakistan is among the most important national issues that needs serious attention. (Shaihd, H, A., 2012).

Objective

The main objective of this research is to find out the demographic circumstances of the households and to highlight the protection issues of the children in Francis town, Lahore, Pakistan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The study site selected for this research is Francis town in District Lahore, Pakistan.

Sample size

We took the voters list of the community from “Election commission of Pakistan, Lahore” The total households were 310 in the community. We select the 103 (one third of the population) as a sample and use systematic random sampling in which we select the household with the interval of 2. It was decided to take one boy then one girl child from the each household.

Data collection:

Results and Discussions

Construction of data collection tool

It was decided to use an interview schedule for the collection of data because, the study required information regarding household aspects of in questions, which were predetermined and fixed with regard to the number, order and language.

It was based in two parts

1. Family interview
2. Children interview

Close as well as open ended questions were included in the schedule. All questions were directed by the objectives of the study.

Group functioning

Social research group was consisted of seven students of M.A final year social work, department of social work, university of the Punjab, Lahore. It was supervised by prof. Saeed Ur Reham. One student was selected as a chairman by themselves for effective group functioning and coordinating the efforts of the group, throughout various studies of the study. Individual as well as combined assignments were to group members and regular meetings were held with the supervisor to finalize the assignments related to different phases of the research.

Analyzing of data

Collected data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations, were used to summarize different variables. Data was interpreted with the help of a computer software i.e. statistical package for social sciences.

Table 1

Distribution of the children regarding enrolment in school

| Responses | F | % |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Yes | 54 | 59 |
| No | 38 | 41 |
| Total | 92 | 100 |

Table 1 shows that more than half (59%) children have enrollment in school.

Table 2

Reasons of children`s not enrolment in schools

| Reasons | F | % |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Poverty | 30 | 79 |
| Disliking | 4 | 11 |
| Work | 2 | 5 |
| No school | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 38 | 100 |

Table 2 reveals that the children were not going to school because of some reasons shown in table. More than three fourth (79%) of the children do not go to school because of poverty.

Table 3

Distribution of the respondents (children) types of their work

| Labor/work | F | % |
|---------------------|----|-----|
| Factory worker | 1 | 7 |
| Transport worker | 1 | 7 |
| Construction worker | 2 | 15 |
| Mechanic worker | 1 | 7 |
| Maid | 3 | 21 |
| Sweeper | 6 | 43 |
| Total | 14 | 100 |

Table 3 indicates that nearly (2/3) two third of children work as a maid, sweeper. Nearly (1/3) one third of children are working in factories, transport, workshops and construction projects.

Table4

Distribution of the main problems in community

| List of problems | Not any problem | | A problem to some extend | | A problem | | Total F | Total % |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----|--------------------------|----|-----------|----|---------|---------|
| | F | % | F | % | F | % | | |
| Separation from parents | 92 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Child labor | 88 | 96 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Early age marriages | 78 | 85 | 14 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Mentally handicapped | 78 | 85 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 92 | 100 |
| Any other disability | 60 | 65 | 2 | 2 | 30 | 33 | 92 | 100 |
| Conflict with law | 82 | 89 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Faced any problem with agency | 92 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Faced community problems | 45 | 50 | 35 | 38 | 12 | 13 | 92 | 100 |
| HIV/Aids | 68 | 74 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 92 | 100 |
| Sexual harassment | 65 | 71 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 92 | 100 |
| Sexual abuse | 60 | 65 | 20 | 22 | 12 | 13 | 92 | 100 |
| Harmful things used by children | 55 | 60 | 25 | 22 | 12 | 13 | 92 | 100 |
| Child Trafficking | 92 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Child participation in smuggling | 92 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 | 100 |
| Child beating | 15 | 16 | 55 | 60 | 22 | 24 | 92 | 100 |

Table 4 shows that according to the sample the early child marriage is problem to some extent in area (15%) and 11% children are mentally disable. 11%% are in conflict with

law and 38% face community problems. 15% said HIV/AIDS is a problem. Sexual abuse is found 22% is a problem to some extend told by children. Less than one forth

(22%) harmful things are used by children it is a problem to some extent. Child beating is a problem to some extent in the town which

is less than two third (60 %.). Mostly the list of these problems exists very minor in the town.

Table 5

Distribution of children`s conflict with law

| Responses | F | % |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Yes | 10 | 11 |
| No | 82 | 89 |
| Total | 92 | 100 |

Table 5 indicates that more than four fifth (89%) of children do not have any conflict with law. And remaining 11% have conflict.

Table 6

Distribution of the respondent`s (children) harmful substances offered by friends

| Substances | Yes(F) | % | No(F) | % | Don't know(F) | % | Total F | Total % |
|-------------------|--------|----|-------|----|---------------|----|---------|---------|
| Smoking | 22 | 24 | 61 | 66 | 9 | 10 | 92 | 100 |
| Alcohol | 6 | 6 | 67 | 73 | 19 | 21 | 92 | 100 |
| Illegal drugs | 0 | 0 | 89 | 97 | 3 | 3 | 92 | 100 |
| Sniffing | 0 | 0 | 91 | 99 | 1 | 1 | 92 | 100 |
| Illegal medicines | 0 | 0 | 85 | 92 | 7 | 8 | 92 | 100 |

Table 6 depicts that only 22% children smoke and other did not use and do not know about these substances.

Table 7

Distribution of the respondent`s awareness about HIV/AIDS

| Responses | F | % |
|-----------|----|-----|
| Yes | 25 | 27 |
| No | 67 | 73 |
| Total | 92 | 100 |

Table 7 shows that less than three fourth (73%) of the children know about HIV/AIDS.

Table 8
Distribution of the respondent`s knowledge about HIV/AIDS

| Level of knowledge | F | % |
|-----------------------|----|-----|
| Know only name | 20 | 80 |
| Limited Info about it | 5 | 20 |
| Total | 25 | 100 |

The data given in Table 8 shows that In case of level of knowing about HIV/AIDS there were only 25 respondents. In the four fifth (80%) know only name.

Table 9
Distribution of the respondent`s (children) knowledge about their rights

| Rights | F | % |
|----------------------------|----|-----|
| Education | 41 | 45 |
| Protection from bad behave | 6 | 7 |
| Recreation | 17 | 18 |
| Opinion | 6 | 7 |
| Love and affection | 4 | 4 |
| Health | 8 | 8 |
| Clean food | 10 | 11 |
| Total | 92 | 100 |

The data given in Table 8 shows that almost all Children know about their different rights.

Conclusions

One third (1/3) of the children were going to school while one third children were out of school. The reason was also estimated that More than three fourth (79%) of the children did not go to school because of poverty. Children respondents told that 87% children were not working for money, while 16%

were working for money. Main community problems were about early child marriages, disabilities, conflict with law, different abuses, HIV/AIDS, child trafficking and smuggling which were asked by children. More than four fifth (89%) children did not have any conflict with law. And remaining 11% have conflict. In the area 10 respondents were found who’s involved in case of jail. Almost 94% children did not use harmful substances. 22% children used

to smoke offered by the friends. Approximately Less than three fourth (73%) of the children know about HIV/AIDS. Some suggestions were giving to the Govt. by (41%) of the children whose want the service of education, more than one forth children want the service of health and nearly one third want the facility of clean water in their town from government. Govt. should take steps to remove physical abuse/verbal abuse among children. And people also must be aware about HIV/AIDS and deadly diseases through the institute of education, media and awareness campaigns. The law-enforcing agencies also must be mobilized to control the extent of drug trafficking in town.

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