

Surviving the Streets

A Study of Street Children in Pakistan



SPARC is Pakistan's leading child rights organization. It works on a broad range of child rights issues, addressing the overall system and policy framework, with added focus on specific thematic areas of special importance to children. Our work is guided by international human rights principles and standards which are integrated at policy and program level. The main guiding documents include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and relevant ILO Conventions.

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List of Abbreviations

CRC	Child Rights Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DIC	Drop in Center
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IDI	In-depth Interview
ILO	International Labor Organization
JJSO	Juvenile Justice System Ordinance
KNH	Kinder Nothilfe
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCCWD	National Commission for Child Welfare and Development
NFE	Non-formal Education
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
PAP	Provincial Action Plan
PCCWD	Provincial Commission for Child Welfare and Development
PCPC	Police child Protection Center
PPC	Pakistan Penal Code
SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Executive Summary

The study primarily focuses on two major outcomes:

Firstly, the study attempts to assess the nature and magnitude of the problem of street children in the pre-identified target cities of the country. Street children were sub-divided into two different categories, i.e. children who work on the streets and children who live on the streets. The data collected during the course of this study is however not restricted to the impact of the 2010 floods. Instead, the study delves deeper in to the issue in order to ascertain the impact of various socio-economic factors on the phenomenon of street children. The research tools applied in this study helped to identify:

- ✓ Key demographic and social characteristics of street children, including age, ethnic and religious profiles as well as their family and educational backgrounds.
- ✓ Quality of life of street children.
- ✓ Factors that 'push' children into working or living on the streets.
- ✓ Risks and challenges faced by children living and working on the streets, including health problems, physical and sexual abuse, drug addictions etc.
- ✓ The impact of the 2010 floods on the socio-economic well being of street children.

Secondly, the study covers basic information on the current safety nets and services offered to street children by the government, civil society, police, civil society organizations, lawyers, and religious/minority groups. This qualitative data has been used to assess the quality of child protection services currently in place in target cities and aims identify major gaps and weaknesses in child protection mechanisms across these cities.

The major stakeholders covered in the survey included:

- ✓ Street children in the target cities
- ✓ Parents and guardians
- ✓ Representatives of service providers in public, private and non-profit sectors
- ✓ Staff of law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Minority groups and religious leaders

The quantitative survey targeted 1,050 children in seven different cities across Pakistan. Moreover, 25 individual interviews and two focus group discussions were conducted in each city for verification and validation of data collected. In addition, ten in depth interviews were conducted with various service providers in each city to get a clear picture of different child protection and rehabilitation services.

Education:

1. Literacy rates among children working and living on the streets was very low, given the fact that most had been taken out of school to beg on the streets or their schools were destroyed by the floods. Sukkur and Quetta had the highest number of children who had not undergone any form of schooling; approximately 74.6% and 77.4%. In all cities, less than 50% of the children had attended a school in the past, save for in Islamabad where 63.2% of the children had attended school.
2. Poverty, corporal punishment and forced begging were some of the major reasons children working on the streets have dropped out of school. In the study it was noted that more than 70% of children (except for those in Islamabad and Hyderabad) had left school because of their family's economic status. Incidences of corporal punishment, violent behavior of peers and others also played their part in expediting dropouts from schools.
3. More than 60% of the children interviewed in various cities did not express their desire to re-enroll in school. Upon inquiry, they stated that neither did they want to enroll in school nor would their families ever let them, given the fact that they believed earning on the streets trumped educating a child. It was only in Hyderabad where more than 30% of children from both sets of groups wanted to re-enroll in school.

Income:

1. The average weekly income for both children working and living on the streets is more than PKR 800 which roughly estimates to around PKR 3,000- 4,000 a month.
2. The most common expenditures incurred by children working on the streets are on food and family whilst those living on the streets spent most of their money on food and travelling. More than 90% percent of children working on the streets give their money to their parents in contrast to those living on the streets out of which only 50% share money with their family. Children in both sets of groups rarely spend on clothing, hygiene or entertainment.
3. The study also focused on income generated by the father and mother of the children working and living on the streets. It was noted that the mean monthly income of parents of children in both set of groups was between PKR 3,000- 6,000.

Health:

1. During individual interviews, it was learnt that children spend less than 20% of their income on health except for those in Islamabad and Quetta who spend more than 30% on health and hygiene products. At most a child would buy an aspirin or a band aid but never proper medicines to treat the various illnesses they suffered from.
2. The percentage of street children that suffered from some form of illness in the recent past was found to be quite high. The most common illnesses inflicting street children were fever and cough followed by various skin and respiratory diseases.
3. A majority of the children interviewed had no knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases.

From the information gathered, more than 80% of children in both sets of groups were unfamiliar with various STD's.

Violence:

1. In all the cities surveyed, it was discovered that among all types of violence, the highest recorded was physical violence i.e. beatings, abuse etc at the hands of police officials. Children in both sets of groups narrated that they were frequently harassed by the police especially in Islamabad where more than 50% of the children reported physical violence at the hands of the police. These figures are also high in all other cities surveyed with bullying and beating being the most common form of abuse used by the police.
2. Not much information could be gathered on incidences of sexual abuse as the children were not comfortable about sharing such information. However, the children did share instances where their friends had been sexually abused by their employers, the police, and even by parents and older children. Out of all the cities surveyed, Multan recorded the highest number of cases of sexual abuse by either the employers or older children on the street.

Floods:

1. A total of 18.5% of all children surveyed in both groups were affected by the floods in 2010. According to the statistics gathered, the percentage of children on the streets due to flood grew sharply except in Peshawar and Quetta. In all the other cities, an increase of more than 70% was recorded in Sukkur, Karachi and Multan while in Islamabad and Hyderabad the figures increased to 33.3% and 52.8%.
2. The number of children living on the streets increased sharply in the cities of Sukkur, Hyderabad, Karachi and Multan given the fact that these cities were the closest to the flood affected rural areas where families could easily migrate and make a living on the street. The children interviewed stated that their weekly wages decreased given the sudden increase of children on the street and that there is no chance of them rehabilitating back home.
3. Due to a decrease in wages and job opportunities in the cities surveyed, it was discovered that children have been forced to either sell drugs on the streets or become employed as commercial sex workers. Statistics have shown that children who work on the streets of Islamabad are actively involved in selling and abusing drugs. Almost 50% of the children smoke *Hashish*, 45.5% use *Gutka*, 25% sniff glue and another 27.3% use chewing tobacco. In the case of children living on the streets, Karachi recorded the highest number of drug users with those who smoked *Hashish* counting for almost 70% of all the children interviewed.

INTRODUCTION

Background:

The 'street children' phenomenon is a global concern whereby 150 million children around the world are living and/ or working on the streets. Unprecedented global industrialization, urbanization, poverty and socioeconomic pressures are the major causes for the growth in the number of street children. In this context, children end up on the street for numerous reasons including parental landlessness, domestic violence, rural/ urban migration, unemployment, natural disasters, civil unrest and family disintegration.

An estimated 1.2 million children are on the streets of Pakistan's major cities and urban centers- constituting the country's largest and one of the most ostracized social groups. These include 'runaway' children who live or work on the streets as well as the minority that return to their families at the end of the day. According to a survey conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 72% of the working children do not have contact with their families and 10% have no knowledge of their families.¹

Although limited literature is available regarding the exact magnitude of the problem of street children in Pakistan, an overview of the information available indicates that the problem is severe. Literature reviewed during the course of the desk research indicates that street children in Pakistan form a very young age group, some being no older than four years of age, and are engaged in menial jobs that do not require vocational training. Moreover, these jobs offer no opportunities for advancement or improved lifestyles in the future.² Many survive by prostituting themselves, stealing or smuggling and are vulnerable to a number of diseases including STDs and health ailments that are a direct result of their occupations and unsanitary conditions of workplaces.

Along with poverty, unemployment and other economic issues- increasing number of street children in the country can be attributed to the displacement of persons after the 2010 floods which directly affected more than 20 million people; half of them children. Due to huge displacement, most of the flood victim families moved to urban areas and many of them are still homeless. These children were deprived of their fundamental rights i.e. right of education, health, shelter, proper care and protection. Moreover, they were victims of different kind of abuse and exploitation including violence and sexual abuse.

During the floods, children became exposed to greater risk and exploitation, especially in the context of falling rates of school enrollment, massive population displacement and extreme financial pressure on families. In this context, the major risks that come to light were the separation of children from families, gender based violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking and psychological issues. For instance, reports of boys from flood affected families being lured into prostitution trickled in. Moreover, girl child specific issues such as early marriages and privacy issues also came to light in the aftermath of the floods. For this reason, an, undertaking of a study on the prevalence of street children in general, and assessing the impact of the 2010 floods in contributing to the increased number of children on the streets in particular, became imperative for formulating future plans of action to address the issue.

¹ Asia Child Rights Weekly Newsletter. 2005. Pakistan: Vol(4), No. 18.

² Asia Child Rights Weekly Newsletter. 2005. Pakistan: Vol(4), No. 18.

This study was undertaken by SPARC, with the financial support of Kinder Nothilfe (KNH), a German NGO that partners with local organizations to help vulnerable and marginalized children in accessing opportunities for sustainable development. The study provides information on street children in the country while specifically dealing with the impacts of 2010 floods on the street children living in seven major cities of Pakistan including; Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Multan, Islamabad, Sukkur and Hyderabad. More specifically, the study aims to assess the effects of migration on street children; gauge the post flood increase in the number of street children; assess the overall magnitude and prevalence of street children in the target cities; identify the root causes and underlying factors resulting in the increase of street children in Pakistan and give recommendations for developing programs for improving the lives of children working in or living on the streets in the country.

Street Children:

The term 'Street Children' is contested whereby social scientists and academics have argued that the category is socially constructed with varying manifestations throughout the world. Therefore, there is no universally accepted definition of street children as they cannot be defined as a homogenous group. However, UNICEF developed a generic definition of street children according to which street children are children who live in the street (including children who sleep in public places, without their families); children who work on the street (including children who earn their livelihood on streets and return to their families in the evening); and street family children (who live with their families on the street).³

Other definitions of street children include:

“any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, and for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults”⁴.

“Street children” is a term often used to describe both market children (who work in the streets and markets of cities selling or begging, and live with their families) and homeless street children (who work, live and sleep in the streets, often lacking any contact with their families)⁵.

Hence, despite the minute differences preventing the broad generalization of street children as a category, the persistent presence of 'the street' as a source of shelter, livelihood and identity allows for the recognition of street children as a distinct and vulnerable group. For the purpose of this study, two major groups have been defined as:

- Children working on the street: These are the children who work on the streets during the day time and return to their families at the end of the day.
- Children living on the street: These include children who live, work and socialize on the streets. They may or may not have occasional contact with their families.

³ Consortium for Street Children, 'Frequently asked Questions'
<http://www.streetchildren.org.uk/content.asp?pageID=31#streetchild>

⁴ Boakye-Boaten, A. (2008) 'Street Children: Experiences from the Streets of Acra',
Research Journal of International Studies, Issue 8, November 2008.

⁵ <http://www.mexico-child-link.org/street-children-definition-statistics.htm>

Current Child Protection Policies in the Country

Pakistan's progress towards endorsing and accepting international standards relating to child rights has remained mixed. Notable advancements include ratification of the UNCRC; the ratification of UNCRC's optional protocol related to sale of children, child prostitution and pornography and the signing of the protocol related to the recruitment of child soldiers (ratification pending); the ratification of ILO Conventions 182 and 138 and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Similarly, a number of milestones have also been achieved domestically with regards to policy and legislative reforms aimed at safeguarding the rights of the child. Some of the key achievements in this area include;

- The promulgation of the Juvenile Justice Systems Ordinance (JJSO) 2000.
- The Employment of Children Act 1991 and the expansion to the list of hazardous and prohibited forms of child labor in 2005
- The enactment of the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004.
- Laws for making primary education compulsory have been introduced in all provinces and areas except the province of Balochistan, the Northern Areas and Azad Jammu Kashmir, however, these laws are not being implemented.
- The introduction of education as a fundamental right under Article 25-A of the Constitution, according to which “the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to 16 years in such a manner as may be determined by law.”
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act
- Establishment of a Social and Child Protection Reform Unit in Gilgit Baltistan.
- The establishment of Children's Complaint Offices in the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman).

The Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000 (JJSO) is the most significant legislation relating to the protection of juveniles in the legal system and is applicable to the whole country including the tribal areas, Gilgit-Baltistan and the AJK (Azad Jammu Kashmir). Under the JJSO, minors are required to be detained separately from adult prisoners and presented before juvenile courts within twenty four hours of arrest. The juvenile courts are in turn required to expedite trials. In addition, it is required that if juveniles are incarcerated, they be kept in Borstal institutes that are separate from general prisons where adult inmates are detained.

The number of under aged inmates in Pakistani prisons has decreased considerably since the promulgation of JJSO in 2000. This is partly attributable to the separation of adults falling in the age group of 18 to 21 years from the juveniles and to the JJSO for getting a number of children released on bail. However, more than 90% of the juvenile prisoners remain under trial. The number of special prisons for children remains the same as before: one in Karachi, and two in Punjab. Furthermore, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, remain without a law on this subject and thus without any

special facilities for detaining juvenile prisoners. Similarly, the Borstal laws in the Punjab and Sindh remain unenforced for all practical purposes. A special jail for children is nearing completion at Bannu but it is likely to function under the regular laws, as there is no separate law in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to govern such a prison. The prison for children in Karachi although relatively well-kept, has staff and prison officials that lack knowledge of JJSO and the skills to deal with children. Moreover, according to the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), the minimum age of criminal responsibility is seven years, which makes under age children vulnerable to arrest, incarceration and torture.

In addition to these laws, there is a National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD)⁶ as well as PCCWDs at the provincial level, responsible for the welfare and development of children in the country. Several drop-in centers are being operated by NGOs. However, these are few and are hardly adequate for making any visible difference in the number of children on the streets. In many cases stakeholders in child protection issues do not have any knowledge of the laws for protection of children from exploitation and abuse.

Even though Pakistan appears to have made some progress in creating legislative framework for child protection, it remains partial and weak. The National Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection (Amendment) Bill remain a work in progress. The Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004 is being enforced in Punjab, however the child protection centers have been established only in 6 districts. In Sindh, most recently the Child Protection Authority Act 2011 has been enacted but remains to be implemented. An earlier law, the Sindh Children Act 1955 has remained weak in providing relief to children in the province. In Balochistan, there is no child protection law as yet. Hence, the overall policy and legislative environment has not led to an expected improvement in the state of children in the country.

In the aftermath of the 2010 floods, it is feared that the problem of street children in the country has been further exacerbated. The 2010 floods affected approximately 20 million people, i.e. one in ten Pakistanis was affected by the floods. More than two million homes and two million hectares of crops were destroyed⁷. In this regard, children make up approximately half of the population affected by floods⁸. With the increased economic challenges faced by the affected families, the displacement of population to urban centers as well as destruction of schooling infrastructure, an overall spike in the number of street children is feared by development organizations.

⁶ NCCWD has been devolved as a result of 18th Constitutional Amendment

⁷ Unicef. 2011. Children in Pakistan: Six Months after the Floods.

⁸ As above

Research Methodology

Scope of the Study

The study primarily focuses on two major outcomes. Firstly, it attempts to assess the nature and magnitude of the problem of street children in the pre-identified target cities of the country i.e. Islamabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan, Sukkur, Quetta and Peshawar. In this context, the street children were subdivided into two different categories, i.e. children who work on the streets and children who live on the streets. The data collected during the course of this study is not restricted to the impact of the 2010 floods alone but goes deeper into the issue in order to ascertain the impact of various socioeconomic factors in contributing to the perpetual prevalence of street children in Pakistan.

Secondly, the study covers basic information on the current safety nets and services offered to street children by the government, civil society, police, civil society organizations and religious/ minority groups. The qualitative data has been used to assess the quality of child protection services currently in place in target cities and aims to identify major gaps and weaknesses in the child protection mechanisms across these cities.

The major stakeholders covered in the survey included:

- Street children in the target cities (as per sample proposed in the technical proposal)
- Parents and guardians
- Staff of law enforcement agencies
- Staff of Child Protection Bureaus
- Shrine Caretakers
- SPARC Child Rights Committees (CRCs)
- Minority groups and religious leaders
- Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

The research tools applied in this study helped us to identify:

- Key demographic and social characteristics of street children including age, ethnic and religious profiles as well as their family and educational backgrounds.
- Quality of life of street children.
- Factors that 'push' children into working in or living on the streets.
- Risks and challenges faced by children living and working on the streets including health problems, physical and sexual abuse, drug addiction etc.
- The impact of the 2010 floods on the socioeconomic well being of street children.

Research Sample

A total number of 1,050 children living and/ or working on the streets were interviewed in seven different cities across Pakistan (Annexure 1). Moreover, 25 individual interviews and two focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with street children in each city for verification and validation of the data collected. In addition, two focus group discussions (FGDs) and ten in depth interviews (IDIs) were also conducted with various service providers (Annexure 2), Police (Annexure 3), shrine caretakers (Annexure 4) and minority leaders (Annexure 5) in each city to get a clear picture of different child protection and rehabilitation services. Finally, to fully understand the child protection and rehabilitation services available to street children during the time of research, ten in depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted with services providers from each city.

Street children group	Target cities included in survey
Children working on the streets	Islamabad
	Karachi
	Hyderabad
	Multan
	Sukkur
	Quetta
	Peshawar
Children living and working on the streets	Karachi
	Hyderabad
	Multan
	Sukkur
	Peshawar

Table 1: Sample selection of cities for the survey

During the research, it was noted that there were no children permanently living on the streets in Islamabad and Quetta. Upon further inquiry, it was revealed that the children who do live on the streets of Quetta do so out of fear rather than poverty as they are reprimanded for coming back home empty handed or with insufficient earnings. Moreover, many children in Quetta travel to Karachi in the winters to avoid harsh weather conditions and avail the chance to earn more in a metropolitan city.

Cities	No. of spots per city	No. of children for questionnaire per spot	Total no. of children for questionnaire per city	No. of children for IDIs per city	No of IDIs with service providers etc	No. of FGDs with children	No. of children covered in 2 FGDs	Total	
Karachi	18	15	270	25	10	2	40		
Hyderabad	10	15	150	25	10	2	40		
Sukkur	10	15	120	25	10	2	40		
Islamabad	5	15	105	25	10	2	40		
Peshawar	10	15	150	25	10	2	40		
Quetta	7	15	105	25	10	2	40		
Multan	10	15	150	25	10	2	40		
Subtotal	70	105	1050	175	70	14	280		
Research Subjects		-	1050	175	70	-	280		1575

Table 2: Study sample of street children and service providers

Data Collection

The study employed both quantitative and qualitative tools for data collection. Primary data was collected through a combination of field surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. Field surveys were conducted by using a structured questionnaire attached as (Annex 1). Moreover in depth interviews and FGDs were conducted by using open ended questionnaires (Annex 2) and focus group guidelines (Annex 3). It is imperative to mention that the in-depth interviews and FGDs dealt with the details of sensitive issues such child sexual abuse which would have remained inaccessible otherwise.

Research Phase of the Study

The sample of street children interviewed in the study was obtained through a two stage process. In the first stage, various 'hotspots' i.e. places with a high number of street children were identified along with locations of service providers in public and private sectors, network operators, and law enforcement agencies.

In the second stage of the process, the data collected was analyzed and corroborated thoroughly so as to clearly identify target areas and information on various services providers and networks. Information gathered through the mapping exercise set the stage for quantitative and qualitative stage of this study. (See Annexure for mapping data analysis)

Major Findings of the Study

Profiles of Street Children Surveyed:

Age profile of the children surveyed:

As shown in Figure 2 below, approximately 70% of the children living on the streets are between the ages 9 to 16 years. Likewise, the age distribution of children working on the streets in the study sample appears to cluster between 9-16 years; with the highest number of children falling in the age group of 11-16 years. The largest age group in Islamabad, Hyderabad and Peshawar, is of children between ages 11-12 years. However, in Multan, Peshawar and Quetta, children as young as 5-6 years were also found working on the streets.

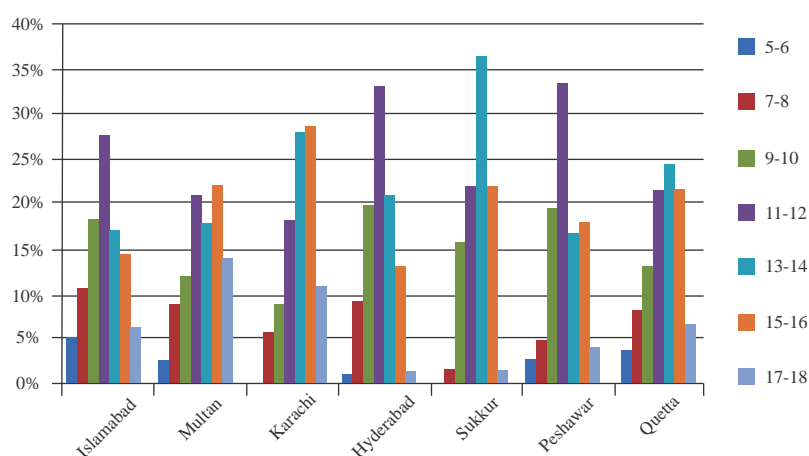


Figure 1: Age Profile of Children Working on the Streets (Years)

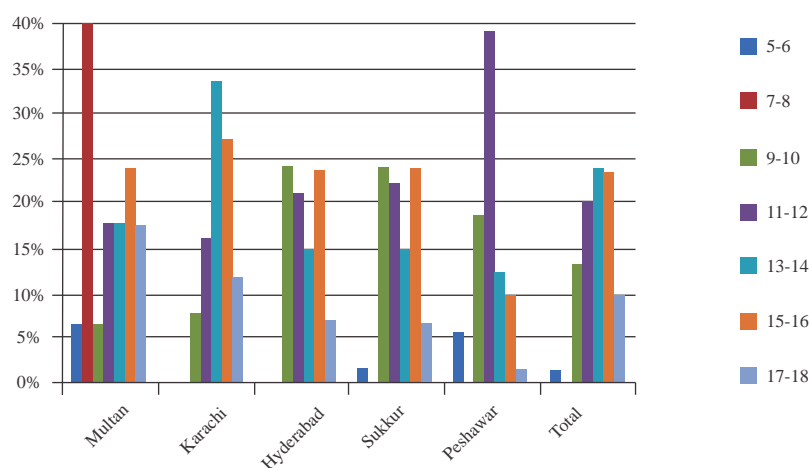


Figure 2: Age Profile of Children Living on the Streets (Years)

The survey indicates that the majority of the children living on the streets are between the ages of 11 to 16. Multan and Peshawar have the highest number of street children under the age of 6 years living on the streets.

Ethnic profile of children surveyed:

In the case of children working on the streets, Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta have the most varied ethnic profiles. In Islamabad, Pashtuns and Afghans appear to be in the majority, whereas in Karachi; Afghans, Bengalis and Kochis form the majority groups. A high number of children working on the streets in Peshawar and Quetta are Afghans. This indicates that a high percentage of children from displaced populations are working on the streets or the cities surveyed.

In the case of children living on the streets, Karachi and Peshawar have the most ethnically varied populations. Karachi has a high number of children living on the streets that are of Afghan, Baloch and Hazara ethnicity. Similarly, Peshawar has a high number of Afghan children living on the streets. Therefore, in cities that show ethnic diversity, i.e. Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta, the survey indicates that a majority of street children belong to the displaced and marginalized populations of Pakistan. The findings corroborate the fact that children of ethnic minorities form the most vulnerable group among the already marginalized segments of the community.

Religious profiles of street children:

The survey indicates that the majority of street children are Muslims for both sets of groups surveyed. However, Islamabad has a high number of Christian children working on the streets; approximately 20% of total children surveyed in the group. Similarly, Hyderabad has a high proportion of Hindu children working on the streets, (approximately 42% of the working children surveyed in the city are Hindus).

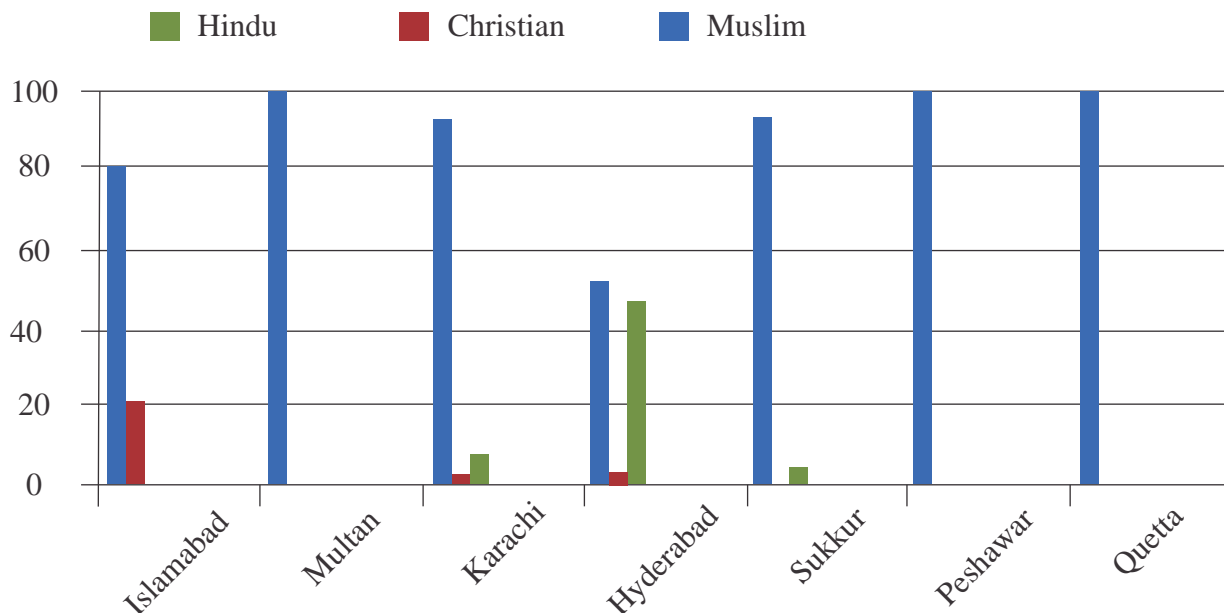


Figure 5: Profiles of children working on the streets

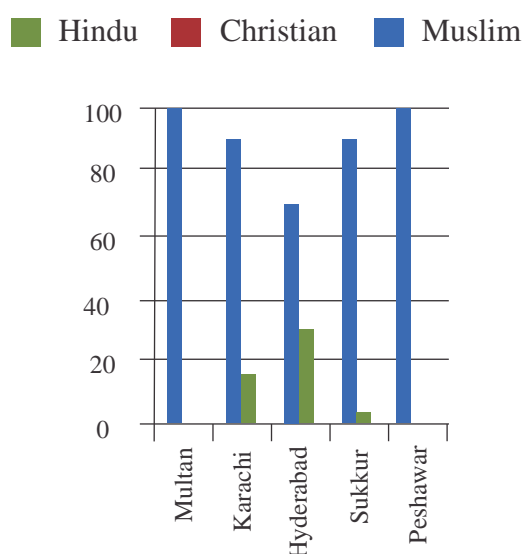


Figure 6: Profiles of children living on the streets

No Christian children were found to be living on the streets but it was noted that Hindu children did live on the streets of Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. Minority leaders interviewed during the course of the research study reported that children belonging to their community avoid working and living on the streets due to fear of persecution by Muslim children and the police. As shown in Figure 6, with the exception of Karachi and Hyderabad, all the children (included in the survey) living on the streets were Muslims. Moreover, in Karachi and Hyderabad, approximately 15% and 25% of the children (included in the survey) living on the street belonged to the Hindu minority.

Family background:

The survey also profiled the family backgrounds of children who work and or live on the streets, as indicated in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6 of the report. Large family size and low educational attainment are prevalent among parents of the street children. Furthermore, low income levels of the parents of street children remain a constant in the survey findings as evident from the tables below.

City	Father Alive	Education					Father's mean income/month
		Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Matric	Other (Madrassah)	
Islamabad	89.50%	55.40%	23.00%	2.70%	9.50%	9.50%	8050
Multan	94.90%	83.50%	11.30%	4.10%	1.00%	0.00%	5252
Karachi	92.70%	70.60%	8.80%	6.60%	2.90%	11.00%	6780
Hyderabad	80.80%	85.70%	8.60%	2.90%	1.40%	1.40%	5405
Sukkur	92.10%	88.70%	9.70%	1.60%	0.00%	0.00%	4685
Peshawar	92.10%	81.20%	7.90%	6.90%	2.00%	2.00%	9600
Quetta	88.60%	85.30%	6.90%	1.00%	0.00%	6.90%	6718
Overall	90.10%	78.60%	10.80%	3.60%	2.40%	4.40%	6641

Table 3: Family Profiles of Children working on the streets (Father's Profile)

City	Mother Alive	Education					Mothers's mean income/ month
		Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Matric	Other (Madrassah)	
Islamabad	100.00%	80.80%	11.00%	0.00%	4.10%	4.10%	5719
Multan	95.90%	88.60%	6.80%	2.30%	1.10%	1.10%	1388
Karachi	97.80%	73.80%	6.20%	2.30%	2.30%	15.40%	5367
Hyderabad	97.30%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3027
Sukkur	90.50%	96.80%	1.60%	1.60%	0.00%	0.00%	3208
Peshawar	96.00%	95.70%	2.10%	1.10%	1.10%	0.00%	2173
Quetta	96.60%	92.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.50%	3788
Overall	96.30%	89.70%	3.90%	1.04%	1.20%	4.01%	3524

Table 4: Family Profile of Children working on the streets (Mother's Profile)

Literacy rates among the parents of children working on the streets are extremely low. Islamabad has the highest literacy rates amongst the cities surveyed for fathers, i.e. 44.6% of the fathers were literate, compared to the rest of the cities surveyed. The lowest literacy rate for fathers was recorded in Sukkur where 88.7% of the fathers of street children included in the study were illiterate. Furthermore, the rates of education attainment for mothers were lower than fathers. Illiteracy rates of more than 90% were recorded for mothers of street children working on the streets of Sukkur, Peshawar, Hyderabad and Quetta with Hyderabad having the highest illiteracy rate of 100% in the surveyed sample. Similarly, the mean monthly incomes of both parents of the children working on the street are below PKR 10,000 per month.

City	Education					Father's mean income/ month
	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Matric	Other	
Multan	85.20%	8.20%	4.90%	1.60%	0.00%	5751
Karachi	83.50%	12.00%	2.30%	0.80%	1.50%	7786
Hyderabad	79.20%	16.70%	0.00%	2.80%	1.40%	6240
Sukkur	88.10%	6.80%	3.40%	1.70%	0.00%	4035
Peshawar	89.80%	2.00%	2.00%	4.10%	2.00%	6915
Overall	85.10%	9.10%	2.50%	2.20%	0.98%	6145

Table 5: Family profile of children living on the streets (Father's profile)

Tables 5 and 6, present the family profiles of children living on the street. These results are similar to those of children working on the streets; low levels of literacy and low average monthly incomes being the common characteristics defining families of children living on the streets. The results of the survey indicate that for both children working on the streets and those living on the streets, poverty and illiteracy are two factors that have severely affected their families.

City	Education					Mother's mean income/month
	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Matric	Other	
Multan	91.70%	3.30%	1.70%	0.00%	3.30%	3800
Karachi	91.50%	2.30%	3.80%	0.00%	2.30%	4040
Hyderabad	92.60%	4.40%	1.50%	1.50%	0.00%	2867
Sukkur	98.30%	1.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2100
Peshawar	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6500
Overall	94.70%	2.30%	1.40%	0.30%	1.10%	3861

Table 6: Family profiles of children living on the streets (Mother's profile)

Educational background of children:

As can be seen from Table 7, current enrollment in schools for children working on the streets was highest in Islamabad and Peshawar. The lowest enrollment rates were reported from Sukkur and Quetta where more than 70% of the street children included in the survey were never enrolled in a school. On the other hand, higher number of children living on the streets was not enrolled in schools as compared to children working on the streets. In this regard, none of the children living on the streets of Multan, Karachi and Hyderabad, included in the sample were enrolled in schools. Furthermore, more than 70% of the children living on the streets of Sukkur and Multan had never attended school thereby forming the most remarkable number in the category.

A considerable number of children who work and or live on the streets were attending schools previously (Table 7). In this regard, a comparison between the percentages of students who attended a school in the past and those who are currently attending a school highlights a dismal state of affairs. It also underscores the adverse impacts of working on the streets on the educational pursuits of children. In this regard, long working hours, incessant hard work and the burden of earning for the survival of the family undermines a child's interest and ability to get educated.

City	Children Working on the Streets			Children Living on the Streets		
	Never attended	Attended in the past	Currently attending	Never attended	Attended in the past	Currently attending
Islamabad	18.40%	63.20%	18.40%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Multan	59.60%	39.40%	1.00%	73.80%	26.20%	0.00%
Karachi	56.90%	43.10%	0.00%	58.50%	41.50%	0.00%
Hyderabad	56.00%	40.00%	4.00%	68.50%	31.50%	0.00%
Sukkur	74.60%	15.90%	9.50%	76.70%	15.00%	8.30%
Peshawar	28.70%	38.60%	32.70%	33.30%	10.40%	56.30%
Quetta	77.40%	22.60%	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Overall	53.08%	37.50%	9.37%	62.20%	24.90%	12.90%

Table 7: Educational Background of Street Children

Reasons for leaving school												
City	Children working on the streets						Children living on the streets					
	Economic problems	School environment	Violent behavior of peers	Corporal punishment	To earn money for family	Madarssahs	Economic problems	School environment	Violent behavior of peers	Corporal punishment	To earn money	Madarssahs
Islamabad	30.60%	11.30%	3.20%	3.20%	21.00%	0.306	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Multan	76.40%	4.50%	0.00%	1.10%	9.00%	9.00%	77.60%	13.80%	0.00%	1.70%	3.40%	3.40%
Karachi	64.20%	0.70%	0.70%	0.00%	26.10%	8.20%	73.80%	5.40%	0.80%	6.20%	13.80%	0.00%
Hyderabad	53.70%	23.90%	1.50%	1.50%	9.00%	10.40%	54.30%	41.40%	0.00%	0.00%	4.30%	0.00%
Sukkur	70.00%	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	24.00%	4.00%	88.60%	2.30%	0.00%	0.00%	9.10%	0.00%
Peshawar	79.70%	2.90%	0.00%	1.40%	4.30%	11.60%	95.20%	4.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Quetta	76.30%	9.30%	0.00%	1.00%	13.40%	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Overall	64.40%	7.80%	0.70%	1.10%	15.20%	10.50%	77.90%	13.50%	0.16%	1.60%	6.10%	0.60%

Table 8: Reasons for leaving school for street children

The survey findings indicate that poverty, a hostile school environment, corporal punishment and violence at schools are some of the major reasons behind children leaving or unwilling to re-enroll in school (Refer to Table 8 and 9). This is found to be consistent for both groups of children included in the survey; i.e. children working on the streets and children living on the streets. A majority of children in both groups had to drop out of school due to poverty and the consequent need to earn a living for their family. Incidents of corporal punishment and violent behavior of peers also played a part in increasing the number of school drop outs who subsequently ended up on the streets. However, poverty and the need to work to support family earnings forced more children out of schools than other factors like violence in educational institutions.

City	Working on the Streets		Living on the Streets	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Islamabad	36.36	63.64	N/A	N/A
Multan	20.59	79.41	12.5	87.5
Karachi	43.86	56.14	20.8	79.2
Hyderabad	36.67	63.33	31.8	68.2
Sukkur	66.67	33.33	0	100
Peshawar	30.77	69.23	40	60
Quetta	0	100	N/A	N/A
Overall	33.5	66.4	21.02	78.9

Table 9: Efforts to re-enroll in school for children working and living on the streets

Table 9 shows the percentage of children who have attempted to re-enroll in school. In the case of children working on the streets, it was reported that around 66.7% in Sukkur and 43.8% in Karachi have attempted to re-enroll in schools. Also, children working on the streets in Quetta did not express any desire to re-enroll in school as evident from the table. However, the percentage of children living on the streets that have attempted to re-enroll in schools is extremely low for all cities included in the survey. The highest percentage of children living on the streets that have attempted to re-enroll in schools is in Peshawar and Karachi at 40% and 20% respectively.

Average Weekly Income		
City	Children Working on the Streets	Children Living on the Streets
Islamabad	1252	N/A
Multan	992	796
Karachi	1585	1240
Hyderabad	832	1003
Sukkur	784	854
Peshawar	892	751
Quetta	1027	N/A
Overall	1052	929

Table 10: Average weekly income of street children

As evident from Table 10, the highest weekly incomes are earned by children working on the streets of Islamabad, Karachi and Quetta. In the case of children living on the streets, the average weekly income is found to be highest in Karachi and Hyderabad. The overall average weekly income for children working on the streets and children living on the streets was PKR 1,098 and PKR 990 respectively. This indicates that there is not a large degree of variation between the average incomes of children working on the streets and children living on the streets. These incomes add up to approximately PKR 4,000 monthly income for both of these groups.

Information derived from FGDs and IDIs conducted with street children

Islamabad:

FGDs and IDIs were conducted with children (boys and girls) aged between 8-16 years. Almost all the children interviewed expressed their keenness to re-enroll in school. However, the children did not report any efforts on part of their family, the government or civil society to ensure their re-enrollment in schools. This reinforced the findings made in the aforementioned quantitative data of children working on the streets in Islamabad whereby only 18.4% of the children were currently enrolled in school and 63.4% made no efforts to re-enroll.

The majority of the children working on the streets in Islamabad were on the streets because of displacement resulting from conflict or disaster, particularly the 2010 floods. Most of the children working on the streets of Islamabad were ethnic Pashtuns or Afghans with a comparatively smaller percentage of displaced children belonging to Southern Punjab.

Like elsewhere in the country, the family size of the interviewed children ranged between 7 to 9 individuals, with the exception of Afghani/ Pashtun groups whose family sizes exceeded the normal average figure. The girls interviewed revealed that their families sent them to work on the streets till the age of 10, after which they were restricted from venturing outside their homes. Furthermore, the girl children revealed that within months of reaching puberty families would try to sell them off in early marriages.

Majority of street children interviewed in Islamabad were Muslims whereas Christian children working on the street were usually confined to squatter settlements in and around the capital. A major finding of quantitative research was the general discrimination faced by street children of minority communities.

This was reinforced by qualitative research whereby FGDs revealed that Muslim children did not like interacting with Christian children as they thought it was forbidden in Islam. Similarly, Christian children during various IDIs and FGDs complained about the discrimination they faced in schools and workplaces. In addition, conversations revealed that biased attitude of teachers and peers remained a major reason behind high school dropout rate among Christian children.

A large number of street children interviewed in Islamabad were drug addicts. For instance, one of the spots selected in Islamabad was Sitara Market, which is located in close proximity to a Christian colony. A large number of Christian children, who had dropped out of school, were found openly consuming, charas (hashish), heroin, alcohol and gutka. Children shared that all kinds of drugs were easily available in the market. Discussions also revealed that drug sellers sold the drugs to children and later threatened or forced them into drug peddling.

Drug Addiction among Street Children

John, a 16 year old resident of the Christian colony in G7 Sector of Islamabad became a drug addict at a very young age. During the time of the research he was working as a gardener and occasionally cleaned cars to make ends meet. During the interview he revealed that his parents got divorced when he was very young, leaving him in the care of his grandmother. When his parents eventually remarried and settled with their respective families he was neglected and this lack of parental supervision allowed him to spend a lot of time with adult boys in the streets.

He began smoking at a young age, slowly descending into heroin use as time went by. At the time of the interview, he had been a regular heroin user for four years. He revealed that the G7 sector had a high population of drug users and peddlers and he too had become a peddler when one of the dealers asked him to join him as part time drug dealer in return for free heroin. Regarding heroin availability and addiction, John says, “it is available and once you are addicted, you can't get rid of it”. He had been admitted to a rehabilitation center for drug users twice but had relapsed soon after treatment.

Multan:

Children interviewed in Multan cited physical abuse at home and poverty as the major reasons for working and living on the streets. Most of the children that participated in the FGDs were living with their families; however, approximately 20% of the children, interviewed were living on the streets independently. Majority of children participating in the FGDs were illiterate and only a small number of children had undergone primary schooling. This supports the findings of the quantitative survey which indicates that 59% of the children working on the streets and 73% of the children living on the streets were illiterate. For instance, during fieldwork the research team came across Kajal, a 7 year old girl picking garbage from a dump in Ghaziabad Colony in Multan. In an interview, Kajal shared that that every morning her father would leave her at the dump to collect garbage items and sell it to a nearby scrap dealer for some money. The rest of her siblings are also involved in begging in and around the city of Multan. Given her family's economic status, she was forced to beg and had never received any formal or informal education though she expressed her keen desire to enroll in school.

Surviving Torture and Incest

A number of children interviewed in Multan identified violence and physical abuse at homes as the major factor pushing them to the streets. In this regard, a number of case studies were collected by the research team to highlight the extent of violence against children in poor households of Multan.

Mano, an 11 year old orphan girl living with her sister in a makeshift hut in the Sabzi Mandi (vegetable market) of Multan revealed the harrowing impacts of violence and sexual abuse on the life of a child. In her case, the perpetrator of violence was none other than her father.

Mano revealed that after her mother's death, the father, who seldom worked on a permanent basis, ended up becoming a drug addict. When her mother was alive, Mano along with her older sister used to beg on the streets on Multan, bringing their meager earnings home to help the family. The father would take the earnings from them and use it for buying food as well as drugs.

After the death of her mother, Mano's father began to regularly beat and rape her. She did not share her trauma with her sister who she thought already knew of the incidents and did not discuss them out of fear of their father. The sisters remained in this state for two years whereby Mano was repeatedly subjected to rape and torture by her father. When the father died, the girls moved to the streets and are now living independently.

Hyderabad:

A majority of the children interviewed were Muslims belonging to low income families that were displaced as a result of the 2010 floods. These children had undergone either very basic schooling or had never been enrolled in schools. It was observed that discrimination against Hindu street children was less as compared to discrimination against street children of minority groups in other cities. The female children that participated in FGDs and IDIs were primarily Hindu, between the ages of 7 and 10. The primary source of income for these girls and their families was begging. In this regard, IDI's and FGD's were conducted at various locations in and across Hyderabad.

The IDI's and FGD's were conducted with these children to ascertain the reasons behind their living on the streets. A Hindu girl named Munny in her interview stated that she was forced to flee from home after the 2010 floods in interior Sindh. She had never enrolled in school and stayed at home to help with chores. After her family lost everything, she was forced to beg on the streets; allowing her to earn around PKR 600 a week. She complained that her family and others like them were discriminated against when it came to the distribution of relief goods hence pushing them on the streets to survive.

Sukkur:

None of the children that participated in the FGDs in Sukkur were enrolled in school at the time of the discussion. However; a small number of children did attend school in the past before the floods of 2010.

The age group ranged from 11-17 years for boys and 10 and above for girls. Discrimination against minority children was observed as many Muslim children refused to help children from other religions.

Karachi:

Children interviewed in Karachi were between the ages of 12 and 18 years and disclosed that dysfunctional family structures and very low family incomes were two of the main reasons for their leaving home. Most of the children reported that they left home for the first time between the ages of 5 to 10 years. The children also said that corporal punishment was a main reason for them dropping out of school. A number of children also stated that after dropping out of school, they were sent to Madrassahs, where according to them; they were chained and inflicted with severe physical punishment.

Quetta:

Ages of street children interviewed in Quetta ranged between 5 - 16 years for boys and 5-10 years for girls. Most of these children identified themselves as Afghans. The children belonged to extremely poor families and received little or no education. Most children shared that they work on the street to support their large families. Many of them were employed by junk depot owners and were tasked to pick rags and used items on the streets. Many boys interviewed also shared that when they did not make enough money during the day, they stayed at the junk depots overnight and went home only when they had earned an adequate amount of money thereby avoiding severe punishment by their parents. It was also noted that many boys left Quetta in the winter season to travel to Karachi due to harsh weather conditions and a chance to earn more in a comparatively larger urban center.

All the females interviewed stated that they were sidelined by their families when it came to education, healthcare etc. It was also reported that girls older than 10 years were confined to homes and generated income by spinning wool.

Peshawar:

Majority of the children working on the streets in Peshawar were either Afghans or Pashtun, belonging to poor and illiterate families. Moreover, the children interviewed were mostly dropouts from school due to poverty, corporal punishment or militancy in the nearby tribal belt. Many children were forced into begging by their parents to earn income for their families. For instance, 12 year old Kamran, a Pashtun boy working on the streets of Peshawar was forced into begging by his parents. He attended school for five years after which he was forced to leave school due to financial troubles. With a family of five, Kamran's father who worked as a daily wage laborer could barely make ends meet. Kamran began working on the streets in 2006 and was not enrolled in school at the time of research.

Most of the street children in the city are addicted to sniffing glue, smoking hashish and using other drugs. Authorities in Peshawar are trying to get children off the streets and send them to their families or government shelters where they will be safe from drug abuse, sexual exploitation and various health issues etc. However, during the time of research the authorities did not have enough resources to provide shelter to street children.

Quality of life of street children

Amount of Time (years) spent working and living on the streets:

Figure 7 below, gives an overview of the number of years spent by children working on the streets. As evident from the table, a significant percentage of children are working on the streets especially in cities like Islamabad (18%), Multan (33%), Hyderabad (36%) and Sukkur (26%). These percentages indicate a surge in the number of children working on the streets following displacement and migration after the 2010 floods. Multan, Hyderabad and Sukkur, in particular, are urban centers that have witnessed displacement of people from rural areas. Similarly, Peshawar also reported a surge in the number of children working on the streets in 2010 and 2011; mainly as a consequence of floods and militancy in various tribal agencies. However, the results from Karachi do not show a corresponding increase in the number of children working on the streets post 2010.

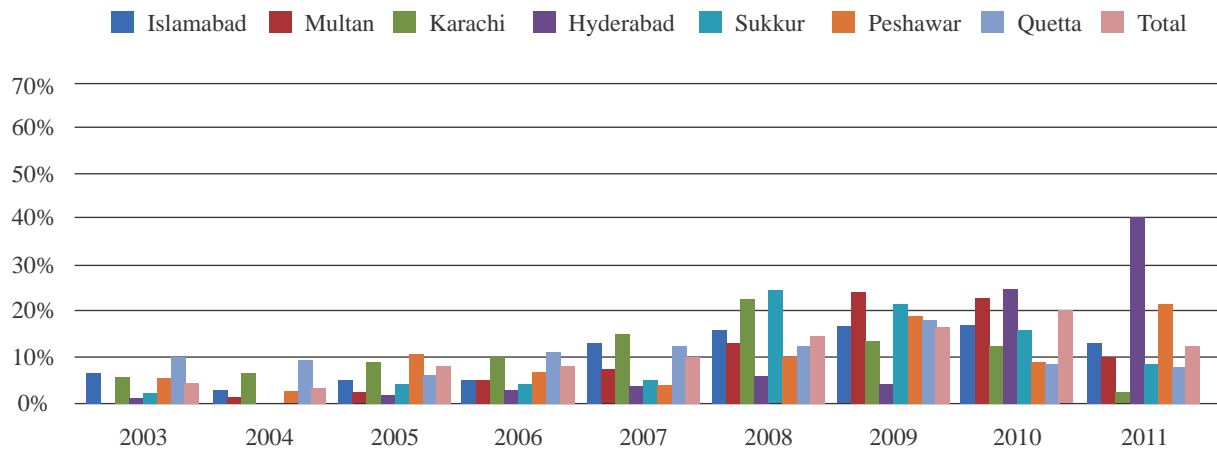


Figure 7: Year since working on the streets

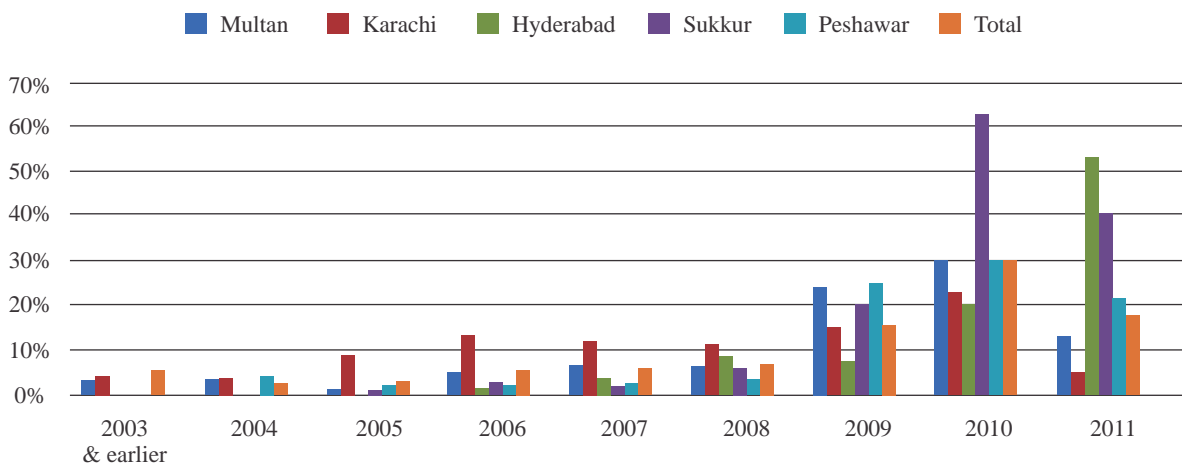


Figure 8: Year since living on the streets

Figure 7: Year since working on the streets In the case of children living on the streets, survey results indicate that in Multan, Sukkur and Hyderabad, a high percentage of respondents had been living on the streets for a year (Please see Figure 8 above). In the case of Peshawar, the majority of the respondents, i.e. approximately 80% of the children, had been living on the streets for two years or less. The reason for the increase in the number of children living on the streets in these cities can again be attributed to displacement and migration caused by floods and conflict.

Number of street children involved in begging:

Table 14 below indicates that children working on the streets of Multan, Karachi and Hyderabad are forced to beg by their family or handlers. The survey results show that approximately 14% of children working on the streets earn or supplement their income by begging. In contrast, 33.2% children living on the streets beg. From these results, it can be deduced that children living on the streets are at least twice as likely to beg compared to children working on the streets. Most of the children earn money by rag picking, vending small goodies or by doing odd jobs in shops or stalls.

City	Children Working on the Streets	Children Living on the Streets
Islamabad	9.2%	N/A
Multan	17.2%	23.3%
Karachi	27.9%	55.5%
Hyderabad	22.7%	42.5%
Sukkur	11.3%	10.2%
Peshawar	2.0%	0.0%
Quetta	0.0%	N/A
Overall	12.9%	26.3%

Table 14: Number of street children involved in begging

Factors that influence children on to the streets:

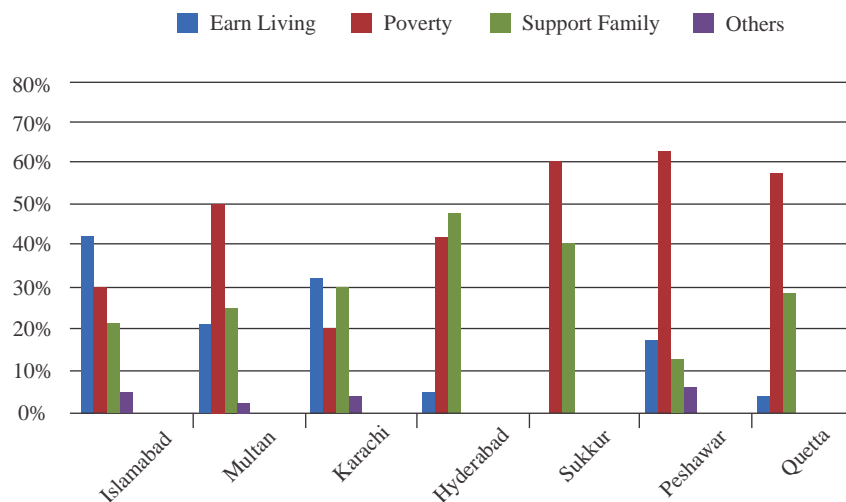


Figure 9: Reasons for leaving home for children working on the streets

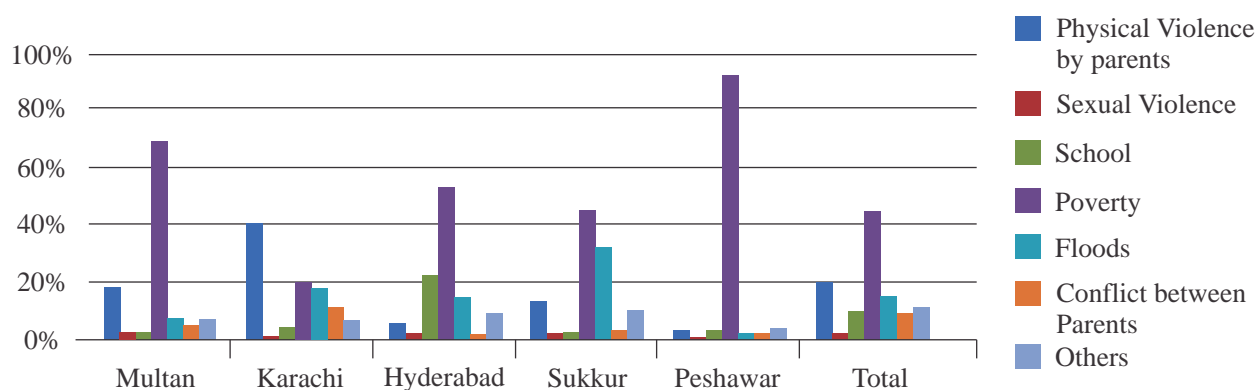


Figure 10: Reasons for leaving home for children living on the Street

As evident from the tables above, the major factor that forced children to either work or live on the streets was poverty. Almost more than 50% of children working on the streets and 40% living on the streets stated that they were forced to leave their homes and schools and came on the streets to earn a living for their family. Apart from economic problems, some also shared that they were on the streets due to the floods of 2010 and 2011. Around 37% of children living on the streets in Sukkur were on the streets with their families after the floods destroyed their homes and farmland.

Major expenditures incurred by street children:

City	Percentage that Spend Income on Food	Percentage that spend Income on Clothing	Percentage that spend income on Travelling	Percentage that spend Income on Movies	Percentage that spend money on Parents	Percentage that spend Income on Bhatta[1]	Percentage that spend Income on Health
Islamabad	48.70%	30.30%	22.40%	13.20%	81.60%	9.20%	30.30%
Multan	52.50%	9.10%	13.10%	2.00%	75.80%	1.00%	16.20%
Karachi	27.00%	22.60%	38.00%	16.80%	97.80%	7.30%	8.80%
Hyderabad	34.70%	5.30%	13.30%	1.30%	93.30%	0.00%	6.70%
Sukkur	87.30%	1.60%	36.50%	17.50%	98.40%	0.00%	6.30%
Peshawar	50.50%	18.80%	25.70%	10.90%	83.20%	5.00%	5.00%
Quetta	65.10%	69.80%	28.30%	14.20%	98.10%	3.80%	38.70%
Total	52.20%	22.50%	25.30%	10.80%	89.70%	3.75%	16.00%

Table 15: Expenditures of children working on the streets

⁹ Bhatta is a payoff to stronger elements on the street, including the police, to ensure protection and patronage.

City	Percentage that Spend Income on Food	Percentage that spend Income on Clothing	Percentage that spend income on Travelling	Percentage that spend Income on Movies	Percentage that spend money on Parents	Percentage that spend Income on Bhatta	Percentage that spend Income on Health
Multan	65.60%	16.40%	18.00%	3.30%	49.20%	1.60%	11.50%
Karachi	29.60%	43.70%	41.50%	57.00%	20.00%	23.70%	13.30%
Hyderabad	61.60%	5.50%	28.80%	5.50%	75.30%	12.30%	15.10%
Sukkur	95.00%	0.00%	23.30%	20.00%	90.00%	0.00%	8.30%
Peshawar	46.90%	4.10%	18.40%	2.00%	77.60%	14.30%	2.00%
Total	59.70%	13.90%	26.00%	17.50%	62.40%	10.30%	10.04%

Table 16: Expenditures of children living on the streets

Results emerging from the FGDs and IDIs conducted with Street Children

Islamabad:

During IDIs and FGDs, it was evident that almost all the children in Islamabad working on the street go back to their homes in the evening. The major occupation of children is rag picking and selling it as “Kandi” which helps them earn around PKR 100 per day. The number of children living on the street was very low in Islamabad. However during the IDIs and FGDs, some children shared that they were non-permanently living on the street which meant they would be sleeping on the street off and on, mainly to collect enough money to take home. It was also found that the non-permanent street dwellers were relatively more vulnerable to sexual and physical abuse, drug addiction and conflict with the law.

While sharing the details about their expenditure, majority of the children informed that they gave most of their earning to their families and kept only nominal amounts for buying candies or toys etc. Most of the children falling under twelve years of age category hardly owned any toys which reflected that the money they earned either from work or begging was taken away by their parents.

The overall health and hygiene condition of the street children was extremely poor across all the cities surveyed. Children who participated in IDIs and FGDs were in rags, with layers of dirt and dust on their hands, faces and feet. The children interviewed also shared that diseases common among them were scabies, cough and cold, fever and jaundice. Many children had open wounds on their hands, arms and feet, as they were accidentally cut by glass and other sharp objects while searching for useable goods in junk and garbage. In this regard, children usually bought a band aid or the occasional aspirin to cure different sorts of ailments.

Multan:

A majority of the boys who participated in the IDIs and FGDs were living on the streets while all girls interviewed lived with their families and only worked on the streets during the day. Most of the children informed that they were involved in begging which substantiates the findings of the quantitative survey that indicates that Multan had one of the highest prevalence of begging among street children, i.e., 17% of the children working on the streets and 23% of the children living on the streets beg. A majority of the children gave their earnings to their parents, using what's left on food and health items. Mostly children were unhappy to work or live on the street, and expressed their desire to attend school instead of working or begging.

Karachi:

Children under the age of 12 who participated in the survey had been on the streets for six months to two years. On the other hand, older children had been on the streets for four to eight years. This indicates that once children start working on the streets, it is very unlikely for them to get out and return to schools. The majority of the children interviewed appeared to be supplementing their income by begging; however, very few of the children were exclusively beggars. The monthly income of children varied between PKR 500 to PKR 5,000 per month and reportedly they were giving most of their money to their parents. Children also reported that they got free food from hotels, shrines and shelters.

Sukkur:

Most of the children during the IDIs and FGDs revealed that working on the street is the only option for them, however, they feel sad and dejected about their situation. The children were involved in selling small tickets items such as bottled water, balloons and packet chips etc. As found in other cities, the children in Sukkur also reported that they work on the street for about 6-8 hours a day on average, and give all their earnings to their families with no savings. In Sukkur, most of the children get free food/leftovers from restaurants, small hotels and shrines.

Quetta:

Most street children in Quetta were working as rag pickers, selling the rags to junk depots. Surprisingly the average daily income of rag picking children in Quetta was much higher than those in other cities. During the FGDs it was found that the children once sexually abused by their employer, colleague or a stranger, get involved in commercial sex, as they think that it is easy money, and can save them from violence at home. The children shared that they face health issues such as serious skin diseases due to scavenging. Many of them also shared that they started smoking at around 10 years of age and later got involved in drugs. Like elsewhere, it was also found that drug peddlers encourage children into consumption of drugs and involve them in the business.

Girl children interviewed shared that they were allowed to work on the street till the age of 10, after which they worked at home at spinning wool. It was also reported that spinning wool for long hours in poorly ventilated areas lead to respiratory illnesses among children. Discrimination against girls was more severe in Quetta where girls were not sent to schools, and after the age of 10, were not allowed (by their families) to use Drop in Centers or NFE centers for learning any skills

Hyderabad:

From focus group discussions and in depth interviews, it was found that children working on the streets in Hyderabad were involved in shoe polishing, begging and picking up garbage. Average daily income of children ranged between PKR100 to PKR300. Many of the children interviewed shared that they had migrated from different parts of Sindh and were living on the streets for years, while others were forced on the street in the aftermath of floods in 2010. The boys and girls did not want to be on the street as they felt very unhappy about the kinds of work they were involved in. Furthermore, they were frightened of being on their own when someone harassed or scolded them. Most of the children were suffering from cough, cold and various skin diseases. Moreover, children met during this study had no idea about the status of their immunization.

Peshawar:

Children in Peshawar worked for long hours and faced physical violence at home and on the streets. The children also shared that they are forcibly sent to the street by their parents for earning money for their families. The children suffered from a variety of health issues not to mention physical and sexual abuse (both commercial and non-commercial), begging, hazardous labor, drug abuse, trafficking and street crimes.

Risks and challenges faced by street children

This section of the report focuses on analyzing the major risks and challenges faced by children living on the streets, including a high prevalence of health issues, physical and sexual abuse as well as police harassment.

Health Problems faced by Street Children:

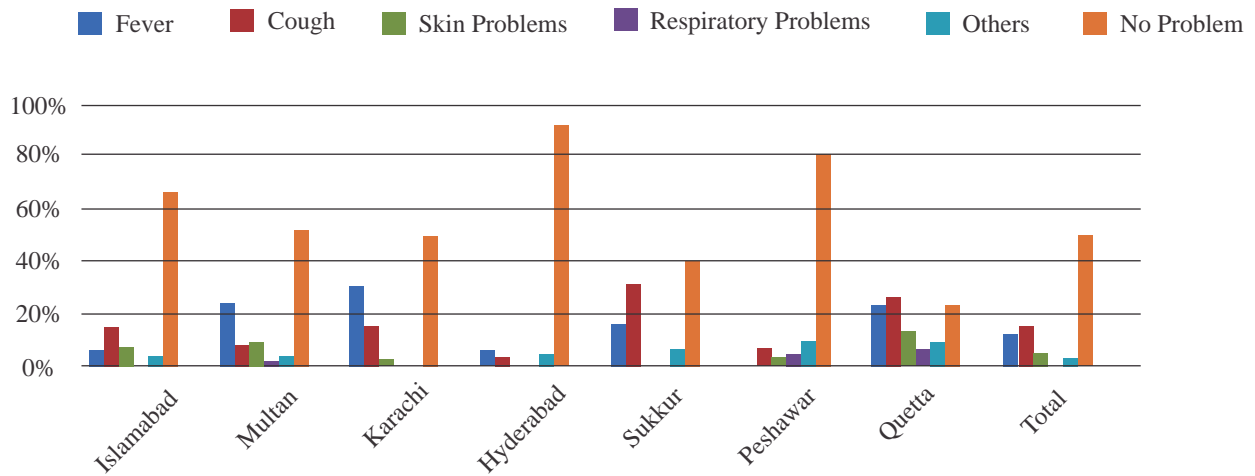


Figure 11: Health Problems Faced by Children Working on the Streets

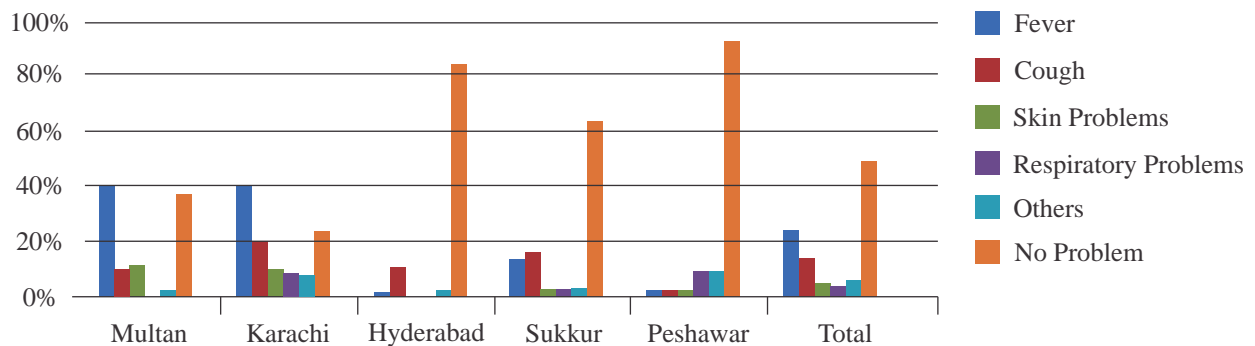


Figure 12: Health Problems Faced by Children Living on the Streets

Figures 11 and 12 provide an overview of the health problems suffered by street children in the recent past, i.e. fever, cough, skin disease and respiratory diseases. The percentage of street children that suffered from some form of illness in the recent past was found to be quite high.

With regards to children working on the streets, 65% of the children surveyed in Islamabad, 45% in Multan, 50% in Karachi, 59% in Sukkur and 48% in Quetta had suffered from some form of illness in the recent past. However, more than 80% of the children surveyed in Hyderabad and Peshawar reported that they had not fallen sick in the recent past. Fever and cough were found to be the most common illnesses suffered by children working on the streets followed by diseases such as typhoid or jaundice.

In the case of children living on the streets, 62% of the children surveyed in Multan, 62% in Karachi and 38% in Sukkur had recently suffered from some form of illness. In Multan and Karachi, these percentages were higher than those of children working on the streets. On the other hand, findings relating to the children living on the streets in Hyderabad and Peshawar were consistent with those of children working on the streets, with 80% or more of the children not having suffered from any recent illness. Therefore, children living on the streets were more vulnerable to illnesses and disease than children working on the streets given the fact that they were more exposed to a hazardous environment and had fewer health care options.

Forced Begging:

The survey also attempted to estimate the number of street children that had been forced into begging. Findings indicate that a high percentage of children working on the streets were forced into begging when compared with the children living on the streets (see Table 20 below). In the case of children working on the streets, it was documented that no children in Sukkur were forced to beg however those living on the streets were forced to beg by their families or employers. The statistics also show that no children living on the streets of Peshawar were forced to beg along with those working on the streets of Quetta. Children in both of these cities work in junkyard depots, shops, automobile repair workshops or sell food items on the street.

Percentage of children that are forced to beg		
City	Children working on the streets	Children living on the streets
Islamabad	57.10%	N/A
Multan	82.40%	5710.00%
Karachi	45.90%	3480.00%
Hyderabad	70.60%	4840.00%
Sukkur	0.00%	3330.00%
Peshawar	50.00%	N/A
Quetta	N/A	N/A
Overall	51.00%	34.70%

Table 20: Percentage of Street Children Forced in to Begging

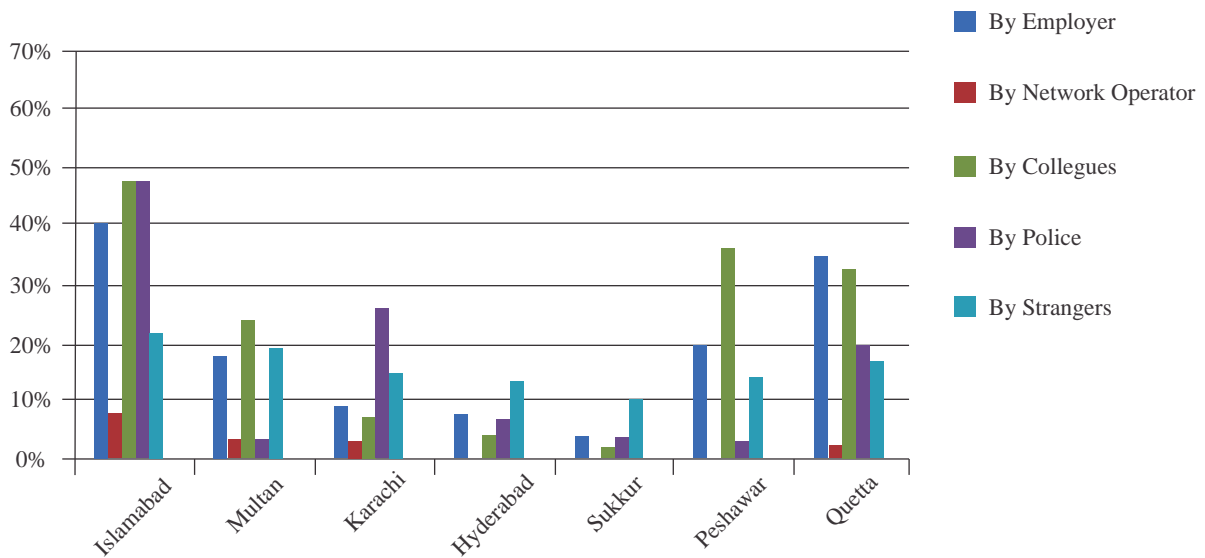


Figure 15: Physical Violence faced by children working on the streets

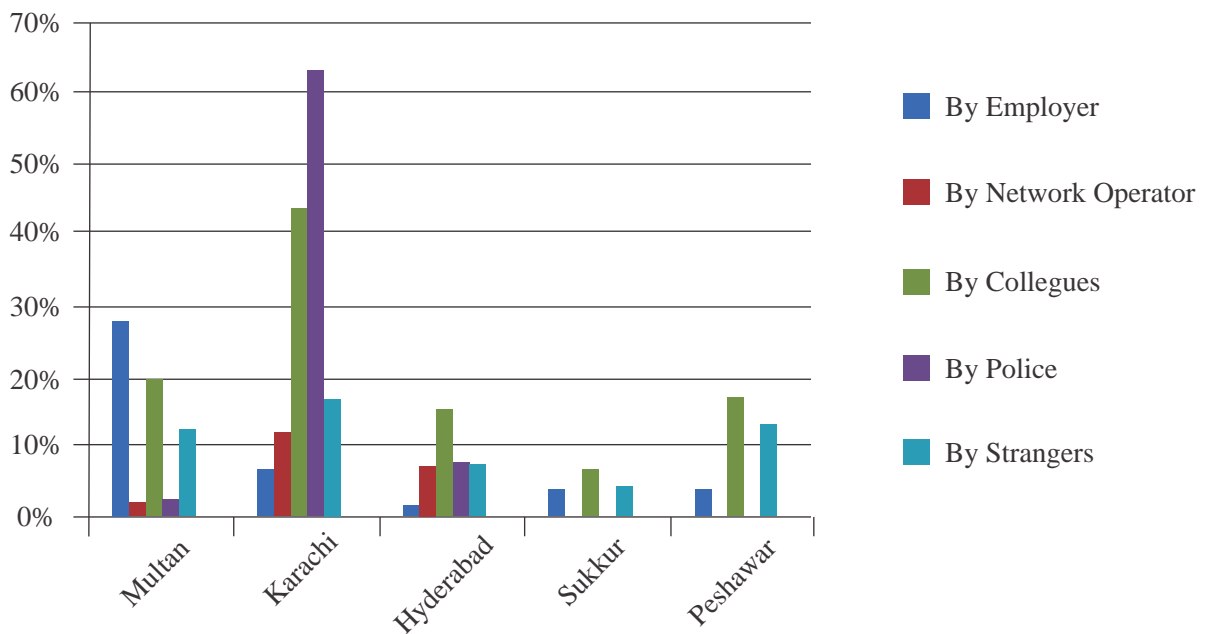


Figure 16: Physical violence faced by children living on the streets

Figures 15 and 16 above analyze the extent of physical violence faced by street children as well as the sources and perpetrators of the violence.

In the case of children working on the street, the incidence of physical violence is quite high, as can be observed from Figure 15. In Islamabad, the perpetrators of physical violence were primarily the police and other children on the streets. (Approximately 49% of the children working on the streets faced physical violence by peers and the police). The second most common source of physical violence in

Islamabad for children working on the streets was from their employers, with approximately 39% of the respondents reporting this type of violence. In addition, physical abuse reported in Islamabad was highest amongst the cities surveyed.

In other cities, peers, employers and strangers were cited as the major perpetrators of physical violence by most of the children working on the streets. The incidence of physical violence by the police was quite high in Islamabad, Karachi and Quetta, (49% of the respondents in Islamabad, 28% of the respondents in Karachi and 20% of the respondents in Quetta, reported physical violence by the police). In contrast, physical abuse by the police was found to be negligible in the remaining cities surveyed. Overall, the most common perpetrators of physical abuse appear to be peers, followed by police, strangers and employers.

For children living on the streets, physical abuse by employers, strangers and peers was reported by a majority of children surveyed in Multan and Peshawar. Approximately, 65% of the children living on the streets in Karachi reported physical abuse by the police. This figure was higher than that reported by children working on the streets in Karachi. Contrary to expectations and results from other cities, there appeared to be negligible physical abuse by the police in Multan, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Peshawar.

Police harassment faced by street children:

Tables 25 and 26 provide an overview of the extent and nature of police harassment suffered by street children in the target cities.

For children working on the streets, police harassment was quite high, with 33.2% of the children surveyed having undergone some form of harassment. (Refer to Table 25). Though police harassment appeared to be quite high in all the cities surveyed, it appeared to be the highest in Islamabad, (75% of children), followed by Multan (31.3%), Karachi (40.1%), Hyderabad (37.3%) and Sukkur, (22.2%). In Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta, a very high percentage of children reported beatings as the primary form of police harassment. The percentage of children working on the streets that were arrested by the police was highest in Islamabad and Quetta at 31.9% and 17.6%.

Children living on the streets reported police harassment to be quite high in Karachi and Hyderabad at 71.9% and 69.9% respectively. Physical abuse by the police was very common in Karachi, Multan and Sukkur, at 27.3%, 50.5% and 100% respectively. In addition, the number of children living on Karachi that were arrested by the police was quite high at 25.4%, especially when compared with 5% for children working on the streets.

City	Forms of Harassment							Percentage of Children Arrested by Police	Percentage that were beaten while in Police Custody
	Percentage of Children who Face Police Harassment	Bullying	Beating	Detention	Sexual Harassment	Physical Punishment	Other (cleaning of police station etc)		
Islamabad	75.00%	43.90%	50.90%	1.80%	0.00%	3.50%	0.00%	31.90%	49.30%
Multan	31.30%	77.40%	16.10%	0.00%	0.00%	6.50%	0.00%	2.60%	5.80%
Karachi	40.10%	41.80%	40.00%	0.00%	5.50%	3.60%	9.10%	5.70%	4.00%
Hyderabad	37.30%	78.60%	17.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.60%	2.70%	8.20%
Sukkur	22.20%	0.00%	71.40%	0.00%	0.00%	21.40%	7.10%	0.00%	100.00%
Peshawar	19.80%	25.00%	40.00%	15.00%	0.00%	5.00%	15.00%	4.10%	37.10%
Quetta	12.30%	0.00%	84.60%	7.70%	0.00%	7.70%	0.00%	17.60%	17.70%
Overall	34.00%	38.10%	45.80%	3.50%	0.70%	6.80%	4.90%	9.20%	31.70%

Table 25: Extent of police harassment faced by children working on the streets

City	Forms of Harassment							Percentage of Children Arrested by Police	Percentage that were beaten while in Police Custod
	Percentage of Children who Face Police Harassment	Bullying	Beating	Detention	Sexual Harassment	Physical Punishment	Other (cleaning of police station etc)		
Multan	23.30%	63.60%	27.30%	0.00%	0.00%	9.10%	0.00%	7.50%	4.30%
Karachi	71.90%	32.60%	50.50%	3.20%	10.50%	1.10%	2.10%	25.40%	33.70%
Hyderabad	69.90%	98.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.00%	1.50%	5.50%
Sukkur	3.30%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Peshawar	14.30%	85.70%	0.00%	14.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.60%	6.30%
Overall	45.40%	56.60%	31.90%	2.40%	6.00%	1.20%	1.80%	11.50%	17.40%

Table 26: Extent of police harassment faced by children living on the streets

Homelessness brings Police Harassment and Persecution

A large number of children working and/or living on the streets reported police harassment as a major form of violence encountered by them regularly. In this regard, police violence varies from taking bribes and physical abuse to rape of street children. The following case of police violence was reported by the research team in Multan.

Imran Ali, a 14 year old boy, from Alipur Tehsil of Multan had been living on the streets of the city for two years. Earlier he had lived in around various shrines in the city along with his friends. Imran works as a wage laborer in the city's fruit and vegetable market and a major portion of his earnings are sent to his family in his ancestral village. Imran revealed that when he came to the city he found shelter in a makeshift hut of a relative. However, after getting used to living in the city he shifted to shrines where he found free food and shelter.

Imran further stated that he could not stay at one particular shrine for extended periods of time because of incessant police harassment. He said that police officials raided shrines at night, picking up all the street children sleeping in their vicinity and locking them up in police stations. Imran revealed that he had been picked up by the police multiple times and kept in police station until someone came for his release. He added that police violence was not just limited to forceful incarceration but also included torture of children in custody in various ways including not allowing them to sleep, verbal abuse, beatings and forced labor. In fact, forcing incarcerated children to clean toilets and wash laundry of police officials was one of the most common forms of forced labor being practiced in police stations. Moreover, Imran disclosed that one of his friends was subjected to sexual abuse by policemen while in custody.

Impact of 2010-Floods on the Number and Lives of Street Children

Tables 27 and 28 provide overviews of the impact of floods on the lives of street children in the seven cities included in the study. However, it is to be stated that this study was carried out almost one and a half years after the floods when most of the families displaced by floods had already repatriated to their villages and towns. As result, only a small number of children were found to be on the streets as an aftermath of the 2010 floods.

Table 27 below provides a brief overview of the impact of floods on children working on the streets. In this regard, the table presents information on the impact of floods on street children's families, the percentage of children who were pushed to the streets because of the floods, the percentage of children whose families had returned home in the aftermath of the floods and the percentages of children who perceive drops in wages and jobs in the aftermath of the floods.

Among the children working on the streets, the highest number of children who were forced to the streets because of the floods was encountered in Karachi. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that these children migrated to the metropolis in the aftermath of the floods because of the economic opportunities that the city offered. In Punjab, a large population of street children who were pushed to the streets in the aftermath of the floods was found in Multan. Most of these children have moved to Multan with their families after floods ravaged parts of Southern Punjab in 2010. The details of other factors including the impact of floods on school, recreation (play), relationships (friendships) and loss of livelihood is given in the table below.

Percentage of Children on the streets due to floods	Percentage of Children whose Families have returned home post flood	Impact of Floods on Aspects of Life				Percentage of Children that perceive drop in number of jobs post-flood	Percentage of Children that perceive drop in Wages post-floods
		School	Play	Friendships	Loss of home, livelihoods, livestock.		
33.30%	25.00%	66.70%	0.00%	0.00%	33.30%	75.00%	100.00%
72.70%	27.30%	58.80%	29.40%	5.90%	5.90%	33.30%	34.10%
86.70%	6.70%	16.70%	33.30%	33.30%	16.70%	31.90%	31.00%
52.80%	5.90%	6.30%	39.60%	35.40%	18.80%	74.60%	76.10%
75.00%	6.30%	6.30%	56.30%	12.50%	25.00%	88.20%	88.20%
45.70%	10.10%	25.20%	40.10%	12.40%	22.10%	47.30%	52.10%

Table 27: Extent to which Children working on the Streets have been impacted by 2010 floods

Percentage of Children on the streets due to floods	Percentage of Children whose Families have returned home post flood	Impact of Floods on Aspects of Life				Percentage of Children that perceive drop in number of jobs post flood	Percentage of Children that perceive drop in Wages post-floods
		School	Play	Friendships	Loss of home, livelihoods, livestock		
56.50%	52.40%	45.00%	20.00%	30.00%	5.00%	78.90%	78.90%
82.80%	3.60%	39.30%	39.30%	10.70%	10.70%	34.50%	27.60%
80.50%	2.40%	2.70%	78.40%	18.90%	0.00%	95.10%	95.10%
83.30%	12.00%	16.00%	76.00%	0.00%	8.00%	58.30%	52.00%
60.60%	14.08%	20.60%	42.70%	11.90%	4.70%	53.20%	50.60%

Table28: Extent to which Children living in the Streets have been impacted by 2010 Floods

Table 28 provides a statistical overview of the impacts of the 2010 floods on the lives of children living on the streets. In this context, a high percentage of children (above 80%) in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur reported being forced to the streets because of the floods. This development points to the need for improving flood rehabilitation efforts to prevent families from seeking shelter and livelihood on the streets. For instance, the table discloses that there are only a small percentage of children living on the streets whose families have returned home. Moreover, a comparatively smaller number of children were living on the streets before the floods thereby making it evident that majority of the street children living on the streets in the aftermath of the floods were with their families. The massive devastation caused by the floods not only impacted the livelihood of families but also various aspects of the children's lives. During the survey, a majority of the children stated that their schooling had been adversely affected and there was little hope of them being rehabilitated. They were also saddened by the fact that they lost most of their friends during the floods as some had either drowned in the massive flooding or were displaced to various cities. Many also perceived a drop in the number of jobs and wages due to the influx of more children onto the streets after the floods and found it difficult to earn even by begging on the streets.

Major findings about the state of child protection and rehabilitation services available to street children

This section of the report presents findings relating to the availability, quality and effectiveness of various child protection mechanisms in place by various governmental and non governmental institutions, civil society, religious and minority leaders.

Protection of street children by the police:

The quantitative results of the survey indicate that street children face considerable violence and harassment from the police. Though the police officials interviewed during the course of this study denied the allegations, the tenor of the interviews and the general attitude of the police officers indicated that street children were treated as a criminal element, rather than a marginalized and vulnerable group that the institution is required to protect.

It was reported that street children were regularly rounded up for either begging or harassing people on the streets and often more serious charges of theft and violence were levied against them. Moreover, children under the age of 16 were routinely detained overnight in police stations and released only when their parents or other relatives showed up. Police officials interviewed during the research were unaware of any international conventions relating to children signed by Pakistan or any other international guidelines regarding the treatment of children. Almost all of the police officials interviewed were unaware of the JJSO; however, many had the basic knowledge whereby they were legally bound to present arrested juveniles in courts within a 24 hour period. In Peshawar, the police department had signed an MOU with Save the Children and the Ministry of Human Rights for the creation of a Police Child Protection Center (PCPC). Juveniles arrested in the city were handed over to the PCPC for protection until they appeared in court thereby ensuring that children were not locked up alongside adult inmates.

Protection of street children by other government institutions:

The government institutions specifically mandated to provide protection services to street children included child protection centers, social services centers for lost and kidnapped children, child protection bureaus, social welfare departments and the Police Child Protection Center in Peshawar. The social welfare department is an umbrella organization, within which various child protection programs are implemented and is responsible for overseeing shelters, orphanages and day care centers established for the protection and care of children. Furthermore, a Child Protection Bureau was established in Multan in 2006 and had reportedly rescued 2,977 children at the time of research. These included children who were either lost, runaways or had been kidnapped. The social section of the bureau conducts an initial interview of the child while the medical section conducts a thorough check up of the child's physical and mental condition including a psychological analysis. The CPI section is responsible for food and clothing of the child and the family tracing section tries to contact the child's family if he/she wishes to reunite with his/her parents and siblings.

The research team found that the bureau was one of the better maintained facilities that dealt with issues of child protection in Pakistan. Other child protection bureaus included in the survey did not maintain the same standards of quality. In various IDI's conducted, the staff of the bureau revealed that their organization was facing difficulties in providing services to children because of lack of resources and

inadequate infrastructure. Moreover, the staff revealed that the government had failed to take action to improve the state of the bureau.

The Police Child Protection Center in Peshawar provides the same services as that of a Child Protection Bureau, i.e. re-unifying lost and run away children with their families, as well as providing non formal education, day care, shelter, counseling and legal aid services. The center has dealt with approximately 400 cases of children since it was created two years ago. This center is the only government owned child protection service provider that was found to have a concrete child referral system in place with the police. However, the center did complain that the police did not comply with the referral system in place and often arrested children and held them at the police stations rather than sending them on to the center.

There is no systematic and consistent policy in place to engage street children and to convince their families that rather than forcing their children to beg, they should be educated or trained in specific skill sets. The process is random and dependent on initiatives by the police and other citizens in the city. The survey revealed that police officials in all the target cities were not aware of any child related laws nor had any training on how to handle children on the streets. Though the shelters and bureaus for child protection exist, there are no corresponding initiatives taken by the government to ensure that these centers are fully utilized and revamped so as to provide concrete services to street children.

Findings Relating to Child Protection Services by CSOs:

This section of the study aims to highlight various child protection services and programs initiated by civil society organizations (CSOs) to help pacify the ever increasing prevalence of street children in Pakistan. During the course of the research, a number of IDIs were conducted with a diverse group of CSOs that provided services ranging from shelter and care to rehabilitation and education of children.

Civil society organizations offer a range of different services to street children and almost all of them aim to reunite children with their families or offer counseling sessions for children and their parents except for SOS villages and orphanages. Various child rights organizations such as SPARC, Seher, WESS and others have opened up Drop in Centers that provide basic education and skills training for street children. During interview sessions it was learnt that many of these organizations extensively train their staff on matters relating to child rights. In this regard, the staff complained that they were rarely assisted by the provincial government or the police even though time and again they were promised of long term co-operation by both. In order to bring the issue of street children in the limelight, various trainings and sessions are conducted with police officials and local governmental employees to make them aware of child related issues in the country. Furthermore, the training sessions also educate them on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dealing with street or runaway children.

Some organizations also provide services to children who are addicted to drugs or involved in drug peddling. Organizations such as AAS (Karachi) and Nijat (Multan) rehabilitate drug users, provide food and clothing and conduct psychotherapy and detoxification sessions. They also provide life skills education and vocational training to ensure that children work rather than beg on the streets and refrain from reverting back to drug abuse. In the last five years, almost more than 1,000 children have been treated in these organizations but due to lack of co-operation from the government, these organizations are finding it hard to function optimally and reduce the prevalence of drug abuse in street children.

Child Protection Mechanisms at Religious Institutions (Shrines):

Shrines and places of religious significance are frequented by religious devotees and tourists thereby making them hotspots for street children. During the course of the study the shrines of Bari Imam (Islamabad), Shah Shamas Tabrez, (Multan) as well as shrines in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur were

visited. No shrines were visited in Peshawar and Quetta due to security concerns. A majority of the street children included in the survey worked at shrines where they sold flowers, cloth and occasionally food items. Since shrines also have a tradition of providing free food to visitors, children on the streets visited the shrines for free food. Therefore, for the purpose of this survey it was important to understand the mechanisms in place at shrines to deal with street children and the extent to which efforts (if any) were made to ensure that these places were child friendly.

Findings indicate that a majority of the street children congregate around the shrines to beg for money or to take advantage of the free meals offered. Some of the street children work with the small businesses, (including food stalls, florist shops, shops selling religious articles) that have developed around shrine premises. None of the children are allowed to sleep at the shrine premises due security concerns in the aftermath of terrorist attacks on various shrines. It is also important to mention that in Hyderabad and Karachi, there has been a significant increase in the number of families as well as children who depend upon the food distribution at the shrines post 2010 floods.

Child Protection Mechanisms by Minority Leaders and Institutions:

The minority leaders and church caretakers interviewed during the course of the survey stated that almost all children working on the streets do so under supervision so as to protect them from any form of discrimination and abuse. Furthermore, it was discovered that churches in Pakistan did not offer any services to street children, regardless of religious affiliations. There is no policy of handing out food or alms at churches. Homeless Christian children are generally absorbed by Christian orphanages which reinforces the findings of the study whereby no Christian children were found living on the streets save for those whose entire family is on the streets due to the floods. The Christian community has instituted their own protection mechanisms for their children by ensuring that the children are always under adult supervision.

Conclusion

The increasing number of children on the streets is a result of unbridled urbanization, mass displacements resulting from conflicts and disasters and economic problems forcing families into abject poverty. The 2010 floods in Pakistan remained instrumental in forcing a large number of children and their families on the streets, swelling the already huge number of children living or working on the streets of the country. In this regard, the study provided general information on street children in seven cities (Karachi, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Multan, Quetta and Peshawar) of Pakistan while highlighting the role of 2010 floods in increasing the number of children on the streets of the cities included in the sample.

The population of street children (children who work on the streets and children who live on the streets) included in the survey was under 16 years of age. Multan and Peshawar have the highest number of street children under the age of 6 years living on the streets. Moreover, the survey indicates that in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta, a majority of street children belong to ethnically displaced/marginalized populations. The parents of the street children surveyed, (both children working on the streets and living on the streets), have low literacy rates and a mean monthly income of less than PKR10,000. The survey findings indicate that economic problems and poor school environments are the major reason for children leaving school. Schooling has been interrupted for a large number of street children who have been displaced as a result of the floods. This holds true for most of the children working on the streets and almost all the children living on the streets as a result of the floods.

The survey points to a surge in the number of street children working on the streets following displacement and migration in the aftermath of 2010 floods. These findings remained constant in all the cities surveyed. Moreover, the survey points to extreme economic hardships faced by street children whereby they were forced to work for 40 to 60 hours in a week to make ends meet. In this regard, Multan, Karachi and Hyderabad registered the highest number of street children involved in begging. The survey found that the most commonly reported 'push factor', forcing children to the streets was poverty followed by floods and violence at homes. A higher percentage of children working on the streets were forced into begging as compared to children living on the streets. This may mean that children living on the streets have greater autonomy and they face lesser familial pressure as compared to the children working on the streets.

The findings also highlighted the state of health of street children in the cities included in the survey. Overall, with the exception of Hyderabad and Peshawar, street children surveyed are extremely vulnerable to illnesses. Children living on the streets were found to be more vulnerable to illnesses and disease than children working on the streets due to increased exposure to harsh environments and fewer health care options.

The survey findings revealed that apart from violence meted out by families and peers, police authorities were also responsible for incarcerating and torturing street children. Overall, the survey found that police officials in all the cities surveyed were ill informed regarding laws and best practices relating to child protection and were conditioned to perceive children as 'criminals' and 'miscreants' that needed to be contained rather than an extremely vulnerable and marginalized group that required their protection. Furthermore, government owned shelters and bureaus were found to be under-resourced and over-extended and as a result child protection policies and programs were being poorly

implemented. Shelters and centers for child protection exist, however, there are no corresponding initiatives by the government to ensure that street children make use of these centers as safe havens.

Majority of the CSOs that focus on street children in the cities included provide services in the form of Drop in Centers (DICs). These centers primarily focus on providing children with food and bathing facilities, opportunities for non formal education and vocational training, as well as efforts to re-unify children living on the streets with their parents. Moreover, the JJSO is not being fully implemented and in general courts- judges and police remain unaware of the provisions of the Ordinance. Street children are rarely able to get bail since this requires property registration and the release of the child to a guarantor. Finally, there is no referral system set up by the government whereby legal aid is ensured to the juveniles.

Shrines play an extremely important role in providing street children with free food. The fact that these shrines do not discriminate between children of different religions makes them ideal places for free food and shelter for street children, irrespective of their religious affiliations. Furthermore, the Christian community has instituted their own protection mechanisms for their children that are forced to work by ensuring that these children are always under adult supervision and not vulnerable to religious persecution.

These findings reveal a dismal state of affairs whereby a weak implementation regime undermines legislative and policy initiatives to address the growing number of children working and/or living on the streets of Pakistan. However, a number of recommendations can be derived from the findings to guide future policies and plans of action.

Recommendation

This section of the report proposes key recommendations that have been derived from the major findings of the study that should be considered by SPARC prior to formulating any key policy and programmatic interventions for street children.

Judging from the major findings and conclusions of the survey, the problem of street children is a grave one, which is clearly not being effectively tackled by the government and the civil society. The population of street children is very young, with some of the children no older than 6 years of age and the majority of the children between 11 and 15 years of age. The major factors that have forced children to work and live on the streets are poverty, floods and an abusive environment at home and school.

Most importantly, the 2010 floods have had a very significant impact on the population of street children in all the cities surveyed, particularly Hyderabad and Sukkur. There is clearly an immediate need to tackle this recent influx of children on the streets before the problem becomes more complex. Furthermore, there are very large gaps in the provision of protection and services to children and SPARC has a major role to play in filling those gaps and effectively dealing with the problem. This in no way minimizes the role that the government and other CSOs need to play in dealing with this problem.

1. Conduct a holistic, large scale survey aimed at collecting concrete data regarding the magnitude and intensity of the problem of street children in Pakistan:

It needs to be highlighted that during the course of this survey it was discovered that there is very little concrete statistical data available on street children in the country and the conditions under which these children live. It is recommended that a much larger scale survey in all the major urban centers of the country be conducted to fully illustrate the severity of the issue in Pakistan.

2. Advocacy with government and donor agencies to encourage the rehabilitation of those affected by floods:

As has been clearly discussed in the report, flood affected children are in the streets due to a need to supplement family incomes in the aftermath of the devastation and loss of property caused by the floods. It is recommended that initiatives to repatriate the flood affected families be undertaken immediately to ensure the return of flood affected children to their homes. In this regard, the government, primarily the NDMA, (National Disaster Management Authority), needs to create concrete policies aimed at the repatriating families affected by floods. SPARC needs to advocate for a clear timeline for repatriation and lobby for the immediate allocation of funds for this effort.

3. Providing incentives to flood affected families to keep their children off the streets:

The flood affected and displaced population is, to some extent, traceable through Watan cards and refugee camps. There is a need to evolve a programmatic approach aimed at offering employment and additional income to a majority of the households ensuring that children are enrolled in school and not engaged in child labor or beggary.

This is financially a significant undertaking and will involve a collaboration/consortium of the government and international donor agencies. The programmatic intervention would require the

creation of income generating activities (including the provision of microfinance for small enterprises) and employment opportunities for household heads and adults of the flood affected families.

The above incentives would then have to be linked with school enrolment of children. A voucher mechanism, similar to the one currently in use in the Punjab, (through the Punjab Education Foundation), could be implemented. Such a program would allow flood affected children to become traceable through the urban education system ensuring that they are kept off the streets. In addition, such an intervention would also serve to deal with the root cause of the problem, i.e. poverty, by providing families with alternate sources of income. In this regard, SPARC would conceivably have a major advocacy role to play in gaining consensus for the proposed intervention within the government and the donor community and redirecting funds for this effort.

4. Setting up of child- friendly spaces in urban areas:

As the findings have indicated, the floods have 'pushed' children and their families in to the urban centers of the country. However, current efforts by donor organizations focus on providing child safe areas within refugee camps or in the villages that have been affected. No such measures are being directed towards urban areas. For instance, Sukkur and Hyderabad, where the population of street children has spiked post the 2010 floods, are particularly ill equipped to provide child protection services to the increasing number of street children.

It is recommended that child friendly spaces be set up in areas that have been identified as 'hot spots' for street children. These child friendly spaces should provide opportunities for non formal education and recreation. Furthermore, food, clothing and other incentives should be offered to attract children to use these spaces. These spaces in turn should be used to link up families of flood affected children, allowing for programmatic interventions with these families aimed at economic relief and employment opportunities.

5. Training and sensitization of the police force:

The police force is currently ill informed and ill equipped to provide street children with the protection they require. Any intervention by SPARC would have to include a very strong component on police trainings. It is recommended that SPARC engage extensively with the Home Departments of the provinces to formulate an extensive and all encompassing training manual for the police force that includes trainings regarding the particulars of JJSO as well as trainings on SOPs to engage with street children.

Strict procedures to be followed in the event of an arrest of a child need to be outlined for the police and effective checks and balances need to be in place to ensure that these SOPs are adhered to.

In addition, there is a need to lobby for the creation of child friendly spaces within police stations so as to ensure that the children remain safe and free from exploitation while on police station premises. Moreover, trainings regarding the treatment of street children need to encompass attitudes and behavior of police officials towards these children, including a cessation of beatings and bullying of street children. Lastly, all children living on the streets should immediately be referred to government shelters and child protection centers.

6. Rehabilitation and up-gradation of Government run child protection facilities:

The current facilities being run by the government are in poor condition, lacking funds and being operated by a staff that is largely untrained. In addition, these facilities also lack standard operating

procedures in place outlining the treatment of children.

Firstly, SPARC interventions need to include an advocacy component aimed at lobbying the government for funding to rehabilitate its child protection facilities. Secondly, SPARC should aim to launch a nationwide training effort engaging government child protection officers and staff, focusing on best practices in child protection services.

SPARC needs to work with the government to establish effective referral systems. Currently the referral of street children to child protection facilities is arbitrary, either by citizens or by the police. There needs to be a legal framework set up to govern the referral system clearly outlining the institutions that are required to refer children to these centers, including employers and the police.

7. Child protection facilities need to be handed over to the PCCWDs:

The social welfare departments are overburdened and lack the resources to effectively implement child protection policies. SPARC should lobby for the strengthening of these departments with added resources, infrastructure and action plans. In addition, SPARC can also act as a technical resource center for drafting and implementing the proposed provincial action plans regarding child protection. A strong component of these action plans would need to include policies and programs aimed at engaging with families of street children and improvising alternative income sources for these families.

Currently, very little is being done to counteract the preventive aspect of the problem of street children, i.e. poverty and economic deprivation and parental attitudes. SPARC in collaboration with the government and other organizations needs to work on improvising programs and interventions aimed at incentivizing education and de-incentivizing child labor for these families. Food for education, for instance, is one such initiative that has been very successful in Bangladesh in reducing the number of children engaged in working on the streets.

8. Drop in Centers (DICs) being run by CSOs need to focus on expanding their services to include strong monitoring components and awareness raising components:

The private sector has primarily chosen to engage with street children through the establishment of DICs in key locations. However, these DICs are currently not effectively targeting the main risks that are faced by children on the streets. DICs should include a strong component on monitoring, i.e. the presence of a child protection specialist at major street children hotspots. Moreover, the child protection specialist should be responsible for the oversight, monitoring and prevention of physical and sexual abuse of children along with the use of drugs and other harmful substances by these children.

The DICs should then have a framework within which these offenses can be brought to the attention of the social welfare departments so that the consequent actions undertaken by them may be followed up. SPARC can play a role in formulating the guidelines and SOPs for the redesigning of the DICs to comply with the above mentioned recommendation.

9. A Consortium of NGOs working with street children should be established at the national level:

SPARC should spearhead an effort to create a consortium of civil society organizations currently working with street children. The purpose of the consortium should be to utilize the experience of these organizations in creating child protection guidelines and programs that can then be uniformly implemented.

As already mentioned in the report, current interventions by the non government sector with regard to street children are primarily reactive rather than proactive in nature. The consortium would allow for the conceptualization of programmatic interventions that would target the root causes that 'push' children on to the streets. This is a major gap in the services that are being currently provided. In addition, the consortium would serve as a liaison with the government, carrying out advocacy activities ensuring the implementation of child protection policies and other child related legislations in the country.

Appendices

Annexure 1: Guidelines for Focus Group Discussions and In-Depth Interviews with children

a) General Information about Child:

- What is the age, gender, religion, cultural background of the child?
- What was the place of his/her birth?
- What is the current place of living of the child?
- Does the child live alone or with someone?
- Since when the child has been living or working on the street?
- Likes and dislikes of the child either living or working on the street?
- Which spot of the city the child has been living before living on this spot?

b) Information about family

- Where do the parents of the child live?
- Does the child feel sad, lonely, insecure or unhappy? Why or why not?
- Does the child have any contact with the family? How often does the child contact his/her family? Who is most important to the child in the family?
- Likes and dislikes of the child about living with family?
- Reasons for leaving home?

c) Education

- What is his/her level of education or years of schooling?
- What were the reasons for leaving school?
- Any efforts made for reenrollment?

d) Work related information

- Does the child work? Type of work? Timings of work?
- Has the child attended any vocational training? When? Where and by whom?
- What is the mode of traveling within the city or outside the city?

e) Child Physical Abuse

- Does the child face beatings? By whom? How often?
- Does the child get harassed by the police? How often?
- Was the child ever been arrested by the police? If yes why? Details of what happened after his/arrest?
- Do children get involved in fights? Do children carry knives, blade or stick etc.? What kind of crimes the children are involved in?

f) Health

- Does the child have any health problems? Does the child recovered from any illness/injury recently? Seek any medical assistance?
- Does the child have any disability?
- Was the child immunized?
- Where does the child go to wash or clean himself? How often?

g) Occupation and Spending

- What is the child's present occupation? What was the child doing previously?
- How much does the child make? How does he/she spend this money? Does he/she send any money to his/her parents/siblings?
- Where does the child get food from? How much the child spends on food, clothing, traveling, health and recreation etc?
- If yes how often and how much? Is he/she paying any bhatta to anyone? If yes to whom and how much? What will happen if he/she stops paying bhatta?
- Does the child save money? Where the child keeps the money? Was the saved money ever lost or snatched?

f) Addiction

- Are the children around this spot involved in any kind of addiction? What are the substances they use?
- How long the child is using drugs? Are the drugs easily available in the street?

g) Impact of 2010 floods

- Was the child's family affected by 2010 flood?
- What were the damages caused by the flood?
- Did the child migrate due floods? Alone? Or with family?
- Has the family repatriated to the native place after flood?
- Was the child living on the street even before the flood?
- Is it more difficult to get employment/ paid work after the flood?
- Has the wages gone down due to more children on the street

h) Information about Minorities (from children who do not belong to minorities)

- Does the child know some children on the street who are not Muslim?
- Are they accepted as part of the group?
- Does the child have any friend who is non Muslim?
- Does the child eat, play or work with non Muslim children?
- Does the child share the same things with Muslim and non Muslim children?
- Does a non Muslim child hide their religious identity for any reason?
- What is the difference between Muslim and non Muslim street children? If yes what?

i) Information from Minority Children

- What is the child's religion?
- What kind of problems the child face being non Muslim? How are these problems different from the Muslim children?
- Does the child befriend Muslim children? If yes why? If not, why not?
- Is the child treated differently by adults he/she meets?
- Does police treat the child differently as compared to Muslim children?
- Does the child hide his/her religious identity? If yes why?

2.5.2 Questions for IDIs, FGDs with boys (above 12 years age) Living/ working on the street

- Does the child ever face sexual abuse? Who is the abuser?
- Are the children sexually active around the spot?
- Is the child involved in commercial sex work? If yes, who are the clients? How often does he/she practice this? How much money he/she makes?
- Is the child involved in commercial sex as a client? If yes, who are his partners? How much does he pay for sex? How often does he practice this?
- When the child experienced sex for the first time?

- Does the child have knowledge about the sexually transmitted diseases?
- Does the child know about HIV/AIDS?
- Has the child ever contacted any sexually transmissible disease? If yes, which one?
- How was it treated? From where? How much did the treatment cost? Is he/she satisfied from the services provided?
- Does the child use safer sex methods? If yes, why? If not why not?
- What drugs/substance the child uses?
- Question only for adolescent girls: Did she ever become pregnant? Did she undergo abortion? If yes, details about the service provider, costs involved, and quality of service etc.

Annexure 2: Focus Group Discussions and In-Depth Interviews with Service Providers

- What is the number of children who use the facility?
- Age and gender profiles of children using this facility?
- Where do they come from?
- What is the literacy and educational levels of the children?
- Detail of services provided by the institution such as health services, counseling services, legal aid, psychosocial support, food, vocational training, recreational activities, informal education, life skills training and shelter etc?
- Details about the human resources employed by the facility: number of staff, their education, experience and training, their knowledge about and level of sensitivity to child rights? Who receives the child? Who conducts the initial interview with the child? What is the level of education, training, and experience of this person?
- Details about the physical infrastructure , equipments and physical faculties: Size and condition of the building, water supply and toilets facilities, residential facilities, recreational equipments and facilities such as indoor and outdoor games, TV, video etc.
- Does the institution follow any standards of service and care? If yes, what are these? Are these documented and accessible?
- Are children still in contact with their families? Have any of the street children been reunited with their families during last one year? If yes, how many? Does the institution keep track of children reunited with their families through regular follow up? Is any guidance/counseling provided to parents/guardians of these children? What is the percentage of relapse among these children? What are the key reasons for relapse?
- Number of children contacted/ served during the last three months?
- Is there any reporting or record keeping system in place in the organization?
- What are their major challenges and constraints in offering quality services to children?
- What are the training needs of your staff?
- What technical and financial support does the organization need?
- Since how long the organization is working for street children?
- What services does the organization provide? Health services, counseling services, legal aid, psychosocial support, police or shelter?
- What programmes are being implemented for street children? What is the number of beneficiaries? Any life skills, educational or vocational training programmes initiated for street children? What is the geographical outreach?
- Any linkages developed with government line departments and other CSOs?
- What are the major constraints to continue offering quality services to children?
- What is the level of knowledge and understanding of the staff about child rights, UNCRC, child protection issues of street children?
- What is the number of staff, their education, experience and training, their knowledge about and level of sensitivity to child rights? Who receives the child? Who conducts the initial

- interview with the child? What is the level of education, training, and experience of this person?
- What are the training needs of staff?
- What technical and financial support does the organization need?

Annexure 3: Guidelines for Focus Group Discussions and In-Depth Interviews with Police

- How many street children are arrested in a month on average?
- What crimes they usually commit?
- Are the arrested children punished by police? If yes, how and when? Are they beaten by the police? If yes, why?
- How long are they kept in the lock up? Who handles them, when come in conflict with law?
- What is the age and gender profiles of children who are usually arrested?
- Are girls also arrested? If yes, for what type of crimes? Where are the girls kept during custody?
- Are girls handled exclusively by female staff? If not, why not? Are children kept in the lock up with adults? If yes, why?
- What are the standard operating procedures for handling street children? Is the police staff familiar with these SOPs? Do they comply with these SOPs? If not, why not?
- Is there any referral mechanism being used by police? If yes, in what conditions, the children are referred? Where are the children referred to?
- What are the difficulties in handling street children? What needs to be done for improvement?

Annexure 4: Guidelines for Focus Group Discussions and In-Depth Interviews with Shrine leaders/ caretakers

- Do the street children visit the Shrine? How often?
- What do they do in the shrine?
- Do these children live in the shrine? Are they allowed to stay in the Shrine?
- Are these children asked about their religion?
- Are non Muslim children allowed to enter the shrine?
- Is there any discrimination in giving food to Muslim and non Muslim children?
- Is there any difference between the behavior of Muslim and non Muslim children? Why?
- Any increase in the number of street children coming to the shrine after the floods 2010? If yes how many?

Annexure 5: Guidelines for Focus Group Discussions and In-Depth Interviews with Minority Leaders

- Do the street children visit Church or the Temple (Mandir)?
- What do they do in the Church or the Temple? Do the children come for food or shelter here?
- Are they provided food or shelter? How often and how many?
- Do Muslim children come here for shelter or else? If yes how they are treated?
- What problems or challenges the minority children face, how these are different from the Muslim children on the street?
- Any increase in the number of street children coming to the church or temple after the floods 2010? If yes how many?
- What services your institution is providing to street children?



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