

**DEPRIVED AND NEGLECTED: STREET CHILDREN  
OF THE TWIN CITIES – ISSUES AND PROBLEMS**



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**2021**



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**CERTIFICATE**

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## DECLARATION

I, *Amna Urooj*, hereby state that my M.Phil. thesis titled “*Deprived and Neglected: Street Children of the Twin Cities – Issues and Problems*” is my own work and has not been submitted previously by me for taking any degree from this university Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Islamabad, Pakistan or anywhere else in the country/world.

At any time if my statement is found to be incorrect even after my graduation the university has the right to withdraw my M.Phil. degree.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research wouldn't have been possible without the support of my supervisor, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali and would never have shaped the way it has without my family support. They believed in my cause as much as I did and facilitated me whenever required. I would like to thank my father and mother especially who understood my requirement to go to certain places for field work at odd hours and fully supported me in it. I would also extend my gratitude to my brother, Raza, who assisted me in my field work throughout and my friend Sadia for her constant support.

I would like to thank Ms. Sidra Humayun, a case manager on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as well as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), who helped me throughout my research especially by connecting me with subject experts. My deepest gratitude goes for ASP Dr. Aqeela Asad whom I found extremely supportive in not only data collection but also further linking me up with district administration. Mr. Danish Zakir – Assistant Commissioner (AC) Islamabad and Mr. Gohar Wazir – AC Saddar Rawalpindi for their utmost contribution being a part of District Administration, Mr. Mamtaz Gohar, from Child Rights Movement (CRM) and BEDAARI, who helped me in identifying the hot spot areas and arranged a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with representatives from CRM. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Abdul Sattar, Mr. Khalid and Mr. Rao Khalil from Ministry of Human Rights and Mr. Ali Abid Naqvi, District in-charge (DI) Rawalpindi – Senior Child Protection Officer (CPO), Child Protection Institute (CPI) who allowed me to visit the Rawalpindi CPI and arranged In-Depth Interviews (IDI) and FGD's with subject experts and rescued street children there.

Lastly, I want to thank all the street children who agreed to give me interview and share their input with me. Without their input the research wouldn't have been productive.

# Table of Contents

ACRONYMS .....	viii
ABSTRACT .....	ix
CHAPTER 1 .....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	4
1.3 Aims, Objectives and Research Questions.....	5
1.3.1 Aim of the Study.....	5
1.3.2 Objectives of the Study .....	5
1.3.3 Research Questions .....	6
1.5 Organization of the Study .....	7
CHAPTER 2 .....	9
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 The Street Children of Asia.....	10
2.3 Problems of Pakistani Street Children.....	13
2.4 Pre-Conditions for CSA and Interventions .....	16
2.5 Conclusion .....	19
CHAPTER 3 .....	20
METHODOLOGY .....	20
3.1. Research Strategy .....	20
3.2 Research Design .....	20
3.3 Units of Data Collection.....	21
3.4 Research Methods .....	21
3.5 Reason for Locale Selection .....	24
3.6 Sampling .....	24
3.7 Thematic Analysis.....	25
3.8 Ethics and Confidentiality.....	25
CHAPTER 4.....	27
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....	27
4.1 Introduction.....	27
4.2.1 Pre-requisites of the phenomenon of street children and CSA.....	27

<b>4.2.2 Impacts of CSA on the street children of the twin cities.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>4.2.3 Available follow-up remedies .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>4.2.4 Recommended course of action .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5 .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>5.1 Conclusion of the study.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>5.2 Policy Recommendations.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>5.3 Limitations of the study.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>References.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2.....</b>	<b>49</b>

*Dedicated to my nieces, Izna and Mirha, in an effort to make  
this world a better place for them to live-in.*

## **ACRONYMS**

**AC:** Assistant Commissioner

**ASP:** Assistant Superintendent of Police

**COVID-19:** Corona Virus Disease of 2019

**CPB:** Child Protection Bureau

**CPO:** Child Protection Officer

**CRM:** Child Rights Movement

**CSA:** Child Sexual Abuse

**DI:** District In-charge

**FGD:** Focus Group Discussion

**IDI:** In-Depth Interview

**INGO:** International Non-Governmental Organization

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

**PTSD:** Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

**SGBV:** Sexual and Gender Based Violence

**UN:** United Nations

**UNICEF:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund



## **ABSTRACT**

The phenomenon of the street children is omnipresent throughout the world. Two categories of street children exist: children “on” the streets are those children that spend day time on the streets usually begging and return to their homes/families at night. Children “of” the streets are those children that spend both day and night on the streets and usually don’t have families to return to. Various reasons that force children to step on streets include but are not limited to poverty, domestic issues such as parental separation, migration to metropolitan cities, in search of jobs etc. Once a child is out on the street, he faces a plethora of issues and problems such as lack of decent place to sleep, malnutrition, declining healthcare and most importantly exposure to the risk of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). CSA is a very common malady of the street children as they’re mostly without guardians which leads to them being impacted by it not only physically but also psychologically, economically and socially. Current Pakistani laws and policies do guarantee protection from CSA in the street children of the twin cities. However, they’re not fully implemented. The study finds that in order to combat with the issue of CSA in street children of the twin cities a careful mapping based upon baseline study is required followed by a fool-proof strategic plan with proper follow-up measures and auditing. Moreover, mass awareness campaigns and community involvement is also required as the study implies.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Amongst the widely accepted definitions of a street child is any child either male, female or transgender who has not attained adulthood, for whom streets including vacant lodgings have become a standard fount of livelihood and abode, who is not adequately supervised, properly attended and directly protected by a responsible adult. (Inter-NGO, 1985): these children fall under the category of 'Children of the Street' (UNICEF, 2001).

Another category of street children comprises mostly of the same characteristics, except that these children earn their living through work either in the form of labor or by begging and staying on the streets in broad daylight and go back to their homes by the time the night falls and they have casual or regular contact with their families. They are called 'Children on the Street' (UNICEF, 2001).

This distinction between both the categories is noteworthy since it means a presence of parental, psychological and emotional support in the form of familial contact for one category and absence of these for the other. This establishes itself as the foremost causal variable.

The phenomenon of street children is not merely contemporary but is omnipresent (Connolly, 1996). An analysis of different studies from various parts of the world also revealed a higher occurrence of sexual abuse among street children (Kricheff, 2007; Senanayake, Ranasinghe, and Balasuriya, 1998; Tantoco, 1993; Tyler, 2004). Approximating numbers of street children is

fraught with complications. Although, it is hard to enumerate the precise number of street children, however a rough estimate would stretch the numbers to tens of million worldwide, which is an evident indicator of their bolstering numbers. Street children is an increasing trend (Mathur, 2009). Since they are absent from official statistics all over the world (United Nations Children's Fund, 2019) their number can only be estimated through considering other factors such as the number of internally displaced children. Today, more children than ever before are displaced within their own countries and almost all of them end up on street where they become acutely vulnerable and marginalized. At the end of 2019, the number of internally displaced children were 19 million in numbers (United Nations Children's Fund, 2020). Not only is their population increasing but also their problems. Two problems that they commonly face are sexual and substance abuse. In 2016, up to 1 billion 2-17 year old children experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse/violence/neglect all over the world (Hillis, Mercy, Amobi & Kress, 2016).

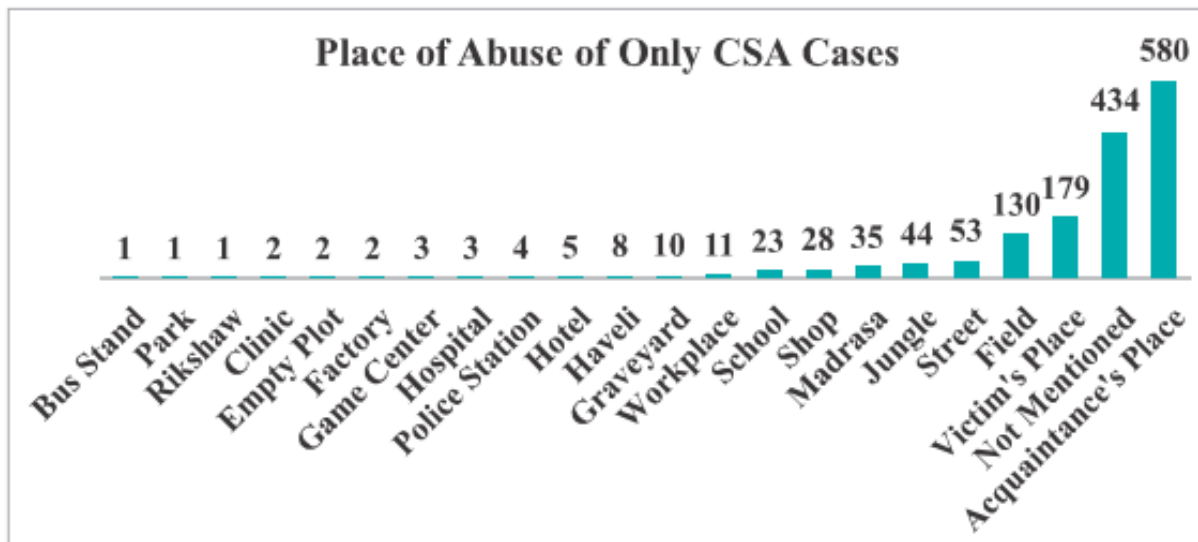
The problem of CSA is ever-growing and encompasses many facets such as physical, psychological and neglect. Since children, especially unsupervised street children are vulnerable and impressionable so easily fall prey to sexual abuse that blights their psychological well-being and mares their psychosocial development. Such strata of children are therefore at a higher risk of getting affected by the constantly evolving urban. Poorly implemented laws, resource constraints, low literacy rate and unawareness of such factors acts as an insult to injury and is a catalyst for violations of children rights.

The involvement of a child in a sexual activity that he or she is totally or partially unaware of, and/are where he/she is not capable of giving explicit approval to, or that infringes the laws or communal taboos of the community is defined as CSA (WHO, 1999).

A huge array of research shows that CSA causes a wide range of psychological implications such as anxiety disorders, depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicidal ideation and tendencies, problems in establishing interpersonal relations, physical and emotional detachment, deliberately avoidance of care, eating disorders, poor self-esteem and apathy as well. (Government of India, 2007).

In Pakistan, despite the lack of information, it is roughly estimated that CSA happens around in 30% of the population under 18 years (Hyder & Malik, 2007) and according to NGO’s that work to protect street children, around 90% of the children are sexually abused the very first night they sleep rough on street ((Dawn, 2011). Apart from that, 70 million of Pakistan’s population is aged below 18, of whom many are engulfed in a miserable state of poverty and face a malnutrition disorder, are working children and vagabonds (Government of Pakistan, 2010). Such conditions make Pakistani street children more vulnerable to CSA.

**Figure 1: Places of Abuse**



Source: Sahil Annual Report 2019

From the figure above it can be clearly seen that most of the children (regardless of whether street child or not) were abused in public places which is clearly an evidence of how street children are at high risk of getting sexually abused easily since their immediate place of abode are these public places.

Nevertheless, the subject remains controversial and a taboo to talk about. Even the children under supervision are not fully aware of the problem at hand so what can be expected from the 'children of the street'. Typically in South Asian countries, the traditional conservative structure of families restricts discussion on such topics of sex and sexuality. Parents are always hesitant to share the stages of psychological and sexual changes that their child experiences and this is totally absent in the mundane lives of 'children of the street'. As a consequence, child sexual abuse widely go unreported and blind-eyed.

In the light of the afore mentioned background to the research area, the researcher intended to carry out a small scale research in Islamabad and Rawalpindi in order to explore some of the problems of the street children especially focusing on CSA and its effects on the street children while also trying to preliminary solve the issues at hand.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In Pakistan no specific statistical record of sexually abused street children is available. Unofficial research studies have proposed that around 15-25 percent of children in Pakistan have experienced child sexual abuse in one way or another (United Nations Children's Fund, 2017) Cases on CSA have increased in 2018 by 11% since 2017, from 3445 to 3832 cases representing all four provinces (Sahil, 2018). On average during the entire year of 2018, more than 10 children were abused per day. However these figures do not provide a distinction between street and normal children, hence

they are neglected yet again. Moreover the children are hesitant because of curtailment of their freedom on streets and also usually don't have alternatives for abandoning the lifestyle which only offers them a myriad of challenges distinguished by economic marginalization, social exclusion, sexual and psychological abuse.

9 out of 10 street children may encounter a type of sexual maltreatment (Mission Pakistan's Hidden Shame, 2017). A considerable number of these youngsters are at first assaulted, and afterwards take up prostitution as a source of livelihood. This makes them considerably defenseless against chronic drug use and explicitly transmitted maladies, which in turn diminishes their life expectancy to be no higher than the age of 25 years. This study intended to explore ways through which street children can be relieved from some of their major problems especially that of sexual abuse while living in the environment they are most comfortable with i.e. the streets while maintaining their freedom as they desire. The study will directly take input from various stakeholders including the street children themselves.

### **1.3 Aims, Objectives and Research Questions**

#### **1.3.1 Aim of the Study**

The aim of this research is to explore the issues and problems of the street children in the twin cities – Islamabad and Rawalpindi of Pakistan especially focusing upon child sexual abuse and to propose necessary interventions within their environment so that they can adopt them efficiently.

#### **1.3.2 Objectives of the Study**

- To explore the prevalence of CSA in street children of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.
- To explore the impacts of CSA in such children in the context of the twin cities.

- To look for available follow-up remedies on national and local level for victims of CSA.
- To take analytical views from various governmental and non-governmental organization representatives on CSA in the street children of the twin cities
- To recommend an actionable policy and plan to mitigate the issue of CSA while keeping in consideration the demands of street children.

### **1.3.3 Research Questions**

A number of research questions will be addressed in this study including the following:

1. What are the pre-requisites of CSA in street children of the twin cities?
2. How are the street children of the twin cities impacted by CSA including social, economic, physical and psychological impacts?
3. What sort of follow-up remedies do the victims of street CSA are offered by the federal government in the twin cities?
4. How do the street children of Islamabad and Rawalpindi want to get protected from CSA without giving up their assumed freedom?

The research questions were carefully selected on basis of their supposed contribution to the study. Pre-requisites of CSA gave a solid background to the study by bringing forward various reasons that lead to children being on streets. Moreover it highlighted what situations lead to CSA and need to be worked upon. The different types of impacts of CSA raised serious concerns about the matter and highlighted how the subject is a matter of urgency. The follow-up remedies gave insights into available policies, acts and procedure to curb CSA and finally the recommendations enlightened with different policy view points and broadened up the horizons of the study.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study under the light of the following clause raises question that when will the street children be ensured to have a safe and healthy future in Pakistan?

*“Childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.”*

(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Preamble, 1990)

It is the responsibility of the ruling government of the countries to provide children with their due rights. In the context of Pakistan, no specific policy exists for the protection of street children who are typically also absent from state statistics. The study will significantly highlight the emerging issue of child sexual abuse in street children of the twin cities to the society which is otherwise ignored and can hopefully benefit the street children in the longer run by bringing their suffering of CSA and any intervention/remedy for it from their point of view.

By involving members of the civil society and ministerial representatives, the rich data produced will also help in understanding the missing bolts in the state machinery which at first leads to children ending up on street and afterwards being left in a state of misery as a vulnerable group on streets.

## **1.5 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized in the following manner whereby it has five chapters. First chapter is introduction to the topic including background, statement of the problem, aims, objectives, research questions along with significance of the study. The second chapter enlightens with review of the literature. The third chapter is about the research methodology including research strategy, design, units of data collection, research methods, locale selection, sampling techniques and finally



ethics and confidentiality. The fourth chapter is all about results and discussions and lastly the fifth chapter revolves around conclusion, policy recommendations and limitations of the study.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

The literature review is composed of three themes namely: The Street Children of Asia, Problems of Pakistani Street Children and Pre-Conditions for CSA and Interventions with a bit of introductory literature.

Street children belong to one of the most ignored vulnerable group, their mere existence and problems are ignored. They are not only found in under developed but also developed countries and contain mostly boys of age eight to eighteen years old. For some of them even staying alive daily is a great task, they earn their living by doing petty jobs for a meagre amount of money. The street teaches them very brutal lessons and therefore some children join gangs to escape the harsh realities of life for some time. The gangs engage in criminal activities, drugs, illegal actions such as prostitution, sexual exploitation etc. Poverty, unemployment, underemployment are the creators of street children. In such situations under depression and other pressures homes stop existing and streets become places of abode. Migration to urban areas in order to live a glamorous life result in street children. The governmental bodies fail to implement the policies they draft in order to tackle the issues. This results in a never-ending cycle of poverty, exclusion and segregation. On top of that arrests and detention by the police on petty crimes aggravate the plight of the street children. State sponsored or Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) sponsored child-care facilities also fail to fill the gaps.

In a detailed working paper of (International Labor Organization, 2001) named as ‘In-depth analysis of the situation of working street children in Moscow’ it was revealed that the capacity of

the governmental and non-governmental organizations is failing to cater the increasing problem of street children in the country. The working paper is based on data from a survey of 1,500 street children, 81 employers from various industries and 95 experts from governmental and nongovernmental organizations. In-depth one-to-one interviews were taken and the street children comprised of three targets clusters of children under age 14 engaged in non-criminal economic activities, criminal activities and under the age of 18 engaged in criminal activities. Random sampling was done through the techniques of snow-ball and key informants. The 28-item questionnaire for children consisted of questions comprised of themes such as causes of child labor, street life arrangements and preferred lifestyle etc. The 20 item questionnaire for employers consisted of themes such as their perception about the phenomenon of street children, type/nature of work, possible solutions and their perception about it etc. For the experts survey 31-item script was explored during an informal conversation of around 1-1.5 hrs. on themes such as approximate number of working street children in Moscow, legal framework related to the phenomenon, recommendations etc. The results generally revealed that urban working street children were mostly involved in informal activities such as selling goods on streets, collecting trash, begging etc. Rural working street children were primarily involved in agricultural activities. Moscow is a known child sex tourism spot. Child prostitutes work in shops, cafes etc. Boys are usually involved in hard physical work whereas girls in prostitution. Such street children are also trafficked internationally and domestically.

## **2.2 The Street Children of Asia**

In a publication by Childhope (1992) on 'The Street Children of Asia', it was revealed that the street children are vulnerable because of the exposure to the ever evolving urban culture. Broadly 'street children' can be identified as those children who spend most of their time on the street

engaged in various ‘occupations’. Definitions vary throughout the world, however three categories are largely recognized namely – children on the street, children of the street and completely neglected, abandoned children. The three categories have different backgrounds, circumstances, issues and problems. The major difference lies along the lines of presence and absence of psychological support. The data revealed that South East Asian countries mainly compose of male street children, which are mostly primary school drop outs, belong to large families comprised of 6-9 family members with meagre income, life on streets somewhat comprises of working for 6 to 16 hours while engaging in various types of ‘occupations’, survival is the prime aim, fending off bullies and policemen is a day to day affair. Children sleep wherever convenient, very few engage in ‘healthy’ recreational activities such as sports, other however pick up ‘street habits’ such as substance abuse and prostitution as recreational activities. The study highlighted current programs in support of street children and their families including Community-based Programs for children on the street following a preventive approach, Center-based Programs for children of the street following rehabilitation approach and Street-based Programs for children of the street following engagement approach.

Street children as well as those working as laborers in unfavorable situations are broadly considered as children under distress. A study conducted by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Ministry of Human Rights and Development of India (2002) on Education for street and working children in India discovered that in India working children under the age of 14 are considered child labor and are exploited physically, mentally, sexually and economically in every possible way. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) had broadly defined street children as those for whom home streets have become their place of abode where there is no supervision and security available. It has categorized them into three

categories Children on the Street, Children of the Street and Abandoned Children with the major difference between them of familial contact. Children work as domestic workers, do non-domestic and non-monetary work, become victims of bonded child labor, as wage laborers, suffer from commercial and sexual victimization and as child combatants. Children living on streets face implications ranging from substance abuse to police atrocities. The implications of inappropriate work ranges from physical damage to psychological damage including contraction of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and mental illnesses. Several laws and policies exist to protect the rights of street and working children. The most generally accepted is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Specifically articles 2, 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 27, 28, 31 and 32 specifically highlight relevant rights for street and working children. The problem, however lies in implementation at the grass root level.

A report by (United Nations Children's Fund, 2002) titled 'An analysis of the situation of children in Bangladesh' brought out facts under the limelight such as an average child in Bangladesh suffers from malnutrition, poverty, different health risks and even struggles to have access to education. In these already difficult circumstances the plight of orphaned, abandoned, street children, child labor and physically handicapped children increases. In 1978 a study on the destitute children roughly approximated that orphans accounted for about 5 percent of the entire population of under 14 children in the country and around 51 percent were boys. Of the abandoned children in urban and rural samples, 70 percent and 50 percent were not supported by any of their family members. There is no information on the actual number of street children and their situation however it is known that they engage in very low remuneration jobs, petty crimes, prostitution and drugs. According to the 1983/4 Labor Force Survey children aged under 15 comprise of nearly 13 percent of the total labor force. These children suffer at the hands of poverty by working for long hours

and getting very low pays in return and the employment hence makes education inaccessible for them. A reliable set of data is not available for Bangladeshi handicapped children nevertheless it is known that they suffer greatly because of low government priorities, lack of resources, manpower etc.

Governmental policies to tackle the issues of children are basically dependent upon strengthening families and communities. Creation and expansion of specialized institutions is also a strategy. However lack of resources constrain coverage of entire population of children in distress. Poverty alleviation programmes with the help of donors however help in combatting problems of the socially excluded children such as abandoned, child labors and street children.

### **2.3 Problems of Pakistani Street Children**

Article 1 of CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) defines a child as a human being below the age of 18. However, in Pakistan because of absence of any uniform definition of a child the upper limit usually varies between age group 14 to 21 years old. This subsequently affects Acts such as Maturity Act, Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929. Employment of Children Act 1991, Factories Act and the Mines Act etc. In her study 'Situation of children in Pakistan', (Amenah, 2001) reported that Pakistani children suffer from health issues mainly malnutrition especially in girls, a high number of children run away from home under economic pressures, negative parental or teacher's attitudes etc. and there are usually no serious track down activities by police for such children. Such children later on become victims of CSA, a local NGO reported 201 cases in year 2001 of CSA of which 53% victims were female. Other alarming issues like gang rape and incest also exist and remain under reported. Juvenile prisoners is also another issue whereby many such prisoners await reprieve because of petty crimes mainly as a result of weaknesses in administrative

and judicial system of the country. International Conventions define Child Labor as an economically active child below the age of eighteen at the expense of his/her health, education etc. Slavery, child prostitution, drug trafficking are enlisted as the worst forms of child labor. In Pakistan, most child laborers work in small to medium sized industries as well as a part of informal sector. The poverty argument works as the most immediate response to such a dilemma. The greatest number of child labor can be found in agricultural, forestry, hunting and fishery sectors. No actual stats exist in Pakistan to represent the actual plight of street children in the country. However, some verbal estimates give a faded picture of their scenario whereby they usually do jobs requiring no skills such as rag picking, shoe polishing etc. The working hours fluctuate and stretch generally to 8-10 hours, earn very meager income per day between rupees 40 to 80 with usually no savings. Begging is also common. Unhygienic and unsanitary conditions lead to various diseases. The children also suffer at the hands of sexual and substance abuse. This got highlighted especially with Javed Iqbals (a Pakistani serial killer who sodomized and killed 100 children in Lahore) case back in 2000. Amongst various initiatives taken by Punjab Govt. includes establishment centers for lost and kidnapped children which however didn't function as per requirement because of administrative and financial issues. Similarly, UNICEF also devised an approach to address the issue of street children however it turned out that a forceful admission of such children to institutions is vital for the success of the initiative. The study proposed recommendations to such as setting up a universal age for children, interaction with parents/guardians, child friendly rehab centers for liberated children, friendly code of conduct at such centers, focusing on education and vocational training, family based intervention programmes, state provided health care, economic security for poor families, International Non-

Governmental Organizations (INGO's) and NGOs involvement, awareness raising regarding these issues, effective law enforcement and better allocation of funds.

An exploratory study of street children in Lahore was conducted by (Ahmad, 2000) as his dissertation. The aim of the study was to discover the life cycle and routine of street children answering questions of interest such as their background, work, living conditions, and their perception of themselves, priorities, future planning and socioeconomic conditions of families. The sociological significance of the study lies in the fact that street children being a social phenomenon, affects the social structure of any society and will therefore result in a stable society. Working upon the concept of 'anomie' developed by Durkheim which simply means a state of normlessness, the researcher used Robert K. Merton's typology of people existing in the society and placed street children in the fourth category whereby Retreatism as a mode of adaptation, makes abandon conventional goals as well as any institutionalized means of achieving them. The researcher discussed folkways, mores, institutions, laws, and values to conclude that street children don't follow or fit in any and the study aimed to find some statistical norm of street life. He intended to make the cultural norm as a standard measure. By using the case study method for data collection, the target population using purposive sampling technique were six (one female) street children under the age of 18 in Lahore living for more than six months on the streets. In-depth interviews revealed that the respondents were living a life of normlessness whereby they were not living with their families, not even attending schools, had usual involvements in drugs, interacted with criminals, developed an abusive behavior, wore dirty clothes, committed crimes and lastly value street life more than home life.

In his Dawn Review, 'Street Freedom', (Anwar, 2000) has given a very detailed situation review of the street children in Pakistan especially in Karachi. He has included various case studies which

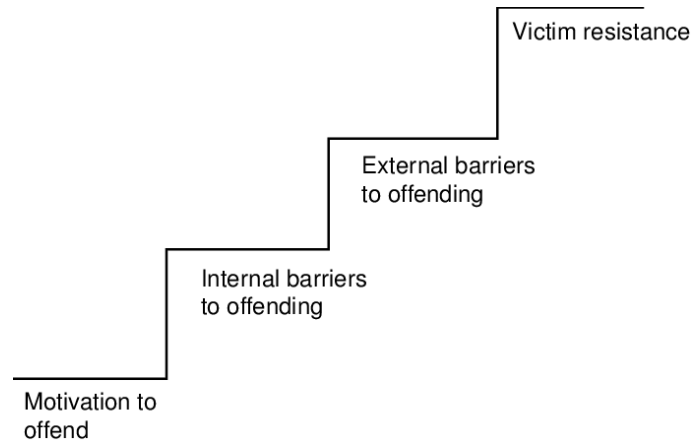


all have certain things in common i.e. they belong to poor households from where they ran away because of either abusing/drug addicted parents or to break the cycle of poverty. Other reasons include step parents (both or either of) as well. They all eventually got used to street life whereby they suffer physical, psychological, sexual and substance abuse in many forms. They all live under unhygienic conditions without any medical care and eat pretty meager food depending entirely upon whatever money they make throughout the day which amounts to a petty cash of around 60-100 rupees per day. That's where they get attracted towards prostitution where they are able to get a slightly higher amount of money as compared to what they get from begging, selling petty street items etc. A number of NGOs have been formed to combat the issue but none have achieved any substantial result. Except a few, such as Marie Adelaide Rehabilitation Programme in Karachi acting as a drop-in point for street children where they can avail bathing services, medical care, food and clothes. Such drop-ins work only if the children get comfortable enough and trust the organization to not curtail their freedom they enjoy on the streets. Some children want to give up the street life in lieu of a sophisticated, decent life whereby they continue their education, get proper meals, clothes, hygiene and most importantly the love and care they deserve. They have the talent and potential to prove themselves but only need the right platform and support to attain their dreams.

## **2.4 Pre-Conditions for CSA and Interventions**

In his four preconditions model (Finkelhor, 1984) explains that child sexual abuse is a multi-faceted phenomenon whereby the offender's needs (different combinations of different needs for different offenders) are also related along with various situational as well as contextual variables (for reference see figure 2).

**Figure 2: Finkelhor's 4 Pre-Conditions of CSA**



Source: Duff, Simon & Willis, Abigail. (2006)

He persuades that there is always a sexual motivation behind a child molestation. Simply according to Finkelhor four preconditions exist for child sexual abuse starting from developing of a motivation to child abuse, inhibition of internal factor i.e. conscience, inhibition of external factor i.e. any potential protection of the target child, and finally overcoming the victims resistance, abusing and getting away with it.

A large number of people have an underlying potential to commit crimes such as child sexual abuse but they do not. The successful conversion of such a criminal potential into such actual criminal activity requires presence of an opportunity in the absence of a child guardian (Cohen & Felson, 1979). Eck basically indicated towards 'situational prevention' whereby third parties called 'crime controllers' can play a preventative role. He explained three types of crime controllers i.e. 'Guardians' (charged with the responsibility and capability to protect/guard potential child victims), 'Handlers' (can exert a positive influence on potential offenders) and finally 'Place Managers' (charged with the responsibility of maintaining good environment and supervising specific physical locations where such crimes might take place) (See Figure 3 for reference).

**Figure 3: Eck's Crime Triangle**



Source: Center for Problem Oriented Policing. (2013)

## **2.5 Conclusion**

The reviewed literature articulates that street children comprise of children of mostly all ages up to 18 years old, not gender balanced with boys higher in number, belong to usually poor households with members extending up to 7-8 on average, have history of single/step/abusive parents. Different reasons e.g. poverty, abusive relationships etc. lead to stepping on streets whereby they suffer at the hands of extreme poverty, hunger, lack of health facilities, unhygienic conditions, many kinds of abuses such as physical, psychological, sexual and substance, just to name a few, but once they're out on streets it's very unlikely of them to want to go back to their homes despite the issues and problems they face as street life gives them different forms of freedom under the umbrella of flexible entertainment options and various activities to cope with the harsh realities of street life.

While keeping the analysis of reviewed literature in mind, to the best of our ability, we state that no study (to this date) has yet been conducted in Pakistan to actually highlight the problems and issues of street children which is the gap in the literature, especially a study conducted in the very environment they live in—as they don't want to give up on their street freedom—instead other endeavors have tried to explore their issues in a cursory manner and given a generic solution to their predicaments; that too incubated in artificial surroundings that are a departure from their usual street lives and cannot help reveal their true self. This, therefore, justifies the need to conduct this study.

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Research Strategy

Qualitative research strategy is chosen for the current study in order to approach the subject matter through an interpretative and naturalistic approach. The nature of the subject which demands meaning-making research is another reason for the particular strategy selection through capturing true human experiences in their natural setting rather through simply scientific numerical data. Studies, such as the one in hand, that revolve around topics of sensitive nature are qualitative usually because it is impossible to include each element in such studies which is exactly an important feature of qualitative studies. (Berg, 2001). This can further be understood by the fact that not all street children can be made to participate in the study rather only few known ones can be made to and that too of only limited territory.

#### 3.2 Research Design

The research is based upon an explanatory research design since the phenomenon is not well researched before in context of Pakistani street children and therefore needs an explanation in a detailed manner. Therefore, in order to answer the ‘why’ of the problems of the street children, primarily of the sexual abuse they face on the streets, explanatory research design was selected. The increasing trend of CSA demands a priority in research field so that it can be tackled accordingly. The research is intended to make the problem of CSA in street children understand more efficiently. The research will not provide conclusive final answers to research questions rather use a varying level of depths to understand CSA.

### **3.3 Units of Data Collection**

1. Street Children.
2. Various stakeholders such as representatives from NGO's, relevant ministerial representatives such as from ministry of Human Rights.

The afore-mentioned units of data collection were chosen in order to add depth to the study from different viewpoints. The children whose immediate environment is streets are well versed with the problems they face in that particular environment. The selection of various stakeholders/subject experts was because of the fact that they've ample technical and field knowledge about the subject and will add rich information.

### **3.4 Research Methods**

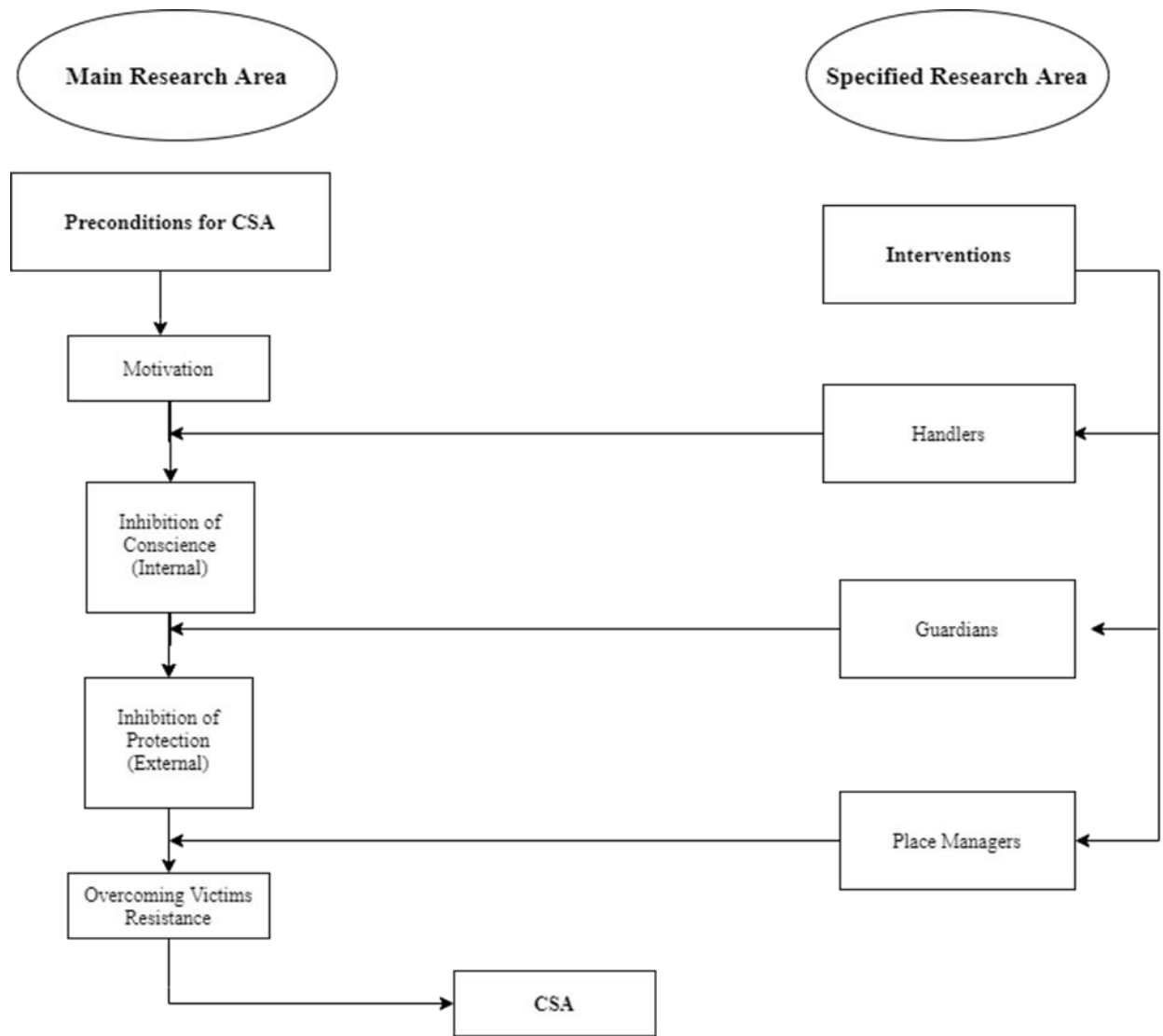
Keeping in view the sensitivity of the topic and its implicit nature following research methods were deemed suitable for the qualitative research: Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with the street children and various stakeholders such as representatives from NGO's, relevant ministries such as Human Rights.

Moreover, unstructured and semi-structured informal in-depth interview (IDIs) with open-ended questions in order to ensure a smooth and easy flow of conversation were also taken of few of the street children to produce more in-depth data. The existing laws, bills, codes, policies were also briefly taken into account to know about existing policies. With the help of key informants' specific locale were targeted where the street children were convinced to give an IDI. These specific locales were from the twin cities i.e. Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Field notes and diary

were maintained for an accurate recount of descriptive and reflective information. Moreover, the responses were audiotaped and later-on transcribed as well.

The study's conceptual framework revolves around main and specified research areas whereby the preconditions for CSA (motivation, inhibition of internal and external conscience and overcoming victim's resistance) are explored in the street children of the twin cities as main research area and the interventions which can be enforced prior to each pre-condition in the form of crime controllers are explored in the context of streets as specified research area. (See Figure 4 for reference.)

**Figure 4: Indigenizing the framework for CSA and relevant interventions to prevent it.**



Source: Author's own.



### 3.5 Reason for Locale Selection

**Figure 5: The importance of the twin cities as locales.**

<b>Ten Most Vulnerable Districts of Only CSA Cases</b>	
<b>Districts</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>
Rawalpindi	104
Faisalabad	85
Kasur	78
Islamabad	76
Multan	58
Lahore	56
Khanewal	48
Muzaffargarh	46
Vehari	44
Khairpur	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>

Source: Sahil Annual Report 2019

The twin cities were amongst the ten most vulnerable districts for CSA cases in 2019 with Rawalpindi having the highest number of cases i.e. 104 in number and Islamabad having the fourth highest number of cases i.e. 76 in number. The cities therefore are evidently hotspots for CSA and therefore ideal for data collection.

### 3.6 Sampling

Qualitative sampling technique was used such as purposive and selective, peer-driven and snowball because of the sensitive nature of the research whereby it is generally hard to reach the target population.

A total of 13 IDI's were taken from subject experts including a case manager on CSA, SGBV; a Police Official; a Street Educationist; an Advocate, a Medico Lego Officer (MLO); one Ministerial Representative from Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms and two Ministerial

Representatives from Ministry of Human Rights; two Assistant Commissioners from Islamabad and Rawalpindi respectively; a Child Psychologist and three Child Protection Officers. Likewise 5 IDI's were taken randomly from street children of both cities collectively children while they were busy with their street chores. Two FGD's were conducted. One with six members of CRM Pakistan and one with five of rescued street children in CPI, Rawalpindi.

Therefore a total of 29 participants enriched this study with their valuable inputs as sampling units. The sample size was small because of the research being qualitative whereby in such types of research the researcher reaches a saturation point where no new information is produced by the sampling units. In order to do justice with the gathered in-depth information the sampling size again needs to be kept small. Another reason was financial constraint, without any funding it was difficult to have a larger sampling size.

### **3.7 Thematic Analysis**

The data collected in the form of audio recordings and field notes were transcribed and amalgamated into different themes. Four set of themes were generated and results were compiled accordingly.

### **3.8 Ethics and Confidentiality**

Since the research revolved around vulnerable pediatric population the sensitivity and taboo nature of the research topic demanded great care to ensure fulfillment of research ethics along with maintaining confidentiality. Therefore, following points were taken into account:

- An informed consent and assent were taken verbally from the street children after explaining in detail the rationale of the study because of absence of parents/guardians, lack of sufficient education to read, fill out consent form and a possibility of limited information

sharing because of any signatures, if taken. In law or ethics, it is not always mandatory for mature minors to take consent from their parents/guardians.

- The children were ensured that their confidentiality will be maintained and if any of their remarks will be quoted in the research, pseudonyms will be used to provide an extra layer of protection aligning with research ethics.
- Information about small incentives (food etc.) given to the street children as participants were carefully disseminated to them while clearly distinguishing between research benefits for them. This was done in order to encourage adequate enrollment in the research.
- The children were clearly informed about their ‘choice to withdraw’ at any stage in research if they feel uncomfortable without hurting the researcher’s sentiments. This ensured that any existing power relationship will not have an impact on the consent process.
- None of the information regarding objectives were withheld by the researcher from the research participants.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the findings and results of the research. In order to analyze the data, thematic analysis was used since large set of qualitative data was collected from a group of relevant participants and sorted further into broader themes. The Deductive Approach was used to do the thematic analysis whereby the author preconceived a set of themes to be expected during data collection based upon existing knowledge through Literature Review. A total of 29 participants participated in the research through either IDIs or FGD's. The participants were carefully selected based upon their professional background in order to generate as much diverse data from different professional perspectives as possible.

Four set of themes were deduced and an amalgamation of the result findings of each theme from each participant is explained below:

#### 4.2.1 Pre-requisites of the phenomenon of street children and CSA

Most of the street children are either run-aways or migrants from other cities. The reasons that contribute to such typical behavior are escape plans based upon needs to have access to better resources in metropolitan cities in cases of migration from villages or smaller cities thus becoming mobile to achieve certain types of independency e.g. financial, physical etc. The main drivers of such movements/escapes are poverty, parental or societal ignorance, abusive and strained relationships with family, work seeking ambitions etc. This can be confirmed from the finding of Abdullah et al. (2014) as well.

*“My father has left us here alone and married to some other woman in Lahore. He doesn't care about where we live and from where we eat. He hasn't visited us since then.”*

A street child.

Another major reason that leads to children becoming children of and on the streets is lack of parent (s) or guardian. Lack of guardianship which ultimately leads to lack of ownership makes such children vulnerable and leaves no option for them except to step on streets, face various problems including molestation and CSA. This finding is supported by the working paper of (International Labor Organization, 2001) named as ‘In-depth analysis of the situation of working street children in Moscow.’

Once such children are on streets, they don't have a formal or informal educational background that can equip them with the knowledge of good touch and bad touch. There's no as such awareness of situations/environments that can lead or lure them into being molested or sexually abused. No self-protection mechanisms are taught to such children.

*“Sometimes boys come here in cars and talk to us rudely, uttering bad words and catcalling us”*

A street child.

Lack of involvement of community is another major reason contributing to the phenomenon of street children and ultimately CSA. Faller & Henry (2000) remarked same thing in “Child sexual abuse: a case study in community collaboration.”

*“Even if we witness any such event happening on a street or anywhere else, we as a society don’t bother to indulge into it and tend to avoid it, shifting the responsibility on the shoulder of others including administration, police etc.”*

ASP Dr. Aqeela Niaz Naqvi, SDPO Kohsar Police Station

Despite having Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and Vigilance Committees attached with almost every police station in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the committees don’t prioritize and fail to bring issues of street children typically CSA to the agenda table thus leading to lack of social responsibility again.

Media, being an important player in narrative building, has not played a positive role in child protection. NGO’s usually take up the highlighted issues only to gain fame and exploit rather taking up issues of vulnerable, non-guarded street children.

One of the most important pre-requisites of children being on streets is non-implementation of the article 11 (prohibition of forced labor, slavery, etc.,) and 25A (right to education) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

*“If only article 25A of the constitution of Pakistan is fully implemented in its true letter and spirit, no child will be on street or will be a labor as they will have a school to go to and study rather than the streets to beg and get exploited”*

Mr. Mamtaz Gohar, National Coordinator  
Child Rights Movement, Pakistan.

*“My parents don’t have extra money to send us to schools so we come here and beg day and night”*

A street child.

Weak surveillance mechanism is another reason that leads to CSA in street children of the twin cities. Ineffective reinforcement by Law Enforcing Agencies also indicates how institutions are not working as per their responsibility which leads towards the phenomenon of CSA in the street children.

The presence of a moral crisis is what de-sensitizes the harassers and breeds heinous crimes like CSA which in turn is accelerated by weak state institutions, absence of role of community and finally parental irresponsible behaviors.

#### **4.2.2 Impacts of CSA on the street children of the twin cities**

Once a street child faces CSA, he/she comes across a plethora of various types of impacts including but not limited to physical, psychological, economic as well as social impacts. Since, living on streets is typically characterized by lack of access to adequate food, it ultimately leads to hunger and malnutrition, the two very basic impacts of being on streets.

*“Sometimes we don’t have anything to eat even in the days of lockdown because of COVID there were some days when we couldn’t find anything to eat as the markets were closed, people were in their homes with their families and not on streets”*

A street child.

Hunger leads to the need of simply earning more through whatever means of earning possible for these street children. This eventually makes them adopt the sexual abuse as a normal part and parcel of life for monetary or any other types of benefits.

Unfortunately, another consequence of this, is the turning of such children into drug peddlers and performing crimes ranging from being petty to magnanimous in nature. The children start smoking in quite early ages along with drug consumption.

The latter characteristic of being malnourished, acts as a catalyst to further the physical deterioration caused by CSA.

*“Sexually abused children usually contract Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD’s) without knowing and even further transfer them.”*

ASP Dr. Aqeela Niaz Naqvi, SDPO Kohsar Police Station

One of the main psychological issue faced is that of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Since the children are totally unattended and have no one to share their trauma with asking for help, they develop a survival mechanism for themselves. This survival mechanism includes but is not limited



to more indulgence in the very sexual activity that caused it for monetary benefits, drug usage, and increased patterns of sleep to escape the reality.

*“The street children, who are in their formative stages face trauma because of CSA. This way their innocence is lost as they start facing harsh realities of lives. This ultimately breeds resentment in them for the society and they start believing that society should pay for their suffering. Such belief further leads to rupturing of social fabric of the society.”*

AC City, Mr. Danish Zakir

Over the time this coping mechanism makes them feel CSA as a normal behavior with their traumas unresolved and hence they may and may not propagate it themselves later as well. This leads to a circle of victimization. All these things collectively contribute to further social exclusion of the already secluded strata of street children.

### **4.2.3 Available follow-up remedies**

By law, protection of street children is guaranteed by various acts and amendments nationwide in Pakistan. Few of the legislations that apply on the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi include; but not limited to the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act (2004), Child Protection System Bill (2014), Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act (2018), Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act (2020). Apart from this, the articles 292 A (exposure to seduction), B (child pornography), C (punishment for child pornography); 328 A (cruelty to a child) and 377 A (sexual abuse), B (punishment) of the Pakistan Penal Code (1860) and the Code of Criminal

Procedure (1898) further cover the heinous crimes and specific punishments of sexual abuse and harassment of children.

The breakdown required action of these policies and acts are different for all stake holders. For example, the Islamabad police help line for Gender and Child Protection Centre is 8090 which responds immediately to any incidence reported of child sexual abuse following the immediate support of psychologists, doctor, and a lawyer that are present at the center. The child is immediately taken for prompt medical care and later checked by an MLO.

The MLO along with the team, examines clothing of the victim, any samples of the semen found are sent for DNA sampling while examining the physical state of the victim. The unscientific PV rape test is also performed upon female victims to establish victims' sexual history.

*“Meanwhile all these procedures are being carried out, the concerned police station of the area is fully involved and presented with the examination report of the victim.”*

Dr. Durdana Kazmi, Ex-MLO Polyclinic, Islamabad.

The mental state of the child is also assessed before taking any statements from him and only taken once there's a green signal keeping his/her mental health a top priority. The next step is legal assistance. However, not every application is turned into a First Investigation Report (FIR).

*“If we receive five applications of child abuse a day only one of those five will be turned into an FIR. The reason for that is the social stigma and sometimes extraneous pressure from the other party”*

ASP Dr. Aqeela Niaz Naqvi, SDPO Kohsar Police Station

This is worse in the case of the street children as firstly such incidence from their strata is not reported and if once in a while it does there's no one to finance the proceedings of the legal assistance. Government doesn't finance such cases neither does any NGO. Nobody pays for the cases of the 'Children of the lesser God.'

*“Even if a lawyer takes up a case of child sexual abuse of a street child, the chances of finding a proof of evidence will be very low which will ultimately affect the prosecution.”*

A renowned advocate in Rawalpindi.

Several NGOs have their own helplines as well to cater such incidences e.g. Bedari and SAAHIL which work for women and children who face any type of violence. They even provide counseling and connect with relevant institutions as they have a web of connections, for further improvement e.g. shelter homes. Apart from these, Group Development Pakistan (GDP) along with the Ministry of Human Rights has chalked out a 'Victim Support Services Directory' so that victims, predominantly children, of violence, harassment and abuse of all sorts, typically sexual, have an easy access to information about services they can avail from different organizations.

The government also has its independent help lines for the said purpose e.g. 1098 which is Madadgaar National Helpline and 1121 which works for Punjab and therefore Rawalpindi, that

deals which such cases and further referred to institution that provided immediate help. The newly introduced Zainab Alert App is also linked with the helpline and relevant institutions. One such important network of referral institution is the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) with an umbrella of Child Protection Institutes (CPI) under the government of Punjab and therefore has a branch in Rawalpindi as well. The CPI Islamabad is on its way to get established under the ICT Child Protect Act (2018) and will be managed by the Federal Government.

The CPI's including the Rawalpindi branch conducts sting operations to recover destitute and neglected street children who are victims of different sorts of problems and abuses including sexual, provides them shelter, food, education after finding about their whereabouts and any sort of possible unification with the lost family.

*“The CPI's comprise of several sections such as the social, legal, medical, psychological (rehab), mass awareness and family training sections. All of these sections work in close structural proximity to each other, ensuring the best post traumatic treatment to the street child”*

Child Protection Officer.

#### **4.2.4 Recommended course of action**

The foremost course of action in an attempt to curb the issue of child sexual abuse in street children of the twin cities is ‘**Mapping**’. There is no reliable data available about the exact number of street children on the streets of the twin cities. This is exactly where the problem lies. The numbers will give leads to the required action through policy enactment.

*“A detailed baseline study should be conducted through surveys in the twin metropolitan cities to map the children ‘of’ and ‘on’ the streets.”*

Ms. Sidra Humayoun, case manager on CSA.

Baseline studies comprise of data collected through surveys or other means to discover the situation just before the start of an intervention through a project to analyze the changes that have been brought about afterwards.

Such baseline study can be conducted through the involvement of District Administration efficiently. The most important reason to directly involve the district administration in such studies is to make the government responsible so that the loop hole of state in-action can also be addressed. After the successful mapping, a detailed **“Follow-up”** will be required so that the mapped children will be provided with shelter-abuse free environment, food based upon meal-nutrition value to curb nutrition deficit, quality physical and mental health care and other necessary course of actions via a careful **“Strategic Planning.”** Once started, a regular **“Audit”** will be conducted so that the objectives may be obtained and effectiveness of the financial flows be regulated.

The establishment of quality rehabilitation institutes is equally important with a special focus upon inculcation of religious, moral values and vocational trainings for these kids so that they may be made financially stable and not engage in consensual sexual activities for monetary benefits. Efforts should be made to even make differently abled children as much abled as possible so that nobody can take advantage of them being different and be sexually exploited.

The concept of **“Community Police Liaison Centers and Committees”** is another vital element that needs to be incorporated into our society. Through such neighborhood watch houses the

heinous act of sexually abusing street children can be lessened to a great amount if not totally eradicated.

*“Police reforms will be another trademark coupled with increased budgetary allocation to the police department for effective patrolling in order to make streets safe for everyone.”*

ASP Dr. Aqeela Niaz Naqvi, SDPO Kohsar Police Station.

On the other hand, full implementation of Article 25 A of the Constitution which guarantees free and compulsory education to all children of Pakistan will also solve the issue to a great extent.

*“If all the children will be engaged in schools for education, no child will be on the streets and no child will ultimately get sexually abused.”*

Mr. Mamtaz Gohar, National Coordinator  
Child Rights Movement, Pakistan.

Apart from all these, a mass awareness campaign is also required for these children to know about their sexual and reproductive rights and health. This can be done in coalition with non-governmental sector. Public awareness campaign should also be done for the public related to the Pedophilic Disorder where by intentions and behaviors revolve around sexually engaging with the children. Mental health for the said disorder should be made easily accessible and affordable with a guarantee to safeguard privacy of the person.

*“Stricter implementation of law will ensure deterrence of law as well so that the society will be discouraged to perform such criminal activities. Apart from this careful parental moral upbringing and state upbringing is also a crucial thing in order to solve this dilemma.”*

A renowned advocate in Rawalpindi.

The findings of the study align well with the existing body of literature. Kricheff, (2007); Senanayake, Ranasinghe, and Balasuriya, (1998); Tantoco, (1993); Tyler, (2004) found in their study that street children face CSA. The Government of India’s report (2007) on child sexual abuse found same psychological impacts such as PTSD, malnutrition and societal problems such as not being able to form inter-personal relationships found in street children exposed to CSA. Anwar (2000) in his study “Street Freedom” has concluded with factors such as poverty and strained parental relationships as reasons for forcing children to be on streets. Finally the conceptual framework of this study based upon a fusion of Eck’s Crime Triangle (1979) and Finkelhor’s (1984) Pre Conditions Model depicts the situation accurately which this study has also concluded whereby the street becomes an ideal place to perform CSA in the absence of any guardian or place manager and can be prevented by introducing interventions such as Citizen Police Liaison Committees.

# CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Conclusion of the study

The phenomenon of street children is on the rise as the increased trend of globalization coupled with increased desire to migrate to bigger metropolitan cities is there as well. Apart from this the already existing underlying problems of poverty and domestic issues also play their part in promoting the production of street children. These factors lead towards entire families or only the neglected, deprived children to come out of their homes onto the streets. The children who work and live day and night on the streets are called children “of” the streets while those who work on the streets only for day time are called children “on” the streets. This distinction is clearly important with reference to the presence of parents and guardians in the latter category. Presence of a guardian figure helps in curbing the very act of sexual abuse in the children as they have a defined routine and someone to go to or discuss their problems with. The other category is however deprived of this facility and totally on their own so can fall easily prey to sexual abuse as well as other types of abuses.

The role of guardian comes into play when the abuser gets done with the inhibition of internal conscience and leaps towards the inhibition of external conscience (refer to figure 3). At this point, the parent or the guardian can efficiently identify the problem and take action to stop the sexual abuse from happening. This intervention as a precaution can't be availed by children “of” the streets as they have no parent or guardian. All these pre-requisites determine the presence of the phenomenon of the sexual abuse in street children of the twin cities.



Once the street children face such a traumatic event in their life, a series of different types of impacts can be noticed in their life evidently. Such impacts range from physical to psychological and include everything in between. As these children are already malnourished due to lack of adequate food because of monetary restraints, the very act of sexual abuse either once or over a repeated course of time, will deteriorate their physical health tremendously.

Post abuse physical complications include but are not limited to different types of stomach issues, hysteria, multiple lacerations, profuse bleeding etc. Psychological complications include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, feeling guilty, and patterns of emotional disturbance that remains unresolved and over a longer period of time turn into violation of social norms creating social disturbance and ailments such as substance abuse. Economic impacts include a tendency towards prostitution for monetary benefits or simply for pleasure purposes. Finally, social impacts include rupturing of social fabric through resultant isolation of the child, promotion of more sexual activity as a coping mechanism and further destruction of societal norms through drug usage.

Existing laws and policies provide ample groundwork required to prevent, counter act and give sound remedial measures as a follow-up. The most prominent acts and policies include the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act (2004), Child Protection System Bill (2014), Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act (2018), Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act (2020). Apart from this, the articles 292 A (exposure to seduction), B (child pornography), C (punishment for child pornography); 328 A (cruelty to a child) and 377 A (sexual abuse), B (punishment) of the Pakistan Penal Code (1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (1898) also exist that deal with offences directly or indirectly related to the child sexual abuse in street children of Pakistan.

The actual problem exists in the implementation of the policies and the acts. To start with if Article 25 A of the Constitution (right to free and compulsory education) is fully implemented in its true

spirit. It will give a significant lead to reducing the incidences of child sexual abuse on the streets be it with the child belonging to the street or not. Moreover, a comprehensive strategic plan based upon figure 4 (see page 23) is need of the hour. According to the figure, interventions need to be introduced through Handlers, Guardians and Place Managers at the time of development of motivation to carry out the abuse, at the time of inhibition of internal conscience, and at the time of inhibition of external protection respectively. This solution based route can only be followed by proper information dissemination and professional training of the aforementioned intervention units (handlers, guardian and place managers). The results of the study align well with this proposed solution.

## **5.2 Policy Recommendations**

Slight amendments by either addition or subtraction are required according to the researcher after carefully analyzing the results of this research study. These suggestions are given in the form of policy recommendations below:

1. The foremost step to achieve an actionable policy to combat the heinous crime of child sexual abuse let alone the phenomenon of the street children is “**Mapping.**” A careful **baseline study** should be designed for the twin metropolitan cities and should be executed smoothly via conducting baseline surveys starting from the red zone areas. These red zone areas can be identified in coalition with the police force of the respective city as they have a track record of areas with vagabonds and beggars. The involvement of the district administration of the respective city will be of utmost importance. This involvement will also require suitable budgetary allocation for the said purpose. All of this is crucial to know the exact situation, be it number wise for a successful strategic plan.

2. After successful mapping, a careful strategic plan to gradually add the street children to societal circle is required to be chalked out. The strategic plan should be fool proof including regular follow-ups and auditing. All of this should be decentralized to provincial government level.
3. The Citizens Police Liaison Committee should have a mandate to give a monthly report about the position of sector wise street children in the city with detailed reasons of them being on streets and this report should be forwarded to relevant Law Enforcing Agencies (LEA's) for further rescuing and provide the children with basic necessities of life such as shelter, food, education and basic health care. After raising them up until a certain age preferably 18 years old, the shelter should facilitate them by providing them different jobs in the very shelter homes they were raised up in. This way they will give back to the society positively.
4. The street children, at first, will be reluctant to give up their assumed freedom (living on streets on their own independently without anyone rebuking them) by joining shelter homes. This has to be tackled by taking subtle baby steps by introducing reward based chore completion tasks at shelter homes. The reward can be monetary to continue giving them a sense of financial independence.
5. Societal moral character building is need of the hour. Addressing taboo psychological disorders like pedophilia should be normalized in the Pakistani society with a counterproductive approach to giving awareness about sexual harassment to children at early ages. Such models should be replicated for street children and delivered through free educational camps for them. Various governmental and non-governmental organizations should be engaged under the banner of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for this.

### **5.3 Limitations of the study**

Due to limited resources only two metropolitan cities of Pakistan were covered. Increased resource allocation and expansion of the cities covered can generate richer results. The study lacks quantitative data which can bring another dimension to the study with reference to numbers and statistics.

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## APPENDIX 1

### **'Deprived and Neglected: Street Children of the Twin Cities – Issues and Problems'**

#### **Topic Guide**

##### *Self-introduction and introduction to the topic*

Consent Form

Deliberation about interview process

Information about audio-recording

Introduction to the study and any other explanations required

Assurance of confidentiality

##### *Street Children: an increasing trend*

Definition of children and street children, types, categories.

Factors that force children to come on streets

##### *Problems of street children*

Sexual abuse and drug abuse

##### *Impacts of sexual abuse*

Physical, psychological, economic, social

##### *Existing laws/policies/immediate measures*

Reporting procedures

Procedures right after reporting

##### *Recommendations*

## APPENDIX 2

### **'Deprived and Neglected: Street Children of the Twin Cities – Issues and Problems'**

#### **Consent to take part in research**

- I..... voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.
- I understand that even if I agree to participate now, I can withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question without any consequences of any kind.
- I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data from my interview within two weeks after the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.
- I have had the purpose and nature of the study explained to me in writing and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.
- I understand that participation involves a sensitive topic of an implicit nature.
- I understand that I will not benefit directly from participating in this research.
- I agree to my interview being audio-recorded.
- I understand that all information I provide for this study will be treated confidentially.
- I understand that in any report on the results of this research my identity will remain anonymous. This will be done by changing my name and disguising any details of my interview which may reveal my identity or the identity of people I speak about.
- I understand that disguised extracts from my interview may be quoted in dissertation, presentation, published paper.
- I understand that if I inform the researcher that I or someone else is at risk of harm they may have to report this to the relevant authorities - they will discuss this with me first but may be required to report with or without my permission.
- I understand that signed consent forms and original audio recordings will be retained by the researcher until researchers' exam board confirms the results of the dissertation.
- I understand that a transcript of my interview in which all identifying information has been removed will be retained for two years from the date of the exam board of the researcher.
- I understand that under freedom of information legalization I am entitled to access the information I have provided at any time while it is in storage as specified above.
- I understand that I am free to contact any of the people involved in the research to seek further clarification and information.

#### **Researcher:**

**Amna Urooj, M.Phil. Public Policy, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, School of Public Policy.**

**amnaurooj\_18@pide.edu.pk**

*Signature of research participant*

Signature of participant

Date

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*Signature of researcher*

I believe the participant is giving informed consent to participate in this study

Signature of researcher

Date

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