

ISSN 2072-3334

Development Compilation

Volume 11. Number 01. March 2015

STREET CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH: UNDERSTANDING THEIR LIVES AND HOW DEVELOPING AGENCIES RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the lives of the street children of Bangladesh and the different problems they face and how various developing agencies like NGOs, government agencies and human rights entities impact their lives and the roles they play on this issue. This is a qualitative research carried out six in-depth Skype interviews of Bangladeshi NGO workers in order to capture and explore NGO workers' understanding of street children's lives and their detailed response on the problem. Grounded theory has been used for data analysis as this research does not aim to test a hypothesis; rather explores the understanding of NGO workers which is best suited for the grounded theory. After analysis existing theories related to street children, Bourdieu's theory has been applied to understand the lives of street children. Bourdieu's theories are not based on homeless children but the core concepts can be easily applicable to understand the problem associated with street children. In the context of street children, problems cannot be solved immediately by providing short term solutions. Rather, it is important to adopt an integrated approach to several complex problems that lead children to end up on the street.

Introduction

In the twentieth century, the presence of street children has stimulated sensitive public concern and received intense media coverage. International and national child welfare programs have prioritized the issue and numerous academic publications have been made in an attempt to identify the principal cause of the problem. Nevertheless, it remains a severe problem for many nations and the number of street children is on the rise (Panter-Brick, 2002). Although this crisis is a global issue, the existence of this problem is resilient in developing countries. Bangladesh is one such nation where street children are not just seen in abundance but their condition takes the worst form possible. Through my elaborate research, I only uncovered a limited number of academic works on the issue of street children in Bangladesh. Thus, this

research aims at focusing on the lives of the street children of Bangladesh and the different complications they face and how various developing agencies like NGOs, government agencies and human rights entities impact their lives and the roles they play.

Bangladesh is a poor third-world nation, with one of the most densely populated areas and an inefficient governing body. The nation faces the challenges of political instability, corruption and slow economic reform. Still, Bangladesh has had a 5.8% economic growth rate per year (Center for Intelligence, 2013). Dhaka is the capital of the country where the numbers of street children are increasing at an alarming rate (Uddin, 2011). The As per definition, street children can be easily defined as and categorized as "children who live on the street"; those who earn their living on the street in order to support themselves as well as run the lives of their families.

It is a very crucial social problem for developing countries and one that needs immediate attention. Development agencies are trying to address this issue in various forms. Thus, the purpose of this research is first to understand the lives of these street children and then understand and explain the impacts these agencies can have on their lives. The overall purpose of the in-depth interviews is to capture and explore NGO workers' understanding of street children's lives and their detailed response on the problem. These welfare agencies have significant power to improve the lives of these children and can provide important solutions to the problem. Therefore, their opinions and understanding can contribute to policy making and better strategy-building on the subject.

Moreover, the study has been narrowed down to the details of the lives of street children, their problems and current policies and practices that can improve their situation.

Aims of the Research

- 1) To understand the lives of street children and explore the various treatments they encounter.
- 2) To understand policies and steps implemented by the government and non-profit organizations aiming at improving the issue.
- 3) To explore development agencies' understanding of the problems of street children.

Research Questions

- 1) What are the causes of Bangladeshi street children living on the street and the consequences on their lives?
- 2) What actions have been taken by developing agencies to address and resolve this issue?

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- 3) Are existing policies and strategies suitable and impactful for changing the lives of street children?

Literature Review

The literature review started with a board search using Boolean search using wide card and (or) on street children. The keywords used for the search were rag pickers, runaway children, begging, Bangladesh polices on street children, shelter, rehabilitation, NGOs contribution to Bangladesh's development, theories on street children and abused children. As mentioned above, the aim of the research is to explore the lives of street children in Bangladesh and how developing agencies respond to the cause. Therefore, it was important to widen the range of research in order to include child abuse in Bangladesh, NGOs' contribution to street children and also the issue of drug addiction among street children. Articles from peer-reviewed journals and books used on this paper were extracted from publications. Unfortunately, there is limited research work and articles readily available on the issue of street children of Bangladesh. These databases were useful as they cover articles from social science, psychology and social policy research. There are limited research has been carried out on Bangladeshi street children. Thus, the limited literatures on the subject reveals that there is a need for more elaborate research on street children and discloses that there is a wider scope and span for carrying out this research.

Bangladesh

Comparing Historical verse Current Issues of Street Children

Historically, it has been observed that street children become victims of different forms of violence and abuse. An exact estimated census of number of street children is not possible as they are constantly on the move (ARISE, 2001). Children choose to leave the house when they are faced with family violence or are abused by relatives and other members of the community or for the basic reason of poverty. By the time they reach the street, their innocence and their childhood have been stolen (Blanchet, 1996). The worst impact they have when exposed to forms of abuse is that abused children build up a self-defense mechanism. They justify the abuser by blaming him/herself for the violence and ultimately lose self-esteem (Hecht, 1998). To demonstrate an example, in 1999, an important article came out on street children where some male children were involved in a prostitution business serving men. They used the money for themselves and also sent some to their families (Aggleton, 1999). The journal elaborates on how the children learned this criminal activity and in turn used it themselves. These examples help demonstrate the historic background of street children over the years to understand the change in scenario. Comparing the data can assist in

developing an assessment of how things have changed over the span of years.

Large numbers of children end up on the streets of Bangladesh every year due to multiple reasons. Comparing data over recent years reflects the similar reasons why children abandon their primary residence. Between 2006 and 2009 studies reflect the main reasons as to why children end up on the streets are family violence, sexual and physical abuse (Conticini and Hulme, 2006), poverty, parental negligence and broken family.

A study reveals similar results two main causes for this unfortunate possibility. The first cause is explained as the push factor which includes parental negligence, poverty, and abuse within the family and as well as broken families. The second cause is the pull factor which includes freedom at street life, peer pressure and fascination for the street-life (Uddin et al., 2011). It provides relevant data especially regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) exposure but fails to cover theories and does not stretch to NGO's involvement on street children. The goal of my research however aims at including theories and exploring NGO's role in changing the lives of street children.

To understand how broken families contribute to street lives, it is important to understand the family structure of Bangladesh. It is often seen that in rural parts of the country and mostly for poor families, multiple marriages are a common practice. Mothers are often obliged to remarry after divorce or death of their husbands and as a result are forced to abandon their children from previous marriages. Many of these abandoned children start to construct their own world on the streets. Once they taste the free will of street life, they do not want to go back to the constraints of family lives and find street life too intoxicating an experience of freedom. Eventually children become a part of vulnerable groups in cites called "street children" (Speak, 2005). These children are unfortunate victims no matter where they are; at their homes they are victimized by their family and on the streets by outsiders (Tippie and Speak 2004). It is a common scenario that street children are called sons of beggar or thieves. However, while children do commit petty crimes out of need to feed themselves, the degree to which they are incarcerated exaggerates the seriousness of their alleged offences.

Street children are often harassed by other groups on the streets. In 2000, it was found that street children were harassed by gangs (known as mastans) for mere amusement (Khair and Khan, 2000). Comparing the findings over the period of ten years, it is observed that their lives have not improved in any way but rather their condition has deteriorated. One study reveals that out of 493 child participants, 119 children were raped by adults and fifty percent of the children were male. These children fall into age groups of 5-8 years (Uddin et al., 2011).

To make the situation worse, street children face the worst form of sexual abuse from different groups of people. In many cases, female street children were forced to perform group sex and later were given a small amount of money in return. These children suffer from sexual organ damage. Moreover, sometimes street children are forced to share their earnings with heroin addicts; otherwise, they are physically assaulted or handed over to the police (Uddin et al., 2011). Street children who are known as rag pickers, scavengers and 'Tokais', are mostly involved in collecting wastes (Hasan, 1998). Another serious problem is that street children are also exposed to drug addiction. In a survey out of 36 children, 26 of them regularly use one or more types of drugs. Smoking marijuana and sniffing glue (dandy) are commonly used by street children (Uddin et al., 2011). All this inhuman and violent treatment at an early age is truly heart breaking.

Perception about Street Children

A recent article talks about an interview with the head of a women's charity organization on the subject of begging in Bangladesh. In her interview, she criticizes begging on the streets and argues that historically poor people used to beg for survival but in recent years, begging has become a business run by authorities where police are also involved in taking a percentage. The beggars earn more money from begging than from working. She further criticized that rich people give a small amount of money in the name of charity and feel good about them but in reality they are promoting the begging business. She came up with the strong notion that this type of kindness should not be tolerated; rather there should be a social taboo against it as it encourages dependence (Helal and Kabir, 2013). Although from an analytical point of view, it is correct at some level but it makes the society less compassionate about their surroundings. The perception of giving or charity is a good deed and is a powerful mechanism if used the right way. The street children can benefit from charity if everyone contributes to their needs, even if a small amount.

In Bangladesh, thousands of children get abducted and disfigured barbarically. Later, these children are forced to beg and in return they get a small percentage of the money as their share of income. The children are afraid to file any complaints and make up stories of accidents or diseases. Yet another inhuman begging process is the use of babies who are rented for money to attract more sympathy from people. Some babies and even older children are given drugs and alcohol so that it is easier to beg with them as they are drowsy and may even appear sick. The children beg with the hope to get something that their addicted body and mind wants (Helal and Kabir, 2013). As atrocious as the crime sounds, it does exist on the streets of the country.

In order to detriment such heinous crime, in 2011 the high court declared the removal of child begging from the streets of Dhaka city. However, the enactment of this law did not have the necessary effort of reform in the system and a special report was conducted questioning the government to show the causes for the failed system (ATN News, 2011). The policies and legislation are practiced by law enforcement agents and government officials who actually have a common misconception and stigma about street children. On an interview, a 16-year-old girl on the street stated that: "it is my problem if I am raped on the street or get beaten up because I should not be there, but where should I go if everyone refuses me?" Thus, we can see that some of these children blame themselves for their unfortunate circumstances. The law enforcement, government officials, and development agencies also hold stereotyped beliefs about street children that need to change (Conticini, 2008).

Understanding Effective Implementation of Existing Policies and Acts

Bangladesh recently adopted essential legislations to protect the rights of a minor. Bangladesh introduced the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act in 2000 and the National Plan of Action to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in 2002. However, in the child act abolishing rag pickers, street children, and help at home and other forms of child labor were not included but rather were considered to be economic assets. These child laborers were treated as an extra workforce and the status of a child is considered as part of an initial stage before joining the full workforce (Giani, 2006). According to ILO, children over 12 are allowed to perform light work and it does not affect their development (ILO, 2004). But, the question remains as to what is considered light work and how it affects a child's development (Nawazm, 2011). Recently, the Bangladeshi government passed a strict law - the "Vagabond and Street Beggars Rehabilitation Act 2010" - to abolish forced begging. Under the law, people who are involved within the begging business will be punished for five years of jail time and receive a fine of 500,000 taka / \$ 7000.00 (Helal and Kabir, 2013).

According to Conticini (2012), programs and policies in Bangladesh regarding street children are far from best practices.. Street children share deep dissatisfaction regarding the laws and practices in place (Conticini, 2008).

UNICEF reports that street children are somehow not included in the existing child rights and welfare facilities in Bangladesh (UNICEF, 2008). But in reality, they are facing social exclusion and mistreatment, misbehavior and all forms of brutal crimes; altogether a byproduct of non-functional policies within the country.

Contribution of NGOs and International Agencies

In Dhaka city, some NGOs, such as UNICEF, Save the Children, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, Padakkhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra, Chinnamul Shishu-Kishore Sangstha, NariMaitree, and Assistance for Slum Dwellers, provide accommodation for abandoned street-children. Some abandoned and lost children found their accommodation at night in the shelter-homes of these organizations. There are a limited number of night shelters compared to the number of street children. (Tipple and Speak, 2005).

Understanding Theories

One influential practitioner and theorist, Pierre Bourdieu, produced theories which played an important role in understanding the core reasons for how children ended up on the streets; why they are treated poorly and why they are forced to exist in such extreme conditions. It is vital that a program addressing the needs of children from such complex psychosocial backgrounds be grounded in some form to a theoretical framework that can provide both a diagnostic and prognostic understanding of the problems of behaviors at hand and also provide a containing recovery process when dealing with situations of uncertainty (Silungwe and Bandawe, 2011).

Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research

Although there is longstanding debate between qualitative and quantitative research, in reality both have their advantages and disadvantages. Some research questions are best answered by certain types of qualitative data, and other research questions require qualitative data (Loseke, 2012). In contrast, qualitative research is designed to understand social complexities, human experiences, and individual perceptions (Esterberg, 2001). It falls into a constructive or interpretive paradigm and conducts inductive reasoning. This research intends to understand the lives of street children and explore developing agencies' understanding of street children's needs rather than finding correlations, causes or testing hypotheses; therefore, it perfectly fits into qualitative methodology. Qualitative research provides rich data on deep understanding of experiences and perceptions but findings cannot be generalized to population (Sarantakos, 2005). The purpose of this type of research does not aim to generalize; rather, it explores a particular issue and then the findings can be generalized to those with similar situations (Esterberg, 2001). In-depth interviews are long and conservative, thus it provides interviewers understanding of reality. Therefore, in-depth interviews perfectly fall under the interpretative perspectives.

Research Design and Data Collection

Within qualitative research there are different ways to collect data, such as focus groups, in-depth and telephone interviews. But this study wants to

explore individual NGO initiatives, their contributions to the welfare of street children, and the best way of achieving it is by understanding the needs of the street children. Therefore, in-depth interviews will explore each NGO's contribution and their understanding of the problem. In in-depth interviews, participants are more focused to share exclusively their ideas and their contributions.

Sampling

Interviews with existing NGO workers working with street children were taken for this research. These interviewees are more experienced and specialized as they are currently working on the street dwellers. NGO workers' understanding of the problems and their perception of the solutions are important to identify how effective the solutions are. The research paper carried out snowball sampling to identify a participant. In this process the first interviewee recommends other people who meet the research criteria and who would be potentially interested in participating in the research (Marshall and Rossman, 2010). The research took six interviews of NGO workers who are currently working on projects associated with street children. (Denscombe, 2010)

Data Analysis: Grounded Theory

This research, grounded theory has been adopted to analyze the data. In grounded theory, constant comparison is the main idea of the data analysis. (SILVERSMAN, 2004). The data analysis starts with interview transcripts containing massive amounts of texts which have been analyzed in a structured way that involves employing coding methods to develop patterns. In addition, the relevant texts have been taken to reflect similar ideas or words that have been used by the interviewer. The below diagram emphasizes on the application of the 'Grounded theory' to analyze the derived data where six different themes have been presented that are comprised of various codes. For example, the theme 'begging business' is comprised of five codes such as corruption, easy target, weak law enforcement and less media coverage. As illustrated in the diagram, all the different themes are derived with the same principal of different codes. An important idea here is the inter linkage between the six themes; for example, the theme 'government failure' to manage the street children is positively correlated to 'begging business'. In the next stage, themes have been developed based on coding referring. After that, memoing has been done to create relationships and to link the categories to each participant's interview. Then the whole data has been organized accordingly by following the sorting method before finally writing the data analysis (Charmaz, 2006). After collecting the data the researcher then analyzed the data by comparing and contrasting each participant's narrative, coding the different aspects of the

text. Furthermore, grouping the codes together was done to build up a theory.

Understanding Theory and its Implementations

One influential practitioner and theorist, Pierre Bourdieu, produced theories which played an important role in understanding the core reasons for how children ended up on the streets; why they are treated poorly and why they are forced to exist in such extreme conditions. Moreover, his theories are not based on street children but can be applied to an understanding of the problems that street children face. It is vital that a program addressing the needs of children from such complex psychosocial backgrounds be grounded in some form to a theoretical framework that can provide both a diagnostic and prognostic understanding of the problems of behaviors at hand and also provide a containing recovery process when dealing with situations of uncertainty (Silungwe and Bandawe, 2011).

Street children are victims of systematic deprivation of human rights due to the structure of society. Therefore, it is important to understand how systems, culture, political movement, and policies influence their lives. In the existing literature above, it has been mentioned that homeless children also exist in first world countries like the United Kingdom (Crawford, Whitbeck and Hoyt, 2011). This idea connects back to the concept of 'social exclusion' where these children are completely ignored and actually considered a socially excluded class. Street youths are therefore deprived of social respect and have limited power or control of their futures. But they have a proper social welfare structure, as a result of which millions of children are not sleeping on streets and not getting abused by different agencies of the society. But this was not always the case; two hundred years back England dealt with large-scale child labour with little regard for education (Shuayb and O'Donnell, 2008). However, an improved social welfare structure significantly changed the scenario. Therefore, it is important to understand the social system within which these street children live.

The street children learn how to think, perceive and act in a given situation by systems of value, desire, motivation, attitude and perception. The agents learn how to think, perceive and act in a given situation by systems of value, desire, motivation, attitude and perception.

According to Bourdieu's theory, dominant group (society) justify their dominance on street children by considering them inferior. If the objective structure of the world imposes domination on individual's habitus, then the result of inequality could be invisible to the person. So the dominated always contribute to the domination. It allows the dominants to accept their own condition as legitimate (Bourdieu et al., 1992).

In the eye of society, street children hold strong and contradictory emotions as they are portrayed as perpetrators and victims. They are a part of street life; they have stereotypical images of ragged clothes, blurred eyes (result of drug addiction) and dirt on their clothes (result of change in their habitus which is related to their change in the external surrounding of the agent). Therefore, for these children it becomes very difficult to avoid stigmatization. Children face daily rejection from the society in different forms; these children are completely ignored or pushed away when trying to approach passerby (Lysa, 2009).

Some aspects of street life are portrayed positively by street children as they acknowledge the possibility of earning money. These children get the opportunity to earn money which they can spend on food, drugs, and in many cases, to help their families. They feel a sense of independence and freedom and in many cases the initial period on the streets are considered adventurous. But along with independence, these children are exposed to dangers mentioned above; some are bullied by adults on the street and some get involved with crime and drug addiction in order to deal with the destitution of street life. This is the brutal form of freedom that street children get in exchange of their safety and well-being (Lysa, 2009).

In an existing Bangladesh study, it was revealed in an interview with the head of a charity organization where she referred that begging is a business and society should not encourage street children by giving money to them. It was also found that street children are mistreated by different social groups such as passerby, police or other street dwellers on the street (Benitez, 2007). All participants (NGO workers) agreed that street children are used for the begging business by organized gangs and that the begging business is also reflected in literature review. The Bangladesh government had passed a law called the "Vagabond and Street Beggars Rehabilitation Act 2010" to stop the begging business and punish gangs (Helal and Kabir, 2013). But field agents (police, gangs) have more power to dominate other social agents (street children).

According to Bourdieu's theory, dominant group (society) justify their dominance on street children by considering them inferior. Therefore, street children contribute to their own domination (Bourgois and Schonberg, 2007).

Bourdieu's theories have been used in the case of street children and explained through a visual diagram below.

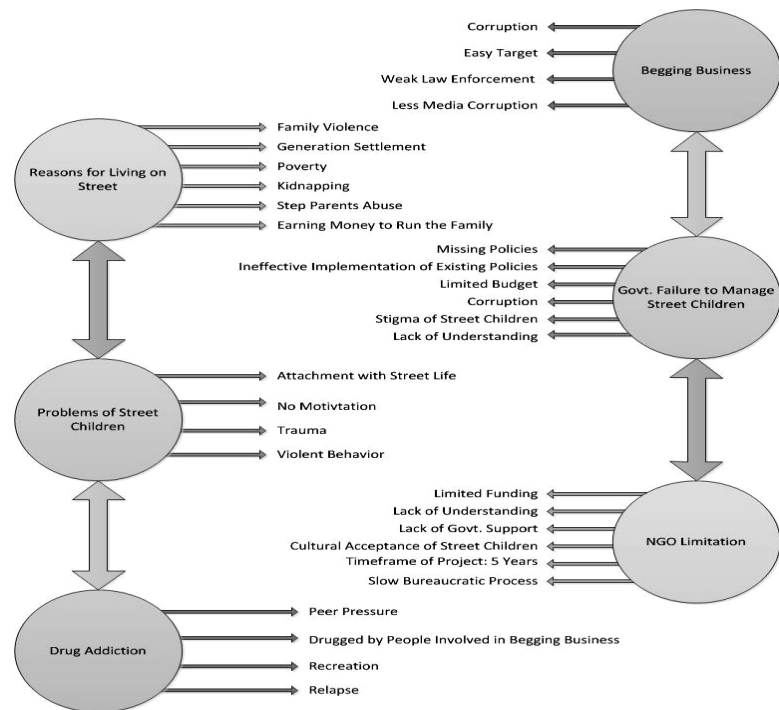


Figure 1: Application of Grounded Theory for Data Analysis

In grounded theory, constant comparison is the main idea of the data analysis. The data analysis starts with interview transcripts containing massive amounts of texts which have been analyzed in a structured way that involves employing coding methods to develop patterns. In addition, the relevant texts have been taken to reflect similar ideas or words that have been used by the interviewer. The above diagram emphasizes on the application of the 'Grounded theory' to analyze the derived data where six different themes have been presented that are comprised of various codes. For example, the theme 'begging business' is comprised of five codes such as corruption, easy target, weak law enforcement and less media coverage. As illustrated in the diagram, all the different themes are derived with the same principal of different codes. An important idea here is the inter linkage between the six themes; for example, the theme 'government failure' to manage the street children is positively correlated to 'begging business'. In the next stage, themes have been developed based on coding referring. After that, memoing has been done to create relationships and to link the

categories to each participant's interview. Then the whole data has been organized accordingly by following the sorting method before finally writing the data analysis (Charmaz, 2006). After collecting the data the researcher then analyzed the data by comparing and contrasting each participant's narrative, coding the different aspects of the text. Furthermore, grouping the codes together was done to build up a theory.

Ethical Consideration

There is growing interest in ethics in social research. This research paper has put significant importance on the ethical issues. Qualitative research has different ethical issues compared to quantitative research (Orb, Eisenhower, and Wynaden, 2001). It has been acknowledged that interviewing vulnerable groups such as street children involves a lot of ethical issues and needs special skill to interview them. To carry out this type of research, the researcher should be a well-trained grief counselor (Committee on Clinical Research Involving Children et al., 2004). For this study, primary data from street children has been excluded but secondary data has been used to understand the lives of street children. There are very few research papers on street children but no research has been found on Bangladeshi developing agencies' contribution to change the lives of street children. It is important to find out how much developing agencies understand the need of street children. In qualitative research, the complication inherent in the design can be eased by awareness and use of well-established ethical principles focusing on beneficence, justice and autonomy.

Informing Participants

The participants were given a participant information sheet providing the information required for research so that the participants could make informed decisions to participate or not in the research study.

Confidentiality

All the personal information and research data are strictly confidential.

Limitations

Every research has some limitations that need to be minimized as much as possible. Firstly, this is a qualitative research focused on collecting data from in-depth interviews of NGO workers who are working on street children and as a result, the findings cannot be generalized. The purpose of qualitative research is not to generalize the findings but it rather aims to understand a phenomenon with the help of rich data. Secondly, a qualitative research is time consuming as it requires collecting, analyzing and interpreting large volume of data. There is a chance of personal biases or influences as the researcher is interpreting the data analyzed. But the researcher tried to

minimize any form of bias which had been discussed in the ethical consideration section.

Recommendations

There are many categories of street children where some children may be involved in drug addiction while some are child labor earning to assist their families. Thus, the strategies should not be unified but rather customized treatments should be provided to individual cases.

Applying Theories: Street children have become part of Bangladeshi culture where their suffering is visible and it is hard to remove them from society overnight. But, according to Bourdieu theory, within each field power relation plays an important role (Lysa, 2009). Therefore, to improve lives of street children changes must take place within the structure of society through proper policy adaptation. In Brazil an organization running a project called “I am somebody” is a football tournament 2014 which will provide equal opportunity and create a positive image of street youth (Street Child World Cup, 2013). As it has been mentioned above, through this project street children receive equal opportunities to play and the strong notion “I am somebody” sends a positive message to the society. Sport is a gateway through which children can get out of segregation and stigma by breaking through a negative stereotype. Although this is a small initiative, it created a strong impact on social structure where individuals learn to treat these children with respect and dignity. This type of project not only changes society’s perception but also boosts the self-esteem of street children as they are not subject to pity or mistreatment. This sport gives them an opportunity to create an identity and society does not treat them with pity but rather acknowledges their talent for playing well.

Media Role: Media can be used as a strong tool to change the perception of street children of Bangladesh. Media can reach out to millions and influence their perception regarding street children. In a society where street children become a part of accepted culture and child abuse goes unnoticed, people do not realize that it is morally unethical to treat them badly. Through awareness campaigns, slowly media can change people’s perception and able people may come forward to make a difference in children’s life.

Children Living on Street: Now the scenario is a bit different for children with no families, abandoned children and orphans; as many are seen on the streets of Dhaka (the capital city of Bangladesh). These children mingle and find themselves at home with other children on the street. They become friends and gain a sense of solidarity with them. Some are often used and abused by the society’s mobs and drug dealers and become addicted themselves. The only way of helping them is to provide some sort of rehabilitation. To basically provide them with shelter with their groups of

friends rather than isolating individual children, and by supporting each child with similar problems and to provide rehabilitation to help them with their addiction problems, not to mention providing food and basic necessities for them as well. The same principal applies to education here; first the most important problem needs to be addressed, which in this case is getting them off the street and helping them find a home and help with their problems. Education should be parallel to the other programs to support street children.

Gender Sensitiveness: One other severe problem with these street children is the exposure to violence and negligence. Often times it is seen that these children are mistreated and mishandled by the society and their family. This gives a strong impact on their personality and development. The violence can be in the form of verbal as well as physical and mental abuse. They are often screamed at and cursed by everyone and sometimes even beaten too. This is such a horrible experience especially for a child who needs care and understanding from their peers and society. It has been found that witnessing and experiencing violence behavior influences children’s behavior and they act violent in their adults years (Feerick, 2006). They learn to accept it as a social norm and develop it themselves. But this abusive influence on children is applied differently in the development. Girls seem to accept this behavior and they learn to put up with it. The norm for them then becomes not to question violence but to except it from their husband and others in society as an adult. They become more introvert and withdraw themselves from interactions. Boys on the other hand, experience this differently and actually learn to become it and thus become abusive themselves. More aggressive behavior is seen in these boys as grown men (Feerick, 2006). This unfortunate future for them is inevitable unless they are withdrawn from this experience as children. Thus, when NGOs seek to help these children, they need to keep this aspect in mind. Special strategy should be in place when they interact with the street girls and boys, keeping this gender variation in their development. The mental development plan for them should be such that this aspect of giving in to the abusive behavior for girls should be given emphasis. On the other hand, boys need to learn how not to expect such submissive behavior from women and to understand it properly so they don’t get influenced by it.

Drug Addiction: To deal with the drug addiction problem the Brazil model can be used where children are assessed first to understand the actual factor that is contributing to the addiction, whether it is family or social violence. Then the actual kind of addiction and level of addiction needs to be measured. Children then should to be housed and given proper rehab based on the consumption level. So that a child with minor addiction problem does not get exposed to one with severe condition as it may trigger or sometimes make it harder for them to go through proper rehab.

Law Implementation: From the existing literature on street children and findings from the interviews reflect that street kids not only becoming child labors but worst of all is some are forced to become street beggars. On any given day you can see many children with their hands out and begging for money on the street corner and traffic lights. There are often people who are in different gangs who force these poor kids into begging. They sometimes get only a tiny portion of the money or nothing at all. These kids are seen begging pretty much everywhere in different parts of the city. In Bangladesh, it is often seen that the problem of child labor or abuse of kids is directly linked to the lax and inefficient government policies. There needs to be strict laws in place to find out these gangs that operates in different parts of the city and very strict punishment needs to be implemented for such crimes. Corruption is often the core of these problems. Of course laws are written and in place but seldom are they implemented in the true sense. In case of Bangladesh the problems is no different. These laws are only for the books and truly some are just very basic with no true form of action plan in place. In 2010 “the Vagabond and Street Beggars Rehabilitation Act 2010” has been adopted to stop force begging business. But, there is evidence where law enforcement is not actively implemented the law as a consequence, these criminal are get away with the crime (Helal and Kabir, 2013). Therefore, government should make sure laws and policies are implementing properly.

Role of International Developing Agencies: Many foreign donors (banks or NGOs) often provide donations to the local non-profit organizations. But the approach needs to bottom up where all the stakeholders opinions are consider before allocation of funds. A lot of focus is seen in the sector of education for these street children but the problem is far beyond basic education. The structure needs to be redefined. The more important aspect is there survival, providing them with proper meals and a healthy shelter. Then we can definitely improve from there and add education and other training programs for their future growth. We need to see the bigger picture and understand that simply donations on education and other things are important but the true picture is that survival is the most important of all. So, we need to focus on providing monetary help to establish a form of welfare plan, shelter homes and rehabs for these children first and government involvement is crucial on this.

NGO Involvement: We can use the example of another implementation of rehabilitation for children seen in Brazil by the organization called HOPE unlimited in which they actually have a long term program in place for these

children. The model provides a proper long-term solution. It not only provides a segregated approach to different kinds of addicted children but establishes a proper structural model for their future. The model would not only help with their short term rehabilitation but provides a form of guidance for their future. For example, it would provide housing facility, education and meals for them and also would help them with jobs and other possibilities for their future (Home Unlimited, 2009). The bottom line is that a basic healthy social structure is provided for them so that they have hope and a possibility for a healthy future.

Conclusion

In the conclusion, street children live complicated lives and society does not empathize with them; rather, they are segregated from the main stream of society. The time has come where Bangladesh needs to come forward to help the street children to get out of this trap. The developing agencies need to focus on the root of problem (cause) rather than working on effects. Descriptive Theories and models could be used for understanding street children's lives and metaphorically “open the eyes” so that practitioners and development agencies become more aware of the problems. Although no theory is absolutely reliable and each has its limitations, theories nevertheless help to enhance our understanding and provide a framework of the problem. The developing agencies need to work in collaboration to improve lives of these vulnerable groups. This paper has analyzed different policies, approaches and theories that could be adapted to national context according to Bangladesh's requirements, priorities and needs of street children. In the context of street children, problems cannot be solved immediately by providing short term solutions. Rather, it is important to adopt an integrated approach to several complex problems that lead children to end up on the street (Evangelista, 2010).

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