

Factors affecting the institutionalization of children- A study based on the NGO in Indore

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ABSTRACT:

Non-Government Organization are involved in a variety of programmes to improve the overall states of children in India, including the Madhya Pradesh State. Non-Government Organizations work in collaboration with government agencies and other organizations. The Non-Government Organizations run for the purpose of protection and safe keeping of children in need of care and protection are duty bound to provide them with a minimum levels of facilities that are necessary and imperative for the growth and development of children.

Keywords: Children, Child welfare, Non-Government Organization, Institutionalization.

Introduction

Children are the universe. Today's children will be the leaders of tomorrow. If a child cannot grow properly for the want of proper attention, care, training and guidance, it will indeed be a deficiency of the society, every society must devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up. Unfortunately, children are not protected. Everywhere they have been treated ill and the victimization starts from the birth of the child. Thus, there is a need for protection and safe keeping of children in need of care and protection. The Non-Government Organizations run for the purpose of protection and safe keeping of children in need of care and protection, Non-Government Organizations work in collaboration with government agencies and other organizations for Child welfare. Child welfare is a continuum of service which is designed to ensure the protection of the children. Child welfare is a vague concept. It includes accommodation services, educational services, health services, skill training services, counseling services, recreational services etc.

Definition of a child: According to Article 1 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, "A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

Definition of Non-Governmental Organizations: According to United Nations any kind of private organization that is independent from government control can be termed as NGO, provided it non-profitable, non-criminal and not simply an opposition political party."

METHODOLOGY:

The type of data collected for the study is primary and secondary.

For collection of the primary data, the schedule-cum-interview method was used from 20 Non-Government Organizations out of 200 registered NGOs who are working for child welfare in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. Sampling technique used for the purpose of the study is non- probability sampling, which is also known as purposive sampling.

The secondary data is collected through books, journals, articles, and internet websites for the purpose of the study.

PURPOSE of STUDY:

The present study intends to examine the reasons for Institutionalization of children.

ANALYSIS and INTERPRETATION OF COLLECTED DATA:

In the present study, 20 NGOs have been selected and 14 children have been selected from each NGO for the purpose of the study.

Table 1 Gender Classification of Children selected from survey NGO:

S.No.	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Girl	182	65%
2	Boy	98	35%
	Total	280	100%

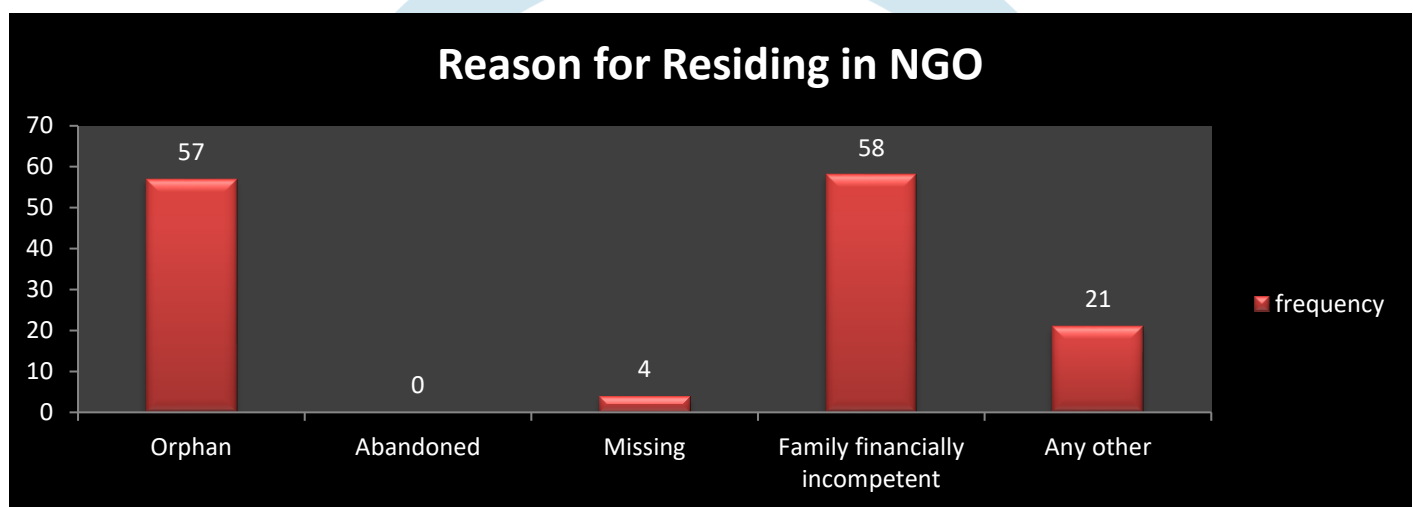
It is inferred from table 1 that the girl children outnumbered the boy children i.e. out of 280 beneficiaries about 182 (65%) of the children were girls and 98 (35%) were boys. There is a clear majority noticed in the number of girls. Highest number of girls is noticed in many NGOs, though the tilt is strongly on the side of boys and girls combined. Non-Government sector has risen above gender consideration and are acting according to the felt need of the society.

Table 2 Present Accommodation of the Beneficiary of Non Government Organization:

S.No.	Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Family	140	50%
2	Ngo	140	50%
	Total	280	100%

Table :3 Reasons for institutionalization of children:

S.No.	Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Orphan	57	40.73%
2	Abandoned	00	00.00%
3	Missing	04	02.85%
4	Family Financially Incompetent	58	41.42%
5	Any Other	21	15.00%
	Total	140	100%



Source: Field Data

The above **Table 2** shows that 140 (50%) children live in NGO similarly 140 (50%) children lives in family. In the present study, **20 NGOs** were selected out of 20 Selected NGOs, 10 NGOs were there who gives residential facility to the beneficiary while 9 NGO doesn't provide any residential facility to the children only 1 NGO were found who provide 24 hours residential facility to beneficiary (named child line 1098).

Table 3 shows further analysis in terms of reasons for children residing in NGO, some of the factors include being orphaned 57(40.73%), missing 04(2.85%), family financially incompetence 58(41.42%), other reasons 21 (15%) are the reasons for the institutionalization of the children.

In the study majority of the orphaned children are found, these children resides in the same institute for longer period of time some of the children lives there from their early age as these children have lost their mother and father at the early age and have no one in their family to look after them , their relatives couldn't able to nurture them, while some of the children's lost one of their biological parent and after the death of mother/ father (single parent child) the other parent married with someone else since the new mother/father were not interested to nurture and take care of the child thus the child was institutionalized by the single parent from then the other children who resides in NGO and members of the NGO are the family of these children. Some of children said that they don't want to go at any other place since this NGO fulfill all their needs and gives so much love. Most of the children don't know their families and mother father since they lives in NGO.

In the study some children are found missing and thus these missing children are bound to reside in Institution, but district administration are trying to find out the families of this missing children and when the families of this children are found such children will rehabilitated in their families.

Highest 58 i.e. 41.42% of children out of 140 children lives in NGO as their family are financially incompetent .Children who are financially incompetent from the nearby districts of Indore i.e. from dhar, jhabua, alirajpur, khargone these are the tribal districts which are socially and economically backward, the people of these districts are also educationally backward these people don't have enough financial support and due to lack of resources they are not able to educate their children, thus those children who are willing to study come to such institute and resides here to continue their study, some of the beneficiaries also resides in these institute and learn some creative works. The family members of these children come occasionally to meet their children. These children also go to their homes during vacation or in some special occasion or festivals.

Other reasons for institutionalization of children includes ; some of beneficiaries parents are in jail thus the children bound to live in NGO as there are no one in family who looks after them timely it is the members of the NGO who go with the children in jail and conduct meeting with their parents, run away children includes higher number of girls who run away from home due to run away marriages, pre-marriage pregnancies etc. it is also found that many runaway girls who left their home with the boy to whom

she loves and stay here and there for sometime but when police caught them as their parents file FIR against that boy, these girls denied to go to home with their parents thus child welfare committees are bound to send such runaway girls to any institute (government and non-government), during study such girls are also found which are from nearby districts as district like khargone do not have any government or non-government institute to provide accommodation for longer period of time. Thus, in the NGO of Indore district such girls are also institutionalized.

In the non government sector, guidelines of the JJ Act are operational for the administration and daily functioning of institutions. It is seen that Homes with good visionaries, heads and advisors exhibit good management and provide satisfactory facilities to the beneficiaries, while some are struggling to make both ends meet. Also, it was observed that the proximity of the home to the urbanized areas, led to provision of better the facilities by those homes. A positive image The good work done by some of the homes in the NGO sector creates a positive image regarding the non-government sector in the minds of public but this does not mean that the non-government sector is free of flaws. There are some institutions in the non government sector that do need improvement. It is essential for the child welfare institutions to strictly follow the principles and guidelines of administration to combat the negatives of following an unchecked, undefined system. Through proper planning, organization, staffing, directing, co-ordination, budgeting and reporting, NGO can function more effectively, providing better services to the beneficiaries and protecting lives.

Conclusion:

The most important concern of the Non-Government Organizations is the protection of children and provision of adequate services to them for their growth, development and well being. It is emphasized that since NGO, have a leading responsibility to bring changes in the position and condition of children, they should take up their task with more commitment and finds new ways to bring significant changes in the life of weaker sections especially children. Identifying the appropriate inputs for improving the quality of life appears to be a practical approach.

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