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FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK (YaR)

The Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR) is a body set up by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia for reflection, sharing and coordination among those involved in ministry for the young at risk- those who require special attention and care such as street children, child labourers, abandoned orphans, young prisoners or children in conflict with the law, young substance-abusers, children of displaced communities, children in the sex-trade and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently we have 73 centres in India, located in the 11 regions/Provinces of the Salesians of Don Bosco, who have been working with the young at risk for the past four decades- accompanying them in their journey towards a life of dignity and safety.

Much of the work done by the Don Bosco Forum for the Young at Risk has been with street involved children in areas of care, advocacy, research, capacity building and sharing of best practices, with member organizations continually pioneering new ways of working with street involved children and seeking to improve their models for care. At the same time, researchers have been trying to improve the participatory nature of research methods with street involved children. Yet in recent years, it has become clear that much of the available research on street involved children is not readily accessible, is fragmented and has not been used to inform service interventions or government policies.

This scenario prompted the Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk to take on the challenge of conducting a national 'Rapid Assessment of Street Involved Children' to bring out an evidence based report on street involved children across different states. It is envisaged that a report of this kind could hold the key to government initiatives in terms of budget allocation, policy making and implementing well coordinated programmes for street children, besides helping the Forum secure a decisive voice in the Department of Women and Child Development in the future. The Don Bosco Research Centre (DBRC) Mumbai under the guidance of Fr. Barnabe D' Souza was the nodal centre for the study as well as the facilitator and implementing agency, with all the participating Centres providing the necessary assistance to DBRC for the successful completion of the study.

This report presents a comprehensive picture of **street involved children in the city of Hyderabad** drawn from primary and secondary sources of data which was carried out under the supervision of **Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad**. It includes interviews with street involved children, stakeholders, development practitioners, researchers and NGOs working with street involved children. It identifies gaps in current knowledge about street children, dispels certain assumptions made about them and reveals areas for further exploration. This report also highlights the need for scholars, researchers and NGOs to collaborate with one another and to draw upon the breadth of existing research to inform their interventions and understand street involved children's diverse experiences.

The motivations, characteristics and experiences of street involved children are diverse and do not lend themselves easily to either definition or quantification. The unique methodologies and the strong research base of this report along with identification of gaps and problem areas will help scholars, researchers, policy makers, practitioners and students make collective efforts to contribute towards transforming knowledge about street children, prevent the conditions that cause multiple deprivations and help build a political space for them.

Fr. Mathew Thomas
Secretary and Executive Director,
Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk
New Delhi -110045.

ABOUT DON BOSCO NATIONAL YAR FORUM

Set up by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia, the ‘Young at Risk Forum India’ (YaR) or ‘Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk’ is a body of committed and dedicated citizens, organizations, and networks. YaR Forum India works for the young at risk, to empower them and to accompany them towards strength, growth and transformation. YaR reaches out to various groups of at-risk young people: street children, child labourers, school drop-outs, trafficked children, the young affected by HIV/AIDS, young people affected by natural or man-made calamities, the young in conflict with the law, children in need of care and protection, the young addicted to substance abuse, child victims of exploitation and abuse, abandoned and orphaned children, child soldiers, and unaccompanied children. Currently, the YaR Forum is active in 95 cities and towns of India with 1079 service units for the Young at Risk. These service units include shelter homes, children’s homes, youth hostels, street presences, child-line telephone services, Homelink (HLK), Missing Child Services (MCS), schools for child labourers, vocational training centres, child-rights centres, and research and documentation centres. Groups and movements that are active in this forum are Peer Leader units, Youth for Youth groups, Self Help groups, Past Pupils Units, and over a thousand Caring Community Groups.

Launching a national research is a new venture of the YaR Forum. The Forum aims at carrying out national level research having contemporary relevance on issues concerning children and youth. The YaR Forum envisages that national research become an integral part of its activities to bring forth cutting –edge research that could necessitate special provisions in national policy and programmes for children and youth. To start with, the YaR Forum took a call on the issue of **street involved children** as an introductory initiative due to the prevailing lacunae in **facts and figures** concerning street involved children across the cities and to provide an evidence based report to the Governments for planning and executing welfare measures for street involved children in the coming years.

The DIRECTOR SPEAKS....

*This world demands the qualities of youth:
Not a time of life but a state of mind,
a temper of the will,
a quality of imagination,
a predominance of courage over timidity,
of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease.*

Robert Kennedy



‘YOUTH ARE THE HOPE OF TOMORROW’. We have a great responsibility in helping and guiding these youth of today to be responsible and honest citizens of our nation. Through its presence, **Don Bosco Navajeevan**, in the twin cities of **Hyderabad and Secunderabad**, has been in the forefront in giving services to the needy and deserving youth who have been brought to our institution in the last 14 years through our dedicated staff.

Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad, home for street and young at risk, is able to reach out and extend a helping hand not just for the short term but also provide long term support through its services as per their interest. Whatever the milestones we have reached is through the collaboration and cooperation of many like-minded NGOs, corporates, organizations interested in children and youth, social groups etc. During this special occasion, I remember and thank all the collaborators of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad i.e. officials and staff of Women and Child Welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh, Child Welfare Committees of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts, Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, Railway Unions, Employees of the South Central Railway, Auto Unions, Railway Workshop employees, Street Vendors Association, Railway Porters, Railway sweepers and Platform vendors.

Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS) of Street Involved Children is another land mark which helped us understand the current issues and problems of youth in twin cities and helped us to re-organize our own method of functioning and availing the space, time and finances in a

better way. This survey not only provided us an opportunity to reorganize ourselves but also network with other like-minded institutes in a more systematic manner.

We thank Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, National YaR Forum, New Delhi and Fr. Barnabe D'Souza, the Director of Don Bosco Research Centre Mumbai for their initiatives in implementing the RAS of street involved children in Hyderabad. Very special and heartfelt thanks to Fr. Balashowry, who initiated the survey and Mr. A. M. Raja Reddy who carried it out. Last but not the least, my heartfelt thanks also to all the staff members of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad who were involved in the survey and for completing the survey successfully during the hot summer. Finally, a very special thanks goes to the Don Bosco Research staff including Dr Susan Mathew, the National YaR Researcher who drew up the analysis and conclusions and the report of this RAS study with commitment and dedication.

Fr. Sudhakar Bellamkonda, sdb

Director

Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad

THE SECUNDERABAD DON BOSCO NAVAJEEVAN SOCIETY
(Known as 'Don Bosco Navajeevan')
(A Home for Street, Orphan and Working Children)

PROFILE

1. Name of the Organization : **The Secunderabad Don Bosco Navajeevan Society**
2. Address : The Secunderabad Don Bosco Navajeevan Society
- Regd. Office : Don Bosco Navajeevan
H. No. 6-2-323, New Bhoiguda
Secunderabad – 500 003
Andhra Pradesh, India
3. Legal Status : Registered under A.P. (Telangana Area) Public Societies Registration Act, 1350 Fasli (Act 1 of 1350 F)
- (a) Society Registration No : 6990 of 1999
Dated: 5th October, 1999
- (b) License No : 1682/3/2011, Hyderabad. Government of Andhra Pradesh
- (c) FCRA Registration : Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act at Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 22-02-2001
Regn. NO. 010230474
- (d) Recognized as Fit Institution under rule 46 of Andhra Pradesh Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2003 issued by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh vide G.O. Rt. No. 29
- (e) Society is registered under section 12AA of the IT Act, 1961 for Income Tax Exemption vide H.Qrs.-II/12A & 86G/246/2000-01, dated: 16-08-2001
- (f) Society is registered under section 80G(2) & (5) of I.T. Act, 1961 Income Tax Exemption to the Donors vide F.NO. DIT(E)/HYD/80G/23(10)/07-08, dated: 14-03-2008.
4. Name of the Chief Functionary : Fr. B. Sudhakar – Secretary and Director
Cell: +91 9985727032
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www.dbnjhyd.org

Brief History

The story of Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, Secunderabad, began soon after the second Provincial Chapter of the St. Joseph's province of Hyderabad in 1996, brought forth deliberations to launch new ventures for the welfare of street children in the cities of Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. This aspiration of the Salesians was further strengthened by the excellent work being done for street children in Vijayawada by the Salesians of Don Bosco.

In **April 1998**, the Salesian Provincial Council took the sagacious decision of first starting a project for street children in Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh, and only later Vishakapatnam. They appointed Fr. Maddichetty Noel to spearhead this mission. He was sent to BIRDY (Bosco Institute of Research and Development for Youth) to begin the work while also animating some of their programmes. Thus began Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, a "project for children and youth at risk".

It was an uphill task to find suitable premises to establish Don Bosco Navajeevan, Secunderabad. After months of searching, a three storied building was rented and by June 15th, 1999 the boys moved in to their new home and work began in a more systematic manner. Our own infrastructure near Secunderabad Railway Station (Bhoiguda) was inaugurated on 24th April 2001 by the then Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh. We found the necessity of having shelters close to the Hyderabad Railway Station. We started a shelter near the Hyderabad Railway Station (Nampally) in 2004, which was officially inaugurated on 19th March, 2006 by the then Honourable Speaker Mr. K. Suresh Reddy. These two shelters would be our contact centres and round the clock shelters for boys.

Main Objectives

Navajeevan's objective is to reach out to every child on the street with love and trust while creating an environment/habitat where the child is empowered to stand up for his rights and to face life in a positive manner.

This means:

- Acceptance of the child unconditionally for what he/she is
- Collaboration with the child in his/her own initiatives to overcome deprivations
- Educate the child to stand for his rights
- Train the children in skill trades for their livelihood

- Counselling the child to make positive and correct choice
- Motivating the child to go back home if there is a “Home” for him to go to
- Making every effort to rehabilitate the child
- Promoting networking with people of all walks of life and creating social supports that contributes towards the dignity of the child.

The adult will then be able to interact with the child in such a manner that both grow in the process of this interaction.

The Secunderabad Don Bosco Navajeevan Society Centres:

1. Shelter 1: 1998

Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan

6-2-323, New Bhoiguda

Secunderabad - 500 003

Phone No. 0091-4027532497

Services offered: Shelter, Counselling, Home placement, Food, Clothing, Medication, Re-orientation and Formal School.

2. Shelter 2: 2004

Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan

H.No. 11-6-472, Bazar Ghat

Street No. 5, Near Ram Mandir

Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 001

Phone No. 0091-40-23310305

Services offered: Shelter, Counselling, Home placement, Food, Clothing, Medication & Formal School.

3. Rehabilitation Centre: 2002

Don Bosco Navajeevan Rehabilitation Centre

Pragathi Nagar

Ramanthapur

Hyderabad - 500 013

Phone No. 0091-40-27033112

Services offered: Shelter, Counselling, Food, Clothing, Medication, Non-Formal Education and Recreation.

Courses offered at Don Bosco Navajeevan Non-Formal Technical School.

- i. Carpentry
- ii. Welding
- iii. Motor Mechanic and Driving
- iv. Bakery
- v. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- vi. Tailoring and Embroidery
- vii. Electrician
- viii. Plumbing
- ix. Printing and Book Binding

4. Mamma Margaret Home of School Going Children

H.No. 3-18-118, Pragatinagar
Ramanthapur, Hyderabad – 500013
Andhra Pradesh, India

Services offered: Shelter, Counselling, Food, Clothing, Medicines and Formal Education

5. Career Guidance and Job Placement Centre: 2003

Don Bosco Navajeevan Yuvaniketan
H.No. 6-2-207, New Bhoiguda
Secunderabad -500 003

Services offered: Shelter, Counselling, Guidance, Food, Clothing, Medicines, upgrading Skills and Job Placement.

Activities of the Secunderabad Don Bosco Navajeevan Society in Previous Years

A. Street Presence

The strategy, as evolved from Navajeevan's experience at Vijayawada, is to contact the children first and gain their confidence and trust. As stated above, this is already in the process.

A Street Presence Team, constituted of six street educators, is already set up. The twelve members of the team have been contacting street children and building up rapport with them since the past eleven years. During this period, they contacted more than 25000 children in and around Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kachiguda Railway Stations that have got the highest level of concentration of street children. The team was able to place back home more than 6500 children after due counselling on the street itself. Also, the team arranged job placements for more than 240 boys. They are being closely followed up and counselled. These boys are also encouraged to start savings.

During the last two years, apart from developmental measures, Navajeevan moved more effectively in the area of Advocacy. But this is only the beginning of a long, arduous road as the children are lured by brokers to hazardous jobs on the basis of false promises of attractive wages. In reality, as noted above, they have to work 12 to 16 hours a day; sometimes, many of them are not paid at all, and in many cases, they are severely beaten up just because they dared to ask for their promised wages; and kept under cruel custody for petty charges like breaking crockery etc.

The team follows a systematic approach in contacting children in different areas. As a preliminary step in working efficaciously with child labour, a **survey on Child Labourers**

was conducted by the street presence team in areas surrounding Regimental Bazaar and Secunderabad railway station. Many child labourers were contacted in hotels, workshops, mechanic sheds etc. but majority of them were too scared of their employers to talk to the surveyors. Only 221 volunteered detailed information about themselves. However the exercise was enough to convince us about the dire need for action in this field. Don Bosco Navajeevan hopes to cover extensive ground in this area in the near future.

b. Round the Clock Shelter

Next step in the Navajeevan experience of street children project at Hyderabad was to have a round the clock shelter where the children could come and go freely without fear of bullies, hostile police men or other threats. A round the clock shelter was set up in a rented building very close to the Secunderabad Railway Station. Proximity to the railway station had the advantage that the children had easy access to the shelter. Easy physical accessibility to the shelter was one of the promoting factors for children to walk in and away from the usual temptations of the street. At the shelter, the children's basic needs were taken care of. They were given food, medical care, clothes and recreation facilities.

The children were introduced to the three R's through the **Literacy Programme at the shelter**, where the children spent at least one to two hours in learning. At one time, the shelter programme had to take care of more than 100 children.

c. Counselling--Healing of Emotional Deprivations

A street child can somehow manage food and his other physical needs. What he is deeply in need of is a **significant adult** who loves and trusts him, with whom he can converse. A vast majority of these children take to the street because of the emotional deprivations and insecurity that they suffer at home at the hands of their own parents and close relatives. A street educator must primarily be able to fill this gap. What a street educator starts during his contacts with the child on the street--the healing of these emotional deprivations, building up of rapport and the creating of a family atmosphere--is taken forward by the **counselling** department located at the shelter. Presently two lady counsellors run it. They listen to the problems of the children. Many a time, the counsellors contact their parents and prepare them too to accept the children back. There are instances when the counsellor or street educator accompanied the children back home.

d. Literacy and Non-Formal Skill Training Programme

Counsellors help the child to understand his own life, help him to gradually overcome his fears and to take the decision to turn away from street addiction or the freedom of the street to the path of self discipline: either by preparing him to go back home if there is a home for him to go to or by helping him take a decision to join **formal education (schooling) or non-formal vocational training** to acquire skills to enable him to stand on his own feet.

At present, Navajeevan at Hyderabad has no systematic rehabilitation facilities of its own. Hence, it sends those children who are willing to do **schooling or skills training** (carpentry, tailoring, television and radio, air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanic, electrician and plumbing) to our Non-formal Technical School at Ramanthapur.

Don Bosco Navajeevan was lucky to find a good school willing to admit our kids in the middle of the academic year. It is a school working on an alternative approach to education and it provides special attention to disadvantaged children.

d. Re-Orientation Camps

The experience that Navajeevan has gained through the number of short-term camps that have been conducted for children straight out of the street, has more than proved the point that short-term, intensive and activity packed camps help these children to move away from the 'freedom' of the street and to take the path of rehabilitation.

In other words, between the street and rehabilitation, there must be a phase which will help **to re-motivate** effectively the children to give up the "freedom" of the street or '**street addiction**' and to accept the discipline of rehabilitation either in their own homes--if there was a home for the street child- or to go to other various rehabilitation programmes. Hence, an intermediary training space and infrastructure is crucial for street children intervention.

The Methodology of the Camp

a. The camp during the first phase will mainly be designed to attract the child towards a life away from the street. Hence it will be a very relaxed atmosphere filled with fun, games, outings etc.

b. In order to awaken in him a taste for the serious things in life, two hours of alphanumeric study will be included in the daily schedule. These two hours will be conducted using the play - learn method.

c. During this period, the constant friendly attention of the counselor in an informal atmosphere helps him to open himself to the counselor who plays the role of the 'significant adult'. The healing of his emotional wounds begins at this stage. A certain degree of trust and confidence is created, motivating the child to either go home or to proceed to the next phase of rehabilitation.

While adopting the idea of the Re-orientation Camp, Don Bosco Navajeevan adapted it to suit its needs. As Navajeevan possesses no land or permanent structure to send the children to, it is forced to keep the boys in the same shelter structure but in a different floor and with different facilities. The children follow a time-table which they decide together with the staff at their weekly meetings. This is modified whenever the need arises. The Camp becomes a kind of home from where the kids go to school or training and return. It also serves as an incentive and motivation for the other children to see their comrades going about well dressed and to school.

Special attention is also paid to the development of the numerous latent talents and creativity of the children by conducting **extra-curricular activities** for them everyday in a systematic fashion. Needless to say, they respond most enthusiastically to such activities and surprise us with their capabilities.

Networking with other NGOs

AP - CRAF: Navajeevan is an active member of the Andhra Pradesh Child Rights Advocacy Forum which provides a unifying force or common platform among the NGOs and individuals working for the active implementation of the UN Convention on Child Rights, ratified by world's 189 countries, including India. At present, the Forum has got 290 NGOs as its members in 18 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Don Bosco Navajeevan also works with **local NGOs** in ensuring protection for every child that seeks shelter in this city; in encouraging and supporting ventures that promote the interests of children in insecure situations; in educating every adult citizen, and especially those holding official responsibilities, in their duties towards children; in ensuring that the government observation home for boys becomes a place where the child is provided opportunities for “all round growth and development of his personality”; and also in ensuring that the neglected children are not ‘confined’ in observation homes along with the delinquents.

Don Bosco Navajeevan at a Glance

1	Name of the Organization	The Secunderabad Don Bosco Navajeevan Society (A Home for the Street Children and Youth at Risk).
2	Area of operation	GHMC Limits of Hyderabad & Ranga Reddy Districts.
3	Services provided	Awareness meetings for all departments in and around public places like railway stations, bus stands, market places ... etc, child rescue, child counselling, providing basic needs, home integration, home for formal education, school for non-formal training, soft skill training, empowerment of slum children and youth
4	Institutional	6 Centres (Shelter homes-3, Rehabilitation-2, Career Guidance-1)
5	Non Institutional	6 Slums in HYD + 2 Slums in RR Dt.
6	No. of personnel / staff involved in your work with Street Children	40 Staff
7	Areas covered to rescue Children – Street, Working, Begging, Rag Picking, Runaway, Abandoned etc	Secunderabad Railway Station, Monda Market, Clock Tower, Prashanth Theatre, Pallika Bazar, Uppal Bus Stop, Ganesh Temple, Raitifile Bus Stand, Chilakalaguda Bus Stop, CBS, Nampally Railway Station, Kachiguda Railway Station, Abids, Public Gardens.
8	Legal Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration No: 6990 of 1999 • License No: 1682/3/2011, Hyderabad. Government of Andhra Pradesh. • Fit Institution: Don Bosco Navajeevan is recognized as “Fit Institution” by Ministry of Women & Child Welfare, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. • 80G: DIT(E)/HYD/80G/23(10)/07-08 • 12A: II/12A&80G/246/2000-01 dated 16.08.2001. • FCRA: 010230474 • TAN: HYDT01437C • PAN: AAATT4915H
9	Contact Person and Email ID	Fr. Sudhakar Bellamkonda, Director antosudha@gmail.com
		A.M. Raja Reddy, Program Manager amrajareddy@yahoo.com
10	Postal address Email Website	Don Bosco Navajeevan, H. No: 6-2-323, New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad – 500 003 dbnjsecunderabad@rediffmail.com www.dbnjhyd.org

HYDERABAD CITY



Hyderabad, the **capital of Andhra Pradesh** is the largest city and sixth most populous city of India. Founded by Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah, Sultan of the Qutb Shahi dynasty in 1590, the city has undergone many changes. It is also known as the ‘city of Nizams’ as their regime continued for a long period. The rich heritage and culture of the city makes it more special than other cities in India. Hyderabad has been experiencing a rapid expansion of urbanization.

The area of the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad (excluding) a small part of Secunderabad, cantonment, Lalaguda and Osmania university are included in Hyderabad district. From April 2007 onwards it became greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation based on a notification released by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The city is divided into five zones (**North, South, Central, East and West**) and 18 circles. **12 municipalities** from Rangareddy and Medak districts were merged into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (www.ghmc.gov.in/greater_hyd.asp). According to the 2011 census, Hyderabad district has a population of 4,102,38 (2,064,359 males and 1,945,879 females). The sex ratio is 943 females per 1000 males and the literacy rate is 80.96% (Male 83.35% and Female 78.42%).

Hussain Sagar



Chowmahalla Palace



Hyderabad being the state capital is highly developed in all aspects. Hyderabad is famous for its charming minaret-Charminar which stands at the centre of the old city. It is also famous for its pearls, bangles and Zardosi work. All these products are handmade by people who have been handed over the skill from past generations. There are several other activities in which the families are involved such as clay and lac bangle making, zari work on sarees and dress materials, brass idol making, block printing, tying and dyeing and making silver foil to decorate sweets. Besides the above mentioned activities, Hyderabad is a hub of IT industries wherein many corporate bodies like Google, Microsoft, Facebook, CSC, CapGemini, and others are operating from here. TCS, Wipro, Infosys, Mahindra Satyam have their operations conducted from the city for the outsourced and in house projects. Other sectors like pharmaceuticals, insurance, banking and real estate are also generating revenue for the state of Andhra Pradesh through the city.

Telugu is the official language of Hyderabad. Urdu, Hindi and Telugu are mostly spoken by the people in Hyderabad. People of different religious communities celebrate festivals and live together as one in a society. The local festivals celebrated are Batkamma and Batkamma Pandunga. Other festivals like Sankranti, Diwali, Vinayakachaturthi, Ugadi, Bakrid and Ramzan are also celebrated.

Street Involved Children in Hyderabad

Hyderabad is characterized by a very significant presence of the urban poor with a growing poverty profile. Majority of the street involved children who have migrated from rural/semi-rural areas from all over Andhra Pradesh grow up to become slum dwellers and add to the swelling urban poor. According to the NGOs working for street involved children, they mostly come from other parts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and South Karnataka. Some of them have come from Bihar and West Bengal. They come to the city by train, bus, lorry, truck, trailer and even walking. They are drawn to the city because they dream that they will make it big in the city.

A majority of street involved children in Hyderabad are rag pickers. It is estimated from the quantity of paper collected that there are about 25,000 rag pickers in Hyderabad, most of whom are children. Some street involved children engage themselves as vegetable collectors, shoe shiners and some take to begging. Vegetable collectors and beggar children are the most vulnerable of the street involved children. They live, eat and sleep there always under strict vigilance of men who were once street children. The hot spots where street involved children

in Hyderabad are usually found is Secunderabad railway station, Nampilly railway station, Jubilee bus station, MGBS, public gardens, Birla Mandir, Lingampally, Monda market and clock tower.

The **Rapid Assessment Survey of Street Involved Children** conducted in the city of **Hyderabad** would be of help to planners, policy makers, administrators and organizations working in the area of street involved children in designing programmes, schemes for their welfare and to provide preventive strategies to reduce the problem.

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

Introduction

For most of the street involved children, the street is an option made. In as much as it is a choice, more merciful than their homes, it is for them also a solution as this option gives them independence to determine their life course, within limited possibilities and the far more overpowering dangers that the street holds for them. Needless to say, the vast majority of the innocent children who are on the street are doomed. They are in a system totally hostile to them, with no supports, no motivators, and with no skills other than their animal instinct to survive. And yet they relish their freedom and independence, and will not easily choose an institution in exchange for the street.

There are several reasons for a child landing up in the street and economic poverty has been mooted as a major cause. Frequent crop failure due to flood and drought, small economic land holdings, dearth of employment, and the lure of the city life push more and more people to the city (Ghosh, 1992). Nigam (1994) observed that in India, 90% of street children are working with regular family ties and that they are on streets due to poverty and their parent's unemployment. About one tenth are working children with little or no family ties who view the streets as their home or are abandoned and neglected children. Rosa de Souza and Ebrahim (1992) found that 82% of the children left home for economic reasons. According to a study by Subramaniam and Sondhi (1990), the number of children under age 14 working and living without family support showed that although poverty was a significant reason of children being on the streets, family discord was also a major reason.

Natural disasters, parental deaths, social factors including violence and abuse of children within households, cultural and political forces, social exclusion or income inequalities are some other factors. A single incident or event may be the determining factor which pushes vulnerable children to the street. The number of children who migrate to the cities and start living in the street is on the increase. Children who are in vulnerable circumstances are left with no option but to leave their homes and live on the streets. Satya and Singh (2011) identified that most of the children come to cities by trains.

Some believe that a better life is easily available in urban areas. Families strained by poverty are at a higher risk of violating children's rights because there is a lack of awareness of the consequences of physical and verbal abuse on the child. The failure of extended families to support, increase of single parent households, poor communication skills among family members, lack of resources within the communities to enable mediation of family conflicts all contribute to the movement of children to the street.

Street involved children constitute a marginalized group in most societies where accessibility to health care and other services is severely restricted. Most of the street involved children live in dirt and filth. According to Hassani's study (2008), they are not only under weight, but also their growth is stunted. Poor health is a chronic problem for them. Some are severely malnourished and are victims of diseases like TB, leprosy, typhoid, malaria, jaundice, liver/kidney disorders. Many are victims of drug and liquor addiction. Skin diseases like scabies as well as STDs are becoming rampant. Majority of the street children face sex abuse in India. The children who faced physical abuse were in the age group 5-12 years. An investigation by street educators reveals the fact that apart from girl children, cases of sexual abuse of male children are also on the rise in cities.

Hassani (2008) observed that children who work are not only subjected to the strains and hazards of their labour but are also denied education/training that could enable them to escape the poverty trap. Sometimes the street child is picked up at once by someone who is on the look out for cheap labour or he/she runs into a friend who introduces him/her into their gang, for a price. Those who are not that lucky, live on the fringes of those who live off the street. The newcomer is neither welcomed nor given protection. He/she has to keep off the scene and not rush to earn some income. He/she has to slowly make inroads, contacts and gain acceptance. Generally within a month he/she is tolerated. But it takes at least some time to learn the ropes and to make the grade as a street child, fully equipped to cope. They learn the hard and cruel way to survive - to beg, steal, scavenge and win the patronage of the older children. And slowly he/she is on his/her own, in their own gang of street involved children but 'independent'.

Most of the street children live in grossly inadequate conditions and remain uncounted and largely outside the purview of the Right to Education Act and other schemes like Integrated Child Development Scheme. According to Reddy (1992), for most of the street children,

railway stations and bus stands are the places which provide them night shelters. Most hotels in Hyderabad employ homeless children, with their promised security of shelter and food. They are practically bonded there working as much as 18 hours a day (Don Bosco, Navajeevan, Secunderabad dbrijhyd.org)

There are initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide support to street-involved children. Ashadas (2000) emphasized that the ministry provides support only for 'of the street' category of children who have no support on the streets. A central scheme for the welfare of street children has recently been initiated by the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. This scheme gives aid to NGOs working on issues of street involved children. An integrated programme for street involved children is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. In response to a Public Interest Litigation filed in the Supreme Court on Nov 27, 2010, the Court had directed all state Governments to take necessary steps so that no life was lost due to non availability of night shelters.

The Integrated Child Protection Societies (ICPS) was established in the state of Andhra Pradesh and for its effective implementation, the government of Andhra Pradesh issued orders for forming the Andhra Pradesh Society for Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children. To make ICPS more effective, District Child Protection Societies (DCPS) are formulated in each district. Similarly Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards have been constituted as per the Juvenile Justice Act (wcdw.ap.nic.in/documents/outcome20budget/202013/ofinal.pdf)

Irrespective of various Government initiatives for the welfare of children in difficult situations, the magnitude of the problems of street involved children in Hyderabad remains largely unknown as the data is insufficient. The exact number of street involved children is very difficult to quantify. Given the existing poor socio-economic condition in general, coupled with the phenomenal growth of cities and towns under the process of urbanization, the number of street involved children is estimated to be high.

A review of published literature shows that most of the data is available for big metropolitan cities. The problem of street involved children in urban India is complex and therefore calls for suitable and feasible policy action to bring them into the normal system. To bring about a

change in the lives of street involved children, it is important that **facts and figures** are in place. Very few studies have been conducted to understand the situation and problems faced by street involved children and no one knows the exact numbers of children who live in the vicinity of railway stations, bridges, pavements etc. across the states.

The exact number of street involved children is impossible to quantify but the figure certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. Several NGOs working for street involved children have attempted to collect and compile data, yet the data available is inadequate for programme planning. It is expected that the findings of the rapid survey could shed some light on **facts and figures of street involved children in Hyderabad.**

Methodology of the Study

Systematic thinking and consistent rigor were put in to bring about an appropriate methodology that would fulfil the objectives of the study. From the conception of the research problem, the definition of street involved children and research design underwent periodic revisions and reforms before finalizing for better clarity, to minimize errors and to obtain maximum authentic data from the field.

Objectives

- To identify the number of **street involved children in Hyderabad** and their socio demographic and economic characteristics
- To understand the primary needs, concerns as well as the expectations of street involved children
- To provide information to the state governments and other stakeholders for planning and implementing a well-coordinated program to meet street- involved children's needs and respect their basic rights
- To influence budget allocation by state Governments
- To acquire a new face for the National YaR Forum for advocacy in the light of the study and to create a consultative status for the National YaR Forum at the ministerial level.

Definition of Street Involved Children: The absence of a good definition has impacted the perception of street children. Limiting the conceptual understanding of street involved children to certain categories such as deserted children, orphaned children, children on the

street etc distorts the reality of the street involved children's phenomenon. Besides, the local situation needs to be taken into account. For instance in India, the entire family with children live on the streets and such a category should also be included in the definition. Therefore, keeping the best interest of the child in perspective, the study adopted the UNICEF definition which includes **three categories viz. children on the street, children of the street and abandoned children. Children on the street** are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging, rag picking to vending of manufactured commodities. Most go home at the end of the day and contribute part of their earnings for the economic survival of the family unit. They may be attending schools and retain a sense of belonging to a family or household. Because of the economic fragility of their families, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets.



Children of the street actually live on the street. Family ties may exist but are tenuous and maintained only casually or occasionally. Most of these children have no permanent residence and move from place to place and from town to town.



Abandoned children are without a home and have no contact whatsoever with their families. Some of these are children abandoned at a very early age and have little or no knowledge of their families. Therefore, the chances of reintegrating them into their original home environment are dismal. In addition to these categories, **children with families on the streets** are also taken into consideration. The study considers *all three categories of children in the age group of 0-17 years who are spotted on the streets and are in need of care and protection even if they are in the company of their parents*. Considering the inclusive approach of the rapid assessment survey, the reference category of the study will be '**Street Involved Children**'.

The terminology has been adopted from the study '**Still on the Street-Still Short of Rights**' by **Global Child Protection Service**' (GCPS, 2011). The study has used the phrase as an umbrella term that encompasses **street living children, street working children and children from street families**. The study has adopted the following broad definition of street involved children: *children for whom the street is a reference point and has a central role in their lives*. Since the present survey has a similar study approach, the term **street involved children** will be used in the study. The child labour phenomenon in industries or other establishments does not constitute the study as it entails longer duration and extensive coverage that go beyond the purview of rapid assessment.

Study Design

Study Approach: As the purpose of the study was to obtain reliable **facts and figures** of street involved children in **Hyderabad**, a quantitative survey approach was found to be relevant and appropriate. The study also included qualitative information to support statistical findings.

Study areas in Hyderabad: The survey was conducted in **5 Zones in Hyderabad**. Hyderabad has many hot spots where street involved children congregate mainly for economic benefits and food. These hot spots such as the railway stations, bus depots, religious places, dumping grounds, near shopping areas and market places have become synonymous with street children.

Sampling Procedure: Street involved children are an extremely complicated research population. Because of the constantly changing patterns of street involved children,

employing any sampling technique was difficult. Hence the procedure adopted was **census complete (headcount) of street involved children of zones and hot spots such as railway platforms, bridges, flyovers, bus depots, signals, dump yards, religious places, markets- and interviews of street children**. It was pre-decided that **three street involved children (two boys and a girl) of eight years of age and above** would be selected at random from different hot spots.

Schedule of the Study: The survey was conducted during summer (**May, 2013**) and due to severe summer heat in **Hyderabad**, the survey was scheduled from **6 am to 12 pm**, when the street involved children were found on the street, often resorting to shady or cooler locations away from the street in the afternoons.

Data Collection Methods

Both primary as well as secondary sources of information constituted the study.

Primary Sources: This consisted of head **counts of street involved children and interviews** with randomly selected children from various hot spots.

Duration of Interview: Twenty minutes per child. Interviews were voluntary and were conducted only if the child was willing to take part- no element of threat or coercion was used to get the child for the interview. Information obtained was used for the sole purpose of this study.

Secondary Sources: These included interviews with stakeholders such as police, social workers and NGO staff, focus group discussions with NGOs and street children. Field observation notes were an additional source.

Tools: These comprised Census form for headcount of children, an interview schedule, interview guidelines for stakeholders such as the police, social workers and heads of NGOs. The interview schedule followed a structured format with a few open ended questions to gather the relevant data. All resource materials for the study were developed by DBRC, Mumbai and sample documents were supplied to Don Bosco Navajeevan Hyderabad for the study.

Duration of the Study: Being a rapid assessment, the time factor was important and the stipulated time frame for field work was designed for one month (May 2013).

Training

Prior to field work, a two day training was conducted by the resource person from Don Bosco Research Centre, Mumbai for the staff of Don Bosco Navajeevan and volunteers from local colleges and organisations. The field survey team and the volunteers were introduced to the purpose of the study, definition of street children, research design, tools and the procedures for primary data and secondary source of information.

Data Collection Procedure

Field Based Data Collection

After the completion of training, a pilot study was carried out under the supervision of the research staff in order to locate the concentration points of street involved children in Hyderabad. During the pilot survey, mapping of those locations was done and identified as **hot spots**. Based on the field challenges and experiences of the field staff during the pilot study, necessary modifications were brought in the tool and the schedule to obtain reliable and appropriate data.

Data Collection



An instruction manual was supplied to assist the field staff during their survey. The manual illustrated all the important steps and procedures involved in both primary and secondary data collection.



Field Experiences

Street involved children are not very cooperative and responsive. They are unpredictable and may quit an interview abruptly if there is some distraction in the surroundings or because of an impulsive thought. The field staff of the study also encountered similar experiences and had to replace the child during such occasions. Whenever there were police raids to crack down on the street involved children at hot spots, the children would abandon the platforms and nearby areas and remain hidden from view till the police had left the place. Street involved children have cultivated the art of relating to people and the technique of smart talking or giving standard replies to safeguard their identities. Instances of faking responses were also observed as a way of avoiding certain issues regarding street life and the staff, although aware of this, had to accept their responses at face value.



Collection of Information from other sources

Stakeholders such as police personnel and social workers having close associations with street involved children on the field were interviewed during the field survey. A Focus Group

Discussion was held with some of the local NGOs for gaining an understanding of the street child phenomenon in Hyderabad, their experiences, concerns and suggestions. The line of discussion was focused on strengthening of families through social and financial inclusion with the help of local NGOs and corporate sectors. It was felt that this could hold the key for source area prevention and retention of children with their families. A Focus Group Discussion with street involved children was also conducted at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad.

Limitations of the study

It is a widely accepted fact that street involved children are given to systematic lying and to obtain reliable information from them is difficult. Quoting Aptekar, *Presenting information about themselves is part of their survival skills which, like those of other nomadic entertainers, rests on their ability to manipulate their audiences. Besides, manipulating information has a psychological function that allows the children to get back at a society that devalues them. Falsified information also serves to keep society at bay about the details of their lives* (as cited in Patricia, 2006 p.29-30). The field staff had to accept such information at face value. The time limit of the rapid assessment had its impact on the nature of data collection.

SECTION II

A. STATISTICS AND PROFILE OF STREET INVOLVED CHILDREN IN HYDERABAD

This section first presents the headcount of street involved children carried out in **Hyderabad** city. Subsequently the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of street involved children are examined based on personal interviews with 201 randomly selected sample of street children.

Table 1: Sex and Age (in years) Distribution of Street Involved Children in Hyderabad (based on head count)

Zones	Less than 9 Boys	Less than 9 Girls	9-11 Boys	9-11 Girls	12-15 Boys	12-15 Girls	16+ Boys	16+ Girls	*BWD	*GWD	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total
Central	229	95	232	40	203	23	180	44	7	12	851	214	1065
East	23	11	17	12	16	9	11	0	3	2	70	34	104
North	63	26	53	15	85	15	48	4	0	1	249	61	310
South	56	13	49	14	58	12	34	4	5	2	202	45	247
West	20	9	23	5	11	2	1	0	0	0	55	16	71
Total	391	154	374	86	373	61	274	52	15	17	1427	370	1797

* BWD: Boys with Disability

*GWD: Girls with Disability

The table above shows the distribution of street involved children in various Zones in Hyderabad city. It can be seen that there were **1797 street involved children in Hyderabad**, of which majority were **boys: 1427 (79%)**. The number of street involved **girls** was **370** implying a sex ratio of 259 girls per 1000 boys. Street involved children aged **15 years or below** were **80 percent**, while children **aged 8 years or below** constituted 30 percent.

Central Hyderabad had the **highest** number of street involved children (**1065**). Higher concentration of street involved children in the **Central Zone** might be due to (a) higher concentration of migrant population (b) prevalence of a large slum population (c) possibility of a number of industries/ shops and vast number of hot spots. It could also be due to the greater livelihood options in central Hyderabad. Being centrally located, the location provided ample scope for economic activities such as selling or working in small industrial settings or eateries for street involved children or even families. Preference to live in groups

was common among street involved children and this might be the other reasons why more children were found in the **Central Zone**.

The least number of street involved children was found in **West Hyderabad (71)**. This Zone had almost no hot spots for engaging in economic activities and had an absence of industrial estates or hotel industries where children could be working as child labourers. It could be residential areas where children would not be entertained for economic activities.

With regard to **sex distribution** of street involved children, the data distinctly showed boys outnumbering girls across all the zones. Such a finding is consistent with the national level as well as state level scenario, and has been an all time phenomenon as per existing empirical evidence. Girls especially **above age 12 are less (113)** whereas in the younger age group of **12 years or below** it is **(240)**. The reasons for **higher presence** of younger girls could be (a) the families of these girls might be living on the streets (b) the girls might be with their parents on the streets for economic purposes (c) possibility of girl children being made use of for begging (c) could not leave them at home fearing their safety.

Among boys, those **above 12 years** and up to **17 years** were lower in number **(647)** whereas in the younger age groups, those who were **12 years and below** were **765** in number. Possible explanations could be that (a) boys might be staying out of school or dropped out for various reasons or were attending some informal school education which would not be structured like the formal education system (b) might be alone or along with families to make a living out of some economic activities (c) might be orphaned or abandoned from childhood or run away from home. **Less number of older boys** might be because they were involved in some **labour work in industries** or working as coolies at railway stations or in any other job. Among the street involved children, there were **32 of them with disability** who were under 18 years of age.

As per the police, there were children found on the streets of Hyderabad on a regular basis who came from other places or from Andhra Pradesh itself, according to the NGOs working with street involved children, the flow of children to the city street has reduced and this was because of the awareness promotion, counselling and timely intervention by rescue team when the children landed in the city streets. However, the NGOs do have their limitations since many children tended to escape from their reach and would prefer to be attached to the street rather than moving into shelter homes.

B. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET INVOLVED CHILDREN IN HYDERABAD

This section analyses the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of **201** randomly selected street involved children of the survey in Hyderabad.

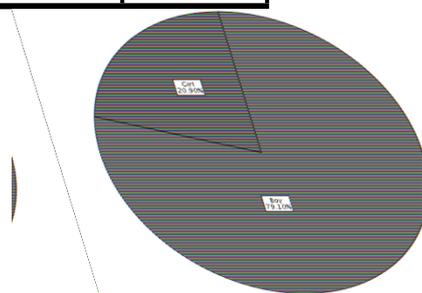
Demographic Characteristics

1) Sex Distribution

It has been shown in different surveys on street involved children that more boys come to the streets as compared to girls. Table 2 brings out the sex distribution of street involved children in **Hyderabad**.

Table 2. Sex distribution

Sex	Number	Percent
Boy	159	79.1
Girl	42	20.9
Total	201	100.0



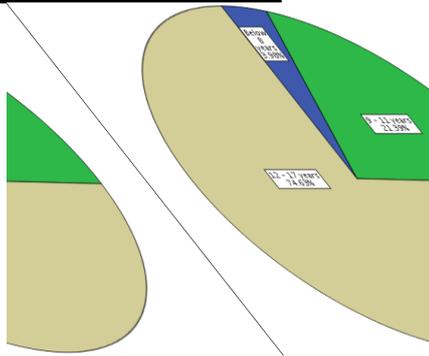
Out of the 201 children contacted in the streets of Hyderabad city, **79 per cent** were **boys** and the remaining **30 per cent** were girls, suggesting a **sex ratio of 264** street girls per 1000 boys in Hyderabad. The observed distribution of street boys and girls was comparable with that found in Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata the major metros of the study where boys outnumbered girls on a large scale. City life held a special attraction for both boys and girls, because of the city's charm, fast life, excitement, entertainment, and the opportunities it provided for them to earn a livelihood. Girls being home bound could be one of the reasons for boys outnumbering girls on the street.

2) Age Distribution

As per existing empirical evidence, children found on the streets across different cities were mostly concentrated towards the **12-15 years age group**. Whether similar trends prevailed in Hyderabad is indicated in table 3.

Table 3. Age distribution

Age (in years)	Number	Per cent
Less than 9	8	4.0
9 – 11	43	21.4
12 +	150	74.6
Total	201	100.0



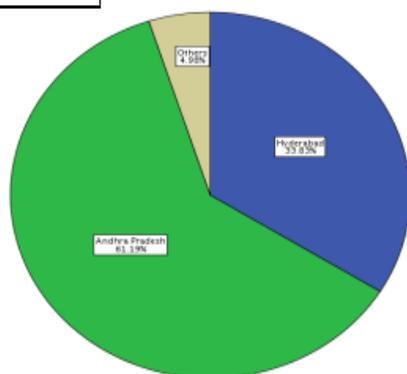
The age distribution of street involved children in **Hyderabad** indicated that **75 per cent** were in the **12-17** years age category. The lower age groups were mostly engaged in begging or vending along with older siblings or parents as they were too young to take up independent work. The reason for children in the higher age group being on the street could be due to their greater chance of running away from families for whatever reason or due the impulsive, risk taking behaviour of adolescents.

3) Place of Origin

It is necessary to have information on the place of origin of street involved children both to understand the main language spoken by them and also to design interventions to repatriate and reintegrate them with their families. Information on the place of origin of the street involved children in **Hyderabad** is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Place of Origin

	Frequency	Percent
Hyderabad	68	33.8
Andhra Pradesh	123	61.2
Others	10	5.0
Total	201	100.0



More than **60%** of the respondents of the survey were from **Andhra Pradesh** while 34% were from **Hyderabad** itself. The high proportion of children from other parts of Andhra Pradesh indicates that there is a **strong inter- district migratory** trend to Hyderabad to earn livelihood. The street children phenomenon in Hyderabad appeared to tilt towards the southern region more than other geographical locations. Another explanation could be that families along with children might have moved from interior Andhra Pradesh to Hyderabad

for construction or for any other unskilled labour work. The possibility of some agencies exporting families to the city of Hyderabad for cheap labour could be another contributing factor.

4) Place of Living

As noted in other studies, place of living among street involved children vary. They live on the streets, in slum areas either with their parents or with friends, in institutions, railway stations, or under the bridges. The place where they stay may give some indication about their status and also can indicate the extent of their vulnerability. Table 5 provides information on the place of living of street involved children of **Hyderabad**.

Table 5: Place of living

Place of living	Number	Percent
Street	62	30.8
Railway platform	39	19.4
Under the bridge	28	13.9
Slum	50	24.9
Any other	22	10.9
Total	201	100.0

Almost **31%** of the children interviewed stayed on the streets of Hyderabad which was closely followed by one-fourth (25%) staying in the slums of the city. Children who were living on the streets were in all possibility the children of migrant or street families who had no other place to stay except the street. Orphans, abandoned or children who had moved to

the city alone could also constitute children living on the street. As per the findings, a higher percentage of street involved children in Hyderabad could be categorised as **children of the street**. Children living in the slums could mean that they were staying with their migrant parents or with relatives in the slums and spent most of their time on the street. Children resorting to places like railway platforms, under the bridges or even staying at work places also constituted some percentage.

5) Staying Arrangements

While place of living is an indication of the extent of difficulties faced by the children, information as to whom they are living with would provide better insights i.e., whether the street involved children in **Hyderabad** lived with parents, relatives or with anybody else. For this, the relevant data is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Staying arrangements

Staying with	Frequency	Percent
Parents	38	18.9
With mother	39	19.4
With father	21	10.4
Relatives	11	5.5
Friends	21	10.4
Alone	71	35.3
Total	201	100.0

Almost **half the children (49%)** stayed either in the company of **both parents or with one** of them and predominantly with the mothers indicating that many children were not orphans or abandoned in the city. A high percentage of children **staying alone (35%)** clearly indicated the vulnerability of those children in the city of Hyderabad. Most likely those children had come to the city on their own or were children having no parents or relatives to take care of them. Hyderabad had plenty of employment opportunities in manufacturing units such as *zari* making, block printing, dyeing etc.

Children who might have been working as child labourers in factories, shops or other informal sectors could be staying alone with their employers or as groups. Those who stayed with relatives might be not have had their parents in the city but were in their native place while those who lived with peers might be the ones who were alone in city in the beginning but had made acquaintances over a period of time or were in the city due to peer influence and hence were staying together.

6) Duration of Stay in the City

Duration of being in the city of Hyderabad could be for a short span, medium or for a long spell. The number of years spent in a place by children could indicate the extent of their vulnerability as well as the extent of adaptations they were capable of making. Also this could give an indication about the possibility of their rejoining their families. The findings of the study would reveal the duration of the respondents being in the city.

Table 7. Duration of Stay in City

Duration of stay (in years)	Number	Percent
Less than 1	44	21.9
1 – 5	85	42.3
6 – 10	38	18.9
More than 10	15	7.5
Other	19	9.5
Total	201	100.0

Majority of the children in the study (42%) had **spent 5 years** in the city and the second highest category comprised those who had stayed for less than a year. Only a small proportion had been living in the city for more than 10 years.

These results indicated **recent migration trends** of street involved children in Hyderabad and those children could have come with their migrant families or they may have landed in the city by running away from home either alone or with friends. Another possibility was

that they could have been influenced by friends who had been staying in Hyderabad for some time. Those children who had been in the city for a longer period meant that their families were settled in the city or the children were orphaned or abandoned when they were still too small. Others included those who did not respond or were not aware of the duration of their stay.

II. Social Characteristics

7) Time Spent on the Street

Street involved children spend a lot of time on the street, although the extent of time spent varied widely as earlier surveys have shown. The table given below brings out the time spent by these children on the streets on a daily basis.

Table 8. Time spent on the street

Time spent on the street	Number	Percent
1-3 hrs during the day	23	11.4
4-6 hrs during the day	39	19.4
7 hrs or more during day	39	19.4
Whole day	57	28.4
Whole day and night	43	21.4
Total	201	100.0

In the present study, it was found that more than **one-fourth (28%)** of the children were spending the **whole day** in the street closely followed by children who remained on the street during **day and night (21%)**. About 19% were reportedly spending their time on the street for 4-6 hours or more during the day.

The findings could indicate that some of them were on the streets for economic activities for making money by themselves or with families or friends, could be spending time after school, could be hanging around with friends, might have dropped out of school and were wandering around. It could also mean that some of them were indulging in gambling, drug use, drinking etc. with friends.

Some of the children who spent their nights on the street had nowhere else to go, might be orphans, abandoned, run away from home, thrown out by relatives or had completely severed their ties with their families and were on their own in the city of Hyderabad.

8) Reasons for being a Street Child

Every child on the street will have his or her reason for being on the street. It might be poverty, dysfunctional families, academic problems, orphan hood, being abandoned or any other personal reason. During the survey, children were asked about the reasons for their involvement with the streets of Hyderabad and the reasons are presented in table 9.

Reasons	Responses	
	N	Percent
Poverty	96	45.1

Family issues	27	12.7
Orphaned / Abandon	38	17.8
To support the family	15	7.0
Family itself on street	17	8.0
Any other	20	9.4
Total	213	100.0

Table 9: Reason for being on the street (multiple response)

For majority of the children who participated in the study, poverty was cited as the reason for being on the street, a common 'push' factor among street involved children. Orphan-hood or abandonment was the second highest (18%) reason for children to be attached to the streets of Hyderabad. Being orphaned or being thrown to the street by families, step parents or even relatives could be one of the reasons for the larger presence of children who were 'alone' on the streets of Hyderabad.

Unlike other major metros like Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore, children taking to the street spaces for economic support to the families were not found to be high, an indication that families pushing children to the street for economic support was not common in Hyderabad. Family issues included abuse, conflict, neglect etc. Others included missing children, victims of some disaster etc.

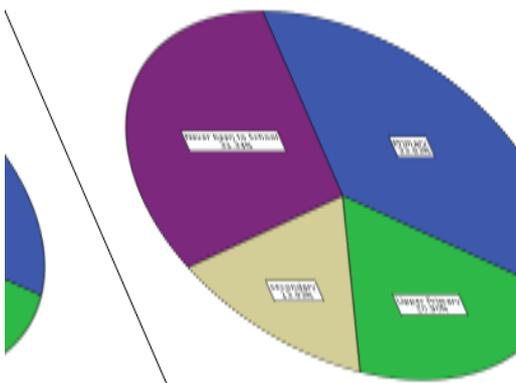
Strengthening the families for economic stability and sustainability is very important to provide a conducive and nurturing atmosphere at home and thereby check the tendency of children to leave home.

9) Educational Status

Education was a major concern in the interventions aimed at improving the situation of street involved children. On the other hand, dropping out from school often becomes a factor for a child becoming a street based one. In Table 10 the distribution of children according to their educational status is presented.

Education	Number	Percent
Primary	68	33.8
Upper Primary	42	20.9
Secondary	28	13.9
Never been to School	63	31.3
Total	201	100.0

Table 10 Educational Attainment



In the present sample size, **34%** of the respondents reportedly said that they had **primary education** and close to **one-fifth (21%)** were in the **upper primary** level. A lower percentage had made it to the secondary level. A significant share of the street involved children (**31%**) **had never been** to school indicating that lack of education could be a factor for children attaching themselves to the streets. Children who had never been to school could

have been victims of poverty and disaster, dysfunctional families, were abandoned or orphaned. The reasons many of the children who gained entry to school later dropped out after the primary level could be migration, child's inability to cope with academic demands, financial constraints and the parent's conviction that primary education would equip their children with sufficient literacy skills to get by and that there was no need to study further.

III. Economic Characteristics

10) Economic Activity

Street children engage in many economic activities for their own survival and for the economic support of their families. Sometimes they do so along with families, with the knowledge of families, along with friends or by themselves. An understanding of the livelihood of street involved children is essential for designing interventions aimed at rehabilitating them. Table 11 presents information on the nature of income generating activity among the street involved children of Hyderabad.

Table: 11 Income generating activity (multiple response)

Economic Activity	Frequency	Percent
Beg	92	36.5
Sell things	19	7.5
Rag picking	65	25.8
Laborer in shop	41	16.3
Any other work	35	13.9
Total	252	100

A high proportion of street involved children in Hyderabad were engaged in **begging (37%)** and another 26 percent in **rag picking**. Begging is an activity which can be carried out by small children, and parents themselves frequently push their children into begging, a survival strategy. Rag picking is the most easily available activity for all age groups and all seasons, required no particular skill and could ensure some earning on a daily basis. Child labour was found to be prevalent (16%), a major deterrent for education of children. Other work included carrying loads, shoe shining, garage work etc.

11) Income

As many of the children of the study were engaged in more than one job for their living, their earnings could depend on the type of jobs they were doing and decide the pattern of earning.

Table 12: Earnings per Day

Earnings per day (Rs)	Number	Percent
Less than 50	45	22.4
50 – 100	68	33.8
101 – 200	34	16.9
Above 200	41	20.4
Not earning /no response	13	6.5
Total	201	100.0

A considerable proportion of children (**56%**) were earning **less than Rs 100** in a day while one- fifth (21%) reported an earning of more than Rs 200. Considering the living cost in a city, a high proportion of these children did not have enough money to spend on food. Most often, a significant proportion of the money earned did not remain with the children; their employer or some middleman claimed a high share. Those children who had earnings of more than Rs 200 per day and above were probably the ones engaged in labour work in shops or other industrial units indicating the largely menial nature of the jobs they undertook and the meagre pattern of earnings that necessitated multiple jobs. Those who earned more than Rs.100 were rag pickers. A small proportion of children (6.5%) were either not earning or did not report the amount of money they earned.

12) Spending Behaviour

In order to gauge the spending patterns of street involved children, they were asked about the items on which money was spent and the multiple responses obtained are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Spending Behaviour (multiple responses)

Spending behaviour		
	Number	Percent
Contribute to family	68	21.9
Spend for food	120	38.6
Clothes	43	13.8
Movies	38	12.2
Any other	42	13.5
Total	311	100

Majority (38%) of street involved children reported spending their earnings on food. More than one-fifth (22%) informed that they contributed to the family income. Others mentioned spending on drugs, movies, clothes etc. Since a higher percentage of respondents spent on food, it could mean that a number of street involved children in Hyderabad had to purchase their own food rather than depending on their families to provide for them. It was observed that a considerable number of children were found alone in the city and there was a strong likelihood of such children spending more for their meals.

Many of the earning children contributed to their family income, indicating that they were either staying with their family within the city or had maintained a close relationship with their families in their native place.

Savings behaviour is an alien culture for street involved children irrespective of the city they belonged to as they tended to live one day at a time and did not give much thought to their future and financial security. Another barrier was the lack of assured safety of the money they earned and the possibility of it being stolen, which made it imperative for them to spend all that they earned, often on the same day.

Taking into consideration the circumstances in which street involved children lived, spending the money straight away prevented problems with others (police, friends, other street boys) who were likely to take their money. Spending money is a functional and healthy reaction, but when money is spent instantly, it may be regarded more as a coping strategy. Often even the usual hiding places like collar, sleeve or trouser leg were not safe as boys from outside the group would use a pin to try to find out whether there was any money hidden even as the street child slept, and if so, steal it. With no provision for keeping their money safe and with drugs, drinks and cigarettes/ *beedis* easily available, children did not have to think twice before indulging in these vices. Probably because of these reasons, a considerable proportion of **street involved children in Hyderabad (85%) did not save money.**

13) Concerns of Street Involved Children

For street involved children, the challenges of street life are many and difficult. But when there is no one to guide or guard them, these children are left to fend for themselves. There are a host of problems faced by street involved children and over a period of time, it is nothing but their survival strategy and coping skills that give them the enduring spirit to move on with life. The concerns expressed by street involved children are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Concerns of street involved children (multiple responses)

Concerns		
	Number	Percent
Lack of food	140	43.5
Lack of shelter	104	32.3
Health Issues	53	16.5
Any other	25	7.8

Total	322	100
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The most important concern of street involved children in Hyderabad was lack of **food (44%)** followed by lack of proper **shelter (32%)**. It was evident that street involved children suffered from the absence of the basic needs of food and shelter, that is, deprivation of basic rights. **This should be of prime concern to those who wish to improve their situation.** There was also some concern expressed about their **health, especially general weakness and skin diseases**. Lack of **education, lack of clothing and harassment by public and police** were identified as the other concerns of street involved children.

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with children involved with street life brought out the problems they faced every day on the streets. *All of them blamed poverty for their plight. They were of the view that if they had money, they would not have had problems in their life. It was painful for them to **have to work for food**. Most of the street involved children had been in and out of several shelter homes. They liked the facilities at the shelter homes but did not want to follow their routine and wanted to be free. They wanted to get educated from private schools which they felt could make them successful in life.*

14) Expectations from the Government

Street involved children were asked about their expectations from the Government and the responses are presented in Table 15.

Table 15: Expectation from the Government (multiple)

Expectations	Responses	
	N	Percent
Food	137	39.0
Shelter	100	28.5
Education	67	19.1
Health	31	8.8
Others	16	4.6

Total	351	100

Provision of **food (39%) and shelter (29%)** were the most widely expected services from the Government. Food and shelter are the most essential needs of any individual. A roof over their heads and four walls surrounding them guaranteed a sense of protection from antisocial elements. Food was also a major expectation since street involved children spent a large proportion of their earnings on food. The families of such children were not in a position to make their own food either due to poverty or because they did not have a proper place to cook. Educational facilities and health services were other expectations from the Government of Hyderabad.

*During an FGD with the children of Don Bosco Navajeevan, many of them wanted the government to provide job placement since **older children (16+)** years were undergoing skill training on campus (carpentry, tailoring etc.) and once they completed their training period, they wanted to get into regular employment to build their career. Another expectation was securing identity proof to ensure their entitlements as citizens of this country.*

This discussion in the light of the analysis of socio-demographic and economic factors as well as the concerns and expectations of street involved children has enabled us to gather some facts and figures about street involved children in Hyderabad. The following section tries to delineate the co-relation between some of the variables and the inferences that could be derived from such an association.

SECTION III

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC FACTORS OF STREET INVOLVED CHILDREN IN HYDERABAD

This section tries to analyse the association between the socio demographic and economic factors of **201 street involved children in Hyderabad**, which would enable derivation of certain inferences about them.

1) Sex and Age

The following table tries to draw out the relationship between **sex and age** factors of the children.

Table 16. Sex and Age

Sex	Age (in years)			Total
	Below 8	9 - 11	12 +	
Boy	5 (3.1)	29 (18.2)	125 (78.6)	159 (100)
Girl	3 (7.1)	14 (33.3)	25 (59.5)	42 (100)
Total	8 (4.0)	43 (21.4)	150 (74.6)	201 (100)

Figures in parenthesis is row percentage

Three fourths (75%) of the children of the survey were in the **age category of 12-18** years, an indication that the majority of street involved children of Hyderabad were **young adults**, with **boys accounting for 79%** and girls constituting about **60% of that age category**.

This age group constituted the adolescent category showing impulsive behaviour often causing them to take to the streets. This was also the age at which the possibility of obtaining some kind of employment was high. Male children were more visible on the streets as they were more independent and risk taking compared to girls. **Boys of 12 +** were likely to be working as child labourers or construction workers in the city along with their migrant

families. Girls of this age were likely to be selling vegetables or fancy items on the street or were also part of the labour force for construction work.

The higher presence of adolescent girls suggested the prevalence of commercial sex work and some of the girls might have been trafficked from interior Andhra Pradesh and brought to the city. Higher presence of adolescent boys and girls on the streets of Hyderabad also indicated **high rate of non schooling and dropouts of children in the 12+ age group**. This phenomenon called for reviewing implementation of the RTE in the state.

Least presence of street involved children was **observed among those below 8 years**. It could be that younger children were attending school or were looked after by families or elders so that they did not venture out on to the street.

2) Sex and Place of Origin

The tendency to take to the streets of Hyderabad may have implications on sex and source of origin and the cross analysis of these two variables could bring out a clear picture.

Table: 17. Sex and Place of origin

Sex	Native Place			Total
	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	Others	
Boy	57 (35.8)	93 (58.5)	9 (5.7)	159 (100)
Girl	11 (26.2)	30 (71.4)	1 (2.4)	42 (100)
Total	68 (33.8)	123 (61.2)	10 (5.0)	201 (100)

Among the considerable percentage of children (**61%**) who were from **Andhra Pradesh**, close to **three fourths (71%)** were **girls** compared to boys (59%) suggesting that majority of children found on the streets of Hyderabad were from **within the state** and it was **largely girl children**. The findings showed increasing trends among girls from **interior Andhra Pradesh to migrate to the city alone or in groups** for various work or else they belonged to migrant families who were in the city for contract or seasonal work. Some of them might have even been trafficked for sex work and were destined to live their lives on the streets.

Children from within the city of Hyderabad were 34 per cent, with a marginal increase in boys. Children from other states were insignificant in number suggesting that Hyderabad was

not an attractive city for children who wanted to move from their source of origin seeking a better life particularly from the South.

3) Sex and Duration of Stay in City

The period of being on the streets of Hyderabad may be different for boys and girls. The cross analysis of variables such as sex and duration of stay revealed certain insights.

Table 18. Sex and duration of stay in Hyderabad

Sex	Duration of Living (in years)					Total
	Less than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10	More than 10	Any other	
Boy	38 (23.9)	63 (39.6)	28 (17.6)	14 (8.8)	16 (10.1)	159 (100)
Girl	6 (14.3)	22 (52.4)	10 (23.8)	1 (2.4)	3 (7.1)	42 (100)
Total	44 (21.9)	85 (42.3)	38 (18.9)	15 (7.5)	19 (9.5)	201 (100)

Among the 201 children interviewed, majority had been in the city for a period of **1-5 years (42%)**. It constituted the highest percentage **for both boys and girls**, indicating that these children must have come either alone or with their families as migrants to the city in search of employment or for livelihood. As compared to boys, **girls** were found to have a **longer period** of stay in Hyderabad (**1-10 years**). There was a likelihood that a number of girls were part of the migrant families who stayed in the city for livelihood, were part of labour force in contractual or seasonal works or were abandoned. Boys who stayed for more than 10 years

were likely to have run away from interior Andhra Pradesh in search of jobs or had dropped out of school and moved to the city for survival, by themselves or with families.

4) Sex and Staying Arrangement

In order to find about the staying arrangements, i.e whether the children were staying with parents or relatives or any other type of living, cross analysis of sex and type of living was carried out and the findings are presented in the table below.

Table 19. Sex and staying arrangements

Sex	Staying With						Total
	Parents	With mother	With father	Relatives	Friends	Alone	
Boy	23 (14.5)	29 (18.2)	14 (8.8)	10 (6.3)	17 (10.7)	66 (41.5)	159 (100)
Girl	15 (35.7)	10 (23.8)	7 (16.7)	1 (2.4)	4 (9.5)	5 (11.9)	42 (100)
Total	38 (18.9)	39 (19.4)	21 (10.4)	11 (5.5)	21 (10.4)	71 (35.3)	201 (100)

From the findings regarding the staying arrangements of children, about 30% were staying with one **parent and 19% with both parents**. **Sex wise distribution showed that** it was largely **the girls** who stayed in the company of both or single parents **(60%)**. This could be attributed to the fact that there were more boys in the city of Hyderabad who were away from their parents either because they had run away from their homes and moved to the city or were orphaned. The highest number **of boys (42%)** staying **'alone'** compared to girls (12%) itself is an indication regarding their single status.

Girls residing with parents might be a part of migrant families taking the girl children along with them or street families keeping the girls under their protection as a safety measure. More number of girls staying with only mothers was an indication of women-headed households or cases of marital separation, divorce or widowhood, whereby children particularly girls tended to stay back with their mothers.

There was a tendency among both boys and girls to stay with friends suggesting the possibility of many of the children working at the same place or staying together. Most boys, after an initial period of being alone on the streets, tended to form groups for reasons of safety and security, to share drugs, reduce their chances of abuse and exploitation, etc.

(5) Sex and Place of Staying

Street children although found on the streets, may not all be living on the streets. It was possible that some of the boys and girls of the study had different places of staying. The sex wise distribution of place of stay is shown in Table 20.

Table. 20. Sex and place of staying

Sex	Place of staying					Total
	Street	Railway platform	Under the bridge	Slum	Any other	
Boy	52 (32.7)	30 (18.9)	24 (15.1)	32 (20.1)	21 (13.2)	159 (100)
Girl	10 (23.8)	9 (21.4)	4 (9.5)	18 (42.9)	1 (2.4)	42 (100)
Total	62 (30.8)	39 (19.4)	28 (13.9)	50 (24.9)	22 (10.9)	201 100

The data indicates that more than **one – fourth (31%)** of the children found on the streets of Hyderabad were residing on the pavements or on the **street** and it was **predominantly the boys (33%)** compared to girls.

One possible explanation was that the children on the streets of Hyderabad were those who did not have a place to stay, could have run away from their homes in other states, belonged to migrant families who lodged themselves on the pavements or were abandoned or orphaned children. It might be that the boys did not have a proper place to stay and had taken to the streets. This trend again indicated the greater tendency of boys, lacking any other place of stay, to move away from homes to live independently and land up on the streets of Hyderabad either alone or under peer influence.

The **second most common place** of staying was the **slum (25%)**, with a higher percentage of **girls residing there (43%)**, which could mean that girls had a more secure place to live. Those who took shelter on railway platforms and under bridges were likely to be those children who had recently arrived in the city and belonged to street families, or were orphaned or abandoned.

(6) Sex and Education

Educational status of street involved children has always been a major concern since a vast majority of them tended to remain out of school or drop out of school. Moreover, due to cultural gender discrimination, girl children's education was given less importance compared

to that of boys. The cross analysis table presented here provides an understanding about the educational status of street boys and girls in Hyderabad.

Table 21. Sex and Education

Sex	Education				Total
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Never been to School	
Boy	49 (30.8)	33 (20.8)	26 (16.4)	51 (32.1)	159 (100)
Girl	19 (45.2)	9 (21.4)	2 (4.8)	12 (28.6)	42 (100)
Total	68 (33.8)	42 (20.9)	28 (13.9)	63 (31.3)	201 (100)

Among those children who were in school, majority were **primary educated (34%)** and **girls (45%) outnumbered** the boys. This may be because there existed a higher tendency among boys to remain out of school or drop out of education either because they did not like the school curriculum or due to peer influence, and move to independent income generation at an early age.

Girls' higher representation at the primary level might have had something to do with the provision of free education for girls and mid day meal schemes available in Hyderabad. So the parents were likely to send the girls only to obtain basic literacy by availing themselves of these facilities. However, there was a gradual decline in education as the girls moved from primary to Upper primary and Secondary level (5%) which was found to be more pronounced than boys' educational attainments after primary. This might be due to cultural gender discrimination and restricted freedom of movement for girls after attaining puberty, issues of safety and security etc. A similar **proportion of boys and girls had reportedly never been**

to school which could be attributed to the poor economic condition of the families, migration or lack of effective implementation of RTE in the state.

(7) Age and Education

There seems to be a trend among street children to drop out of or remain out of school as they grow older. The prevailing trends among street involved children in Hyderabad are given in Table 22.

Table 22. Age and Education

Age (in years)	Education				Total
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Never been to School	
Below 8	7 (87.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (12.5)	8 100
9 - 11	20 (46.5)	12 (27.9)	1 (2.3)	10 (23.3)	43 100
12 +	41 (27.3)	30 (20.0)	27 (18.0)	52 (34.7)	150 100.0
Total	68 (33.8)	42 (20.9)	28 (13.9)	63 (31.3)	201 100

It was observed that about **(34%)** of street involved children across all age groups had some educational background at the primary level. Age wise distribution showed that there was a significant percentage of children of **8 years (88%)** in primary education, a positive sign of high school enrolment rate among street involved children in Hyderabad. In the age category of **9-11 years**, there was a noticeable drop in education attainment from primary to **Upper primary (28%)** and a drastic fall in education at the **secondary level (2%)**. The reasons for this may be poverty, financial difficulties, lack of academic interest or capability, lack of parental interest or demand for earning for survival. Natural disasters such as floods and drought and displacement of families could also be responsible for dropouts among many of the street involved children surveyed, as they had to migrate to the city from interior Andhra Pradesh where they were schooling.

Children **who never made it to schools** constituted 31%. Children who were orphans, abandoned, victims of disaster or children of street families constituted this category of children.

The decline in educational attainment post-primary and the high dropout rates indicated the magnitude of the problem and the increasing likelihood of these children remaining trapped in the cycle of low education, menial or no employment and poverty.

8) Age and Economic Activities

Street involved children engaged in various types of economic activities for their own survival and to provide economic support to their families. The age wise distribution of street involved children of Hyderabad according to their economic activities is given in the table.

Table 23. Age and economic activities

Age (in years)	Economic Activities					Total
	Beg	Sell things	Rag picking	Laborer in shop	Any other work	
Below 8	6 (75.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (25.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.9)
9 - 11	30 (69.8)	0 (0.0)	8 (18.6)	1 (2.3)	4 (9.3)	43 (21.3)
12 +	56 (37.3)	19 (12.7)	55 (36.7)	40 (26.7)	31 (20.7)	150 (74.6)
Total	92 (47.7)	19 (9.4)	65 (32.3)	41 (20.4)	35 (17.4)	201 (100)

Almost **half the children (48%)** across all age groups were involved in **begging** and a majority of them were children **below 8 years (75%)**. Begging was a daily means of earning for street families and could be carried out by small children alone or in families. The activity did not call for any labour at all and was lucrative. Rag picking was the next major economic activity among children of **12-18 years** or children **below 8 years**. Rag picking offered monetary benefits, was accessible, was something that the whole family could engage in and was not confined to specific seasons/ times of the year. Hence as an economic activity, it held a lot of potential. There were children **12+ years (28%)** who were working as labourers in shops. These were probably children who had abandoned their studies and moved to the more

formal sector for earning on a regular basis. However child labour is exploitative and a legal offence and often hazardous to children.

(9) Age and Earnings

Street involved children in Hyderabad were seen to be involved in different economic activities for their livelihood. Sometimes children engaged in multiple economic activities and earned accordingly. The cross analysis of age and earnings of the street involved children in the study is presented here.

Table 24. Age and income

Age (in years)	Earnings (in Rs)					Total
	Less than 50	50 - 100	101 - 200	More than 200	Not earning / No response	
Below 8	3 (37.5)	5 (62.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (100)
9 - 11	20 (46.5)	12 (27.9)	5 (11.6)	2 (4.7)	4 (9.3)	43 (100)
12 +	22 (14.7)	51 (34.0)	29 (19.3)	39 (26.0)	9 (6.0)	150 (100).
Total	45 (22.4)	68 (33.8)	34 (16.9)	41 (20.4)	13 (6.5)	201 (100)

About 34% of children interviewed were reportedly earning around **Rs. 50-100** on a daily basis and it was maximum among children **below 8 years of age (63%)**. This would mean that begging and rag picking provided some amount of money and if the whole family engaged in these activities, they would be able to survive without going hungry. Majority (47%) of children between 9-11 years were getting less than Rs 50 daily. It was likely that they were school going children who were doing some economic activities after school for the survival of their families.

10) Source of Origin and Place of Stay

In order to find out migratory trends, a cross analysis was carried out between residential status of street involved children in Hyderabad and their source of origin.

Table 25. Source of origin and place of stay

Source of Origin	Place living					Total
	Street	Railway platform	Under the bridge	Slum	Any other	
Hyderabad	26 (38.2)	8 (11.8)	7 (10.3)	25 (36.8)	2 (2.9)	68 (100)
Andhra Pradesh	33 (26.8)	27 (22.0)	20 (16.3)	24 (19.5)	19 (15.4)	123 (100)
Others	3 (30.0)	4 (40.0)	1 (10.0)	1 (10.0)	1 (10.0)	10 (100)
Total	62 (30.8)	39 (19.4)	28 (13.9)	50 (24.90)	22 (10.9)	201 (100)

Among the total respondents, **31%** lived on the **streets** and one –fourth in slums. Among those who stayed on the **streets**, the **highest** percentage comprised those children from **within Hyderabad** city (**38%**) closely followed by children from places such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka or other Northern states. These were probably children who were orphaned or abandoned or from street families who belonged to Hyderabad itself and who had no other place but the street for their survival.

Among those who stayed in **slums**, again it was children from Hyderabad (37%) showing maximum percentage suggesting that these children had a secure place to stay and were probably settled in the slums for a long time along with families. Among those who were living on railway platforms, 40% were from other places, probably runaways or those who had recently landed in the city by train and were staying in and around railway stations.

SECTION IV

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In recent years, there has been an acknowledgement that research-based knowledge about street involved children has not translated well into policies relevant for them. The deficiency of reliable data on street involved children across the states in India has severely impeded services towards children needing care and protection. Much of the material available on interventions and models of care for street involved children is fragmented.

In order for the Government and stakeholders to provide better caring facilities and protection to vulnerable children on the street, it is essential that reliable facts and figures of such children are in place. It was in this context that the Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR) decided to take up a research study at the national level in an effort to bridge the existing gap in information regarding street involved children in India. The Don Bosco Research Centre Mumbai (DBRC) acted as the collaborator in this venture to implement the study at different YaR centres, to document and publish the study report. The Rapid Assessment Study of street involved children in **Hyderabad** was carried out by **Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad** and the implementing team, comprising staff of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad and some volunteers from local institutions.

The research was aimed at providing a well documented and evidence based report to the **Government of Hyderabad** and other stakeholders that could catalyse adequate budget allocations for services for street children, for advocacy, planning and formulation of policies and programmes for them. The research also sought to secure a decisive voice for the National YaR Forum in the Government's Planning Committee for child rights issues.

The street involved children for the study included **children on the street, children of the street, abandoned children, children of migrant and street families**. As part of the exercise, necessary resource materials such as the instruction manual for the study, tools viz. census forms, the interview schedule, interview guideline and other formats for secondary sources of information were prepared by DBRC. Training to the project implementing team was provided by the research staff of DBRC prior to the study. Pre testing of the tool was done and necessary changes relating to the logistics, methodology and field operations were carried out keeping the objectives of the study in mind.

Primary data having a bearing on issues related to street involved children and allied issues were collected through a field survey and supporting information was obtained from the stakeholders such as police and social workers. The study took into consideration the points of view of NGOs who were working with street involved children, giving special emphasis on strengthening the families of these children at the source point through social and financial inclusion. Focus Group Discussions with selected street involved children to draw out their views, concerns and expectations from service providers was yet another source of information to strengthen the efficacy of the study. A review of research was conducted to get an understanding of the existing empirical inputs regarding the children of streets. Statistical analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was performed and the findings based on the quantitative output along with the qualitative information gathered through secondary sources were documented to bring out the final report of the study.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- There were **1797 street involved children** (based on head count) in Hyderabad city. **Of this, there were 1427 boys and 370 girls**
- **Hyderabad Central** had the **highest** number of street involved children (**1065**)
- **Least** number of street involved children were found in **Western Hyderabad (71)**
- **Boys below 12 years (765)** were more than **girls below 12 years (240)**
- Out of the **201** street involved children contacted in the streets of the city, **79%** were **boys** and **21%** were girls
- Street involved children in the age group **12-17 years** comprised **75%** and one fourth of street involved children were less than 12 years
- More than **60%** of the respondents of the survey were from **Andhra Pradesh and 34%** from **Hyderabad**. The high proportion of children from other parts of Andhra Pradesh indicated that there was a **strong inter-district migratory** trend in **Hyderabad**.
- More than **30%** of street involved children **stayed** on the **streets of Hyderabad** and close to **one-fourth** of street involved children stay in **slum** areas of the city.
- **Almost half** the children (**49%**) **stayed either in the company of** both parents or with **one of them and predominantly with the mothers**
- A considerable percentage of children were **staying alone (35%)** indicating their **high risk and vulnerability** in the city

- More than **40 %** children were in the city for a **period of 5 years**, indicative of recent migration trends
- A very high proportion of street involved children in Hyderabad have engaged in **begging (46%)**
- Almost one- third (**28%**) were **spending the whole day** in the street, suggesting the **greater prevalence of out of school children or dropouts** among street involved children in Hyderabad
- **One fifth (21%)** were **spending both day and night** on the streets of Hyderabad, an indication of escalating street families or recent migrants, orphaned or abandoned children most vulnerable to the inherent dangers of the street
- **Poverty** was cited to be the **main reason (45%)** for children seeking street life. Unlike in many other cities, street involvement to **support their family** through economic activities was **not a strong push factor** among children on the streets of Hyderabad.
- Almost an equal percentage of children contacted (**33%**) were only **primary** educated and also those who **had never been to school, suggesting the need for effective implementation of RTE in the state.**
- The main economic activity was **begging (37%)** followed by **rag picking (26%)**
- A considerable proportion of children (**56%**) were **earning less than Rs 100** in a day
- Major expense was for **food (39%)**.
- About 85% of children **did not practice any savings**
- Lack of food was the main **concern (44%)** followed by lack of **shelter (32%)**
- Provision of **food** and **shelter** were the primary expectations of street involved children from the Government of Hyderabad.
- Cross examination of socio demographic factors of street involved children in Hyderabad showed that boys of **12+ years** were **79%** and **girls in that age bracket** were **60 per cent**
- **71 per cent** of **girls** were from **Andhra Pradesh** compared to **59 per cent** of **boys** signifying **higher migratory movements of girls**, probably in search of jobs or migrant girls with families in the city or girls trafficked for sex or domestic work.
- Girls were found to be spending longer duration (**1-5 years**) in the city as compared to boys

- **60 per cent of girls** stayed with both parents or with mothers compared to **33 per cent of boys** in similar staying arrangements
- **Girls** who stayed in **slums** were more **43 per cent** while **32 per cent** of boys stayed on the **streets**
- Close to **half the girls (45%)** were **primary educated** compared to **boys (32%)** but the trend took a **sharp decline** in the education of **girls** as they moved to **Upper primary and then to Secondary level.**
- **Almost an equal proportion** of both **boys and girls (30%)** had **never been to school**
- **High dropout** rate was noticed in the **9-11 age** category after primary.
- A large proportion of **children below 8 years (75%)** were into **begging** followed by **9-11 years. Rag picking** was mostly among the **9-11 year** age groups.
- Children who received earnings **between Rs. 50- 100** daily was **maximum** among children **below 8 years (63%)** and those who got more than **Rs 200** were in the **12+ age category.**
- Among those who stayed on the **streets**, the **highest** percentage came from **within Hyderabad city (38%)** and a similar percentage from within **Hyderabad stayed in slums.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As migration of children from interior **Andhra Pradesh to Hyderabad city** seems to be an ongoing trend, strengthening migrant families through **social and financial inclusive** programmes to sustain them economically is important for source prevention. This could imply providing income generation programmes routed through **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and marketing facilities** channelized through **the Labour Department**. For social inclusion programmes, it would be important to provide mechanisms to distribute documents of **identity proof** to migrant and street families.
- **Livelihood** interventions for parents to reduce the need for children to work and offering **crèche facility** while parents are at work. This will provide great support to **migrant construction workers** exported from rural Andhra Pradesh to the city for labour work.
- An **integrated school** should be the focus and compulsory rules to send the children to school must be emphasised. Effective implementation of the **RTE** in the state for **migrant children and children of street families**.
- **Parents** should be provided with knowledge about the importance of sending their children to schools and children should be motivated towards both enrolment and continuation in schools
- Provide **contact education programmes** for the children of migrant children and street families in the city
- Programmes for street involved children should be an **integrated programme** which aims at promoting full and wholesome development of children
- **Begging** needs to be addressed with stringent rules as the **Hyderabad city reported a high rate of child begging particularly among children below 8 years**.
- **Co-ordination** between NGOs working for street involved children needs to be strengthened and collective efforts should be taken to protect the rights of these children.
- The Government both **central and state** should focus more on child and social development and try to work on preventive measures rather than promotion measures.
- A **Child Welfare Forum** to review the existing **legislations on children** and how these could be strengthened is an urgent need.

- **Provide escort fees and travel allowance** to police personnel or social workers accompanying the children for home re- integration
- More **child friendly programmes** involving children in decision making at appropriate levels
- Children who have missed schooling/who are not interested in studying should be given **skill based vocational training particularly those above 15 years**. Government should support in giving **skill oriented training** and take measures to improve living conditions.
- **Employment guarantee** for children (18+) years of age who complete skill training
- **Community based interventions** to be initiated to support vulnerable children before they migrate to the street
- Formation of **children's and community groups to identify children at risk** moving onto the street. **Support and befriend** children who have returned from street involvement.
- **Participatory Needs Assessment and Services:** Develop **local organizations and community interest groups** to manage activities and **community based services for children** with the **participation of children**
- **Peer Support Group:** Organisations can support **children to form own groups and clubs** and involve them in **decision making** and **activities** run by the centres in the community. **Children** could serve as **informants**. Such groups can be **advocacy agents** for **service providers and policy makers, lobbying and campaigning on child rights issues**
- **Child protection services** must be provided by the Government, non-governmental organisations and in collaboration
- **Advocacy initiatives** are imperative to protect rights of children
- **Recreational facilities** and adequate employment opportunities to be made available in rural areas so as to prevent children from coming to cities to look for opportunities
- **Counselling centres** to be made available in rural areas
- **Training the police, health staff and social workers** on the rights of street involved children.
- **Awareness on JJ Act** to be **strengthened and sensitisation to service providers and Child Protection Units**
- **Regular updates of data on missing children**

- Creation of **savings provisions** such as **Children Development Bank** and empowering children to operate the system
- The **Child Rights Commission** could help in overseeing government outlays for the education and training of these children
- **Trafficked children under 18 years** should be produced **before CWC**. As per the existing system, such cases have been **referred to JJB** and **not** to the **CWC**
- Constitute a **monitoring unit** for the effective implementation of **ICPS** and **ICDS schemes in the state**
- Periodic **evaluation** of **schemes** and **statutory bodies** under JJ Act.

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Piloted by

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2. Don Bosco Research Centre – Mumbai
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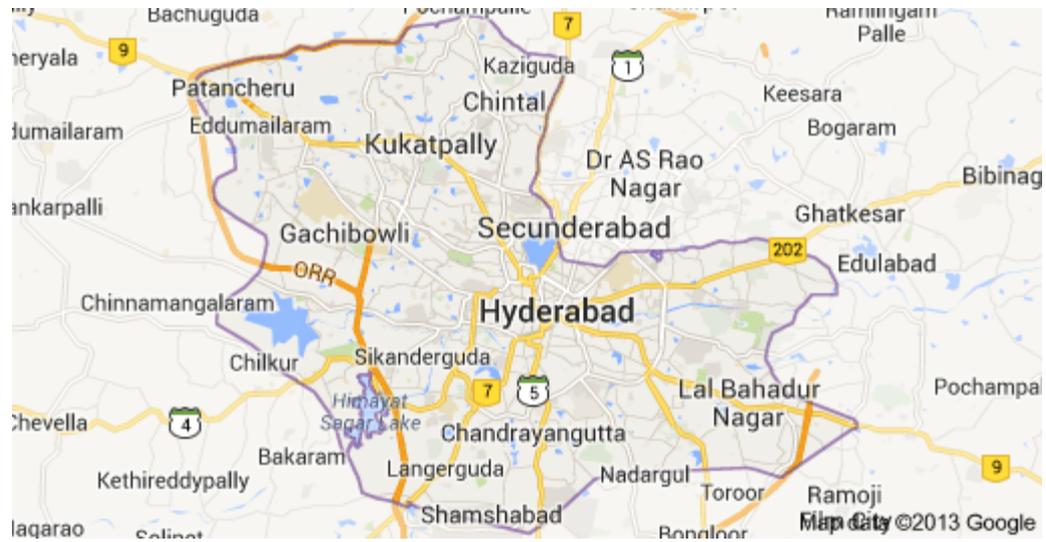
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- 17) Bro. Immanuel
- 18) Mrs. Shobha
- 19) Ms. Srilekha
- 20) Mr. Prabhudas
- 21) Bro. Arul
- 22) Bro. Joseph

Ward No:	Name of the Ward	Corporator	Mobile
5	Uppal	Kotha Rama Rao	9849323238
9	Moosarambagh	Koppula Latha	9392443699
19	Saidabad	Singi Reddy Srinivas Reddy	9849038853
34	Old Malakpet	Syed Abdul Haq Nazeer	9394520992
43	Falaknuma	Noor Jahan Begum	9346681969
50	Begum Bazar	G. Shanker Yadav	9246534234
67	Mehdipatnam	Bangari Prakash	9346652851
70	Tolichowki	Jaffar Hussain	9848032321
74	Chintalbasti	Yasmeena Sultana	9246529713
80	Himayatnagar	J. Hemalatha	9959939877
81	Barkatpura	Didi Rambabu	9885375888
81	Kachiguda	K.Uma Rani	9391100043
83	Golnaka	Kaleru Venkatesham	9849026242
84	Amberpet	Md.Farooquddin	9346950523
85	Bagh Amberpet	Gnaneshwar Goud P	9247568929
86	Vidya nagar	Adapa Chandra Mouli	9848116242
87	Nallkunta	Gariganti Sri Devi	9885314070
88	Bagh Lingampally	M.Prabhakar Reddy	9912251221
89	Adikmet	C.Sunitha	9490149555
92	Bholakpur	Mohammed Wajid Hussain	9246546132
95	Domalguda	P. Nirmala	9676333499
113	Hafeezpet	V.Jagadeeshwar Goud	9246376040
122	Kukatpally	Gottimukkala Vengal Rao	9246214599
136	Moula Ali	Bharathi Raj.B	9866871379
139	Old Malkajgiri	Prem Kumar Y	9347801522
141	Mettuguda	M.R. Srinivasa Rao	9848309013
142	Seethaphalmandi	Adam Vijay Kumar	9246538551
144	Chilkaiguda	P. Meera	9848955836
148	Begumpet	T. Maheshwari	9849995556
150	Addagutta	Ratna Kumari G.M	9704158099

Hot Spots:

- Secunderabad Railway Station
- Nampally Railway Station
- Jubli Bus Station
- MGBS
- Public Gardens
- Birla Mandir
- Lingampally
- Monda Market
- Clock Tower

MAP OF HYDERABAD



Manual of Instruction

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the **number of street children**, their **socio demographic and economic characteristics** and their **primary needs**
2. To provide **information to NGOs, the state governments, and other stakeholders** for planning and implementing a well-coordinated program to meet street children's needs and respect their basic rights
3. To acquire a **new face for Don Basco National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR) for advocacy** in the light of the study
4. To create a **consultative status for Don Basco National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR)** in the ministerial level for policy making
5. To affect **policies** for children and **budget allocation** by **Government**.

Logistics

Id card and Official Letter: It is mandatory that all the field staff involved in the rapid assessment study carry their official **identity card, official letter (issued by the respective YAR centre heads)** stating the purpose of the study when they are on duty. Transportation facilities to different **wards and Hot spots** have to be worked out by the YAR centres

Selection of Places: YAR centres conducting the study need to identify the **wards and places and locations** in their respective cities and **provide the names of such locations to DBRC, Mumbai**.

Identifying Spots: **Hot spots** of street involved children are cited to be **signals, flyovers, under bridges, religious premises (churches, temples, Masjids, Gurudwara,) markets, bus depots, railway stations, dumping grounds**. Such **spots in every ward** need to be identified. Besides, if there are other potential hubs of street involved children in each YaR city, then include such locations

Schedule for field work: **The field survey timing should be 10 am-6pm**

Coverage: Every **wards** in the city need to be combed for taking census of street involved children including all the hot spots

Filed Staff arrangement: **Total field staff required** to cover all the places in each YaR centre need to be worked out depending upon the **number and size of wards and the hot spots** in each city. Field personnel in groups of **3-4 in one group (as per the availability)** can be placed in **each ward** during the stipulated schedule of survey. It is preferable that the **same set of staff be present** in the field for **all the days** of the study. At least **one male and female staff** should be there in each group.

Orientation: Orientation for the field personnel is **pre-requisite and essential** before the staff are sent out to the field for data collection

Training the Field Personnel

A thorough orientation should be given to all the field personnel regarding the **purpose of study, definitions of street children, the tools (interview schedule, interview guideline), and administration of tools** to collect data. This includes **how to conduct an interview**, what should be recorded and what should not, **familiarizing the questions** for time management, **clarifications** in the interview schedule, **time** for each interview, **number of children** to be interviewed from a group, how to **identify the children** as respondents, **appropriateness of information, recording** the responses (for both closed and open ended)

how to effectively gather the data as a group, completion of pre- testing study as per the schedule.

Guidelines for training the field staff

Stating the purpose of the study to the staff: During **orientation**, the **researcher** in charge should **state the purpose** of the study to the staff involved in the rapid assessment on **why the study is carried out?**. The study is conducted to **estimate the number of children** on the street across different cities in India so as to arrive at a **statistics significant for advocacy**. So the **number** is very important to influence a **policy accompanied by budget allocation** by state Governments for planning and implementing various schemes for street children.

What is Rapid Assessment: Rapid assessment is the **application of rapid assessment and response method to specific problem of specific group in specific locations**. Here the specific group is the **street involved children** and the problem is **estimating the number of street involved children at different locations**. The study is conducted in a **rapid manner of one month time**.

Defining street Involved children: Street involved children for the study include children of **three categories viz. children on the street, children of the street and abandoned children**. **Children on the street** are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from **begging, rag picking to vending** of manufactured commodities. Most go **home at the end** of the day and **contribute** part of their earnings for the **economic survival of the family unit**. They may be **attending schools** and retain a sense of **belonging to a family or household**. Because of the economic fragility of their families, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets. **Children of the street** actually **live on the street**. Family ties may exist but are tenuous and maintained only casually or occasionally. Most of these **children have no permanent residence** and move from place to place and from town to town. **Abandoned children** are entirely **without a home and have no contact whatsoever with their families**. Some of these are children abandoned at a very early age who have little or no knowledge of their families. Therefore, **dismal chances of reintegrating them into their original home environment**.

Irrespective of the category of street involved children they represent, children/teen wandering on the streets when they ought to be either with the **care and protection of an adult member of family or relatives**, attending school/colleges or engaging in gainful activities subject them vulnerable for exploitation and abuse on the streets. There are **inherent dangers** of street life **even if** they are in the **company of their parents**. Hence all the categories of children below **18 yrs** who are in **need of care and protection** and have to be counted even if they are found **along with their parents on the streets, shanties near railway stations, bridges, flyovers etc...** In addition, the project staff should also take **note of number of children** whom they could identify in hazardous, exploitative and abusive situations during their field work

Tools for Collecting Data on the Field

Interview schedule and Field Diary

An **interview schedule** has been developed to collect the data from the street involved children through **one-to-one interview**. Interview schedule has **structured questions** in a **close end manner** providing **options** for responses and a **few open ended questions** for the **children** to come out with their **views**. **Translation in Hindi** is provided for each question and options. Interview schedule should be discussed during the **orientation** by the **researcher** item wise and invoke **clarifications and provide guidance** to how to go about

filling the interview schedule. **Field diary** is essential to record **field observations** and **informal conversation** with street children.

Administering the tool (the interview schedule)

Step 1. Familiarizing the tool. Every staff should know the sequence of the interview schedule to avoid time waste in the field and to complete the schedule within the time limit. Otherwise the **child might get distracted and discontinue** without completing the particular schedule. One way to familiarize the schedule is by **administering with each other** (with the **staff** involved) before hand in such a way that **one person will be the interviewer and the other the respondent**. So by practicing a few times would help the staff to know the flow of the interview **Step 2. Each schedule should be given the number** starting with **one**. The name of the **city** of data collection, ward, **place, locations/ spots, name of investigators, time, date and month** should be noted at the **top of each interview schedule**. All the field staff should be instructed to **fill this part first** before proceeding to the next section.

Step 2. Observation and reporting of number of children spotted in each ward and hot spots should be done in a separate format provided. Avoid duplication while counting. The child/ children interviewed should also be counted

Step 3. Interviewing: **Street involved children are the primary source of information** and the interview should be conducted with children using the interview schedule. **3 children** above 8 yrs **in a group** in **each hot spot** can be taken for interview and **conduct separate interview** for each. Preferably **two boys and one girl method** can be adopted if there are girls in the group. In the **absence of girls** in the group, then **one more boy** can become the respondent. However, before starting with interview **identify children who could be the right respondents** either by **age, communicative** or willing to cooperate to **complete the interview**. **Rapport building** if possible will be an advantage.

Step 4. Taking responses: In a group, **one staff** who is good at extracting the responses from children can take the **responsibility of asking** questions while **another staff can note down the responses** to each query. The tool is formatted in such a way that **options (possible responses)** for most of the questions are **listed** and only need to **tick mark** in the corresponding **boxes**. For **open questions**, the child can express him/herself on the particular query and the staff should take down as it is which will constitute the **qualitative data** of the study and is very important that **no element of omission in data** happens while writing down the child's views on issues raised. **For any reason if the interview could not be completed (i.e., the child left half way, stopped responding altogether after some queries, or due to any other reason) then that interview will not be counted as valid**. However, once the **schedule is numbered** and started making the entry, the **incomplete interview schedule** should be arranged in the set of schedules as per the numerical **order** labeling as incomplete schedule on top. If the entry is made for only a few questions in the beginning, the same interview schedule can be used for another child by cancelling the entries done. Hence all care should be taken to complete each schedule as far as possible.

If there is a **third person in the group**, he/she should engage other children in informal conversation like their activities, life style etc. And **note down emerging** aspects from their conversation and field in a **separate field diary**. Every group must have a **field diary** maintained by **one person in a group** and should mention the **names of staff** in the group and **places covered** in the field diary along with the **dates and month**. Important documentation such as mapping of major concentration points of street children, marking locations of high prevalence of child labour in any industry (child labour in **domestic**,

manufacturing, catering, courier, shoeshine, bakery, begging, vending trafficking and sex work industries or any other category) in the field diary can be noted

Once off the field, a brief **report** can be made from each day's **field notes** and has to be completed without postponing to another day. In case the **group comprises only two staff**, then **one person takes the interview and also the responses** while the **other person will record the field notes and maintain the field report**

Fake responses: It is possible that sometimes the responses given by children will be **fake**. One has to use some amount of diplomacy to help the child to come out with the genuine response and if it fails then the response have to be taken as it is

Time for interview: Every interview schedule should not exceed more than **20 minutes**. In case of clarifications and views expressed by the child seek more time then interview should be conducted as per the requirement

Secondary Source of Information

Street involved children are the primary **unit of analysis** in the rapid assessment study. However to get a **holistic picture** of the **issues** concerning the street children, **stake holders** such as the officials of **NGOs, social workers** and **police staff** in the field who are providing services to street involved children and also any other individual associated with street involved children on the field spots need to be included. The information will be relevant for **policy formation as well as resource allocation**. Since the **data** required is **qualitative**, an **interview guideline** can be the tool with a hand-full of leading questions seeking data relating to the **major concerns and issues** of those **providing services** to street children. **Focus group discussion** with the street involved children in the shelter homes and similar organizations will be useful to have an understanding of children's point of view.

Guidelines for data collection from Stakeholders

NGO officials, social workers, police personnel or any other stakeholders. The field staff should be instructed to get the data from the **social workers/ police** or any person associated with street involved children whom they meet on the field at each location using the **interview guideline**.

Focus Group Discussion with NGOs: Organize a **half day workshop** with NGOs working with street involved children of the study YaR city. Try to get maximum participation from the NGOs. The theme and the outline for the FGD is provided.

Number of children for focus group discussion (FGD): From the **selected organizations**, a group comprising **6-8** children could be included for **FGD**. However, the permission to conduct FGD will be as per the **discretion of the authority** of each organization.

Tool for data collection: Interview guideline for the officials of **NGOs** and for the **police** and **social workers** and any other stakeholder on the field. Separate **format** can be used to obtain information from NGOs mainly for statistics

CENSUS FORM

(use separate enumeration forms for each ward/ sector)

CITY:

Name of ward/sector

Age	Boys	Girls	Total	Ward/Sector Locations
(a) Below 9yrs				
(b) 9- 11 yrs				

(c)12 -15 yrs				
(d)16-17 yrs				
(e)Disabled children (also the type of disability(mental/physical) (identify and add approximate age in brackets). Should be below 18 years.				

RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF STREET INVOLVED CHILDREN

Interview Schedule

1. CITY:

2. Ward/Sector:

3. Schedule Number:

Names of field investigators:

Date of field work :

Time :

Individual Interview

5. Name of the

6. Sex of the Child

(a) Boy) (b) (girl)

Age:

8. Native Place

9. Mother tongue

10. Do you have parents/ relatives?

(a) Only mother only father both parents alive Brother- Sister
relatives (f) orphan (g) any other (sfy) (h response (l not know

11. How long have you been living in this city ?

(a) Less than a year (b) 1-5 years (c) 6-10 years
(d) More than 10 years do not know (response any other specify

12. With whom do you stay in this city?

(a) both Parents () with mother with father relatives friends
f) alone ((g) no response (h) any other (specify)

13. Location of stay in this city:

14. Type of residence

a) shelter (b) street (c) railway platform (d) Under the bridge (e) slum
(f) other specify (g) no response

15. If shelter based, name the shelter he/she belongs to and location of shelter

Name of shelter:

Location of shelter in city:

16. Do you have any brother/sister below 18 years here in this city:

(a) Number of brother/brothers (b) Number of sister/sisters (c) none

17. Where does he/she stay? (Name of place in city and type of residence i.e., street, slum, shelter or any other

18. What is your educational background

(a) primary (b) upper primary (c) secondary (d) higher secondary (e) drop out)
(after which class-) (f) Never been to school () no response () (h) do not know

19. What was the reason for dropping out of school?

20. Are you continuing with education now?

(a) Yes (b) no (c) no response

21. If yes in which class:

(a) Primary (pper primary (c ondary (higher secondary-
anyother (f) no response

(Mention the kind of school i.e., night school, non-formal by NGO):

22. What made you to come on the streets?

(a) Poverty (b) abuse by parents (c) parents or sibling conflict (d) harassments from the
locality (e) orphaned (f) victim of disaster (g) to avoid school Peer influence
(i) abandoned by family or relatives (j) to support family (k) lost/ missing (l) family
itself on street (m) any Oth (specify) (n) no response

(Get details if response is on disaster, lost or missing)

23. Where do you frequent mostly while on the streets?

(a) Railway platforms (b) around eateries (c) dumping ground (d) bus depots
markets (f) signal points (g) car parks (h) shopping places (i) worship places (j)
any other (k) no response

24. What do you do to earn a living?

(a) Beg (b) sell things (c) rag picking (d) laborer in shop (e) any other work specify
(f) do not earn (g) no response

25. How much do you earn per day? (a) Less than Rs.50 (b) Rs.50-100 (c) more than
Rs.100 (d) not applicable (e) no response (f) if paid as salary per month then how much
write the amount

26. How do you spend most of your earnings?

(a) Contribute to the family (b) spend for food clothes (l) movies
gambling (f) d ing (g) s ing (h) d (i) a ther
(j) not applicable (k) no response

27. Do you save money? If yes how

Yes where/how.....

28. How long do you remain on the streets every day?

(a) 1-3hrs during day (b) 4-6 hrs during day (c) more than 7hrs during day (d) whole
day (e) whole day and night (f) do not know) (g) no response (h) any other
specify

29. Do you shift from this location often?

(a) Yes (b) no (c) no response

30. If yes where to and why? (Note the place and reason for shifting)

31. What is your major concern or difficulty now?

(a) Lack of food (b) lack of proper shelter (c) weakness) (d) headache cold/ cough/
fever Jaundice (f) diarrhea skin disease wound sexually
transmitted diseases (g) mental disability (k) physical disability (l) any other
kind of illness (specify)

(m) Lack of education (n) lack of clothes (o) harassments by police (p) sexual harassments
(q) any other (r) no response

32. How many Social workers and NGOs work in your area?

(a) Social workers (b) NGOs (c) do not know

33. What kind of service do they provide?

34. How many street involved children live in your area? :

(a) Less than 10 (b) 10-15 (c) more than 15 (d) do not know

35. How many children do you meet on this location every day?

(a) Less than 5 (b) 5-10 (c) more than 10 (d) do not know

36. Any specific time and day when more children gather at this location? (Take the response)

37. What kind of help you would like to get from the Govt or NGOs? (Take the responses in terms of food, shelter, education, employment, health or any major concern)

38. What is your view on re-uniting with your family?

Yes No

39. Would you like to go to shelter? (a) Yes (b) no

40. If not interested to be in a shelter, why is it so?

Interview Guideline for Stake Holders

(Use separate schedule for each stake holder and tick mark the corresponding box. Name of the person not required)

CITY:

Police:

Social Worker (if associated with NGO name the NGO):

Any other resource person or stake holder (mention the category of person)

Place

Name of staff (interviewer)

Date:

- 1. How many street involved children do you come across every day in this City ? (a rough estimate)**

- 2. Where are the main hot spots of street involved children in this city?**

- 3. What do you think the trend in terms of population of children on the streets in the city?(whether it has been increasing or declining) and the reason**

- 4. How many new kids are brought to the police every day and where do they come from? (mention places they come from)**

- 5. What are the main problems concerning the street involved children in the city?**

- 6. Give suggestions to improve the situations concerning the street children**

- 7. What do you want the Govt to do for the children on the streets in this city?**

Letter Informing the Department of Women and Child Development regarding the Survey

To

The Department of Women and Child Development, **Hyderabad**

Date:

Sub: Rapid Assessment Survey of Street Involved Children in Hyderabad: A Collaborative Study by Don Bosco Navajeevan Hyderabad, Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR) Delhi and Don Bosco Research Centre Mumbai

Dear Sir/ Madam

A Rapid Assessment Survey on street involved children is planning to be implemented on a national level in 17 cities by **Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR) Delhi and Don Bosco Research Centre Mumbai**, with the objectives of assessing the number of street children, their socio-demographic and health profiles and understanding their basic needs. The study aims at assisting the respective state governments with facts and figures of street involved children in their cities and also to enhance their services towards children in need of care and protection, keeping the best interests of children in mind. Hyderabad is one of the study cities and the study will be carried out under the supervision of **Don Bosco Navajeevan Hyderabad**. We would like to bring to the notice of the Department of Women and Child Development of Hyderabad regarding the prospective study on street involved children in the city. The census and information about street involved children in wards/ sectors and at various locations frequented by street involved children in the city of Hyderabad will form the primary data. Besides the primary data obtained through the field survey, the study also takes into consideration NGOs working with children in need of care and protection, police, social workers and other resources persons having close associations with street children. Secondary data thus obtained can contribute immensely towards the purpose of the study. The information thus collected will help the Government of **Hyderabad** Child Protection Units.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Director

Annexure:

Methodology of the study: 17 YaR centres of Don Bosco as partners in the study (**Lucknow, Delhi, Chandigarh, Imphal, Shillong, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kolkotta, Bombay, Goa, Baroda, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Salem, Chennai and Trivandrum**) of five geographical zones. These states have been selected in view of YaR centres located in these states and availing of their assistance in research activities. **Primary source of data:** Ward wise census of street children, interviews of randomly selected street involved children from different locations and hot spots of each city. **Secondary sources of data:** stakeholders such as NGOs, police personnel and social workers. **Tools:** Census forms, Interview Schedule, Interview Guideline and format to collect statistics on street involved children from the NGOs.

Date

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Don Bosco Navajeevan Hyderabad in collaboration with **National Forum for Young at Risk (YaR) Delhi** and **Don Bosco Research Centre Mumbai** is currently involved in conducting a rapid assessment study on street involved children in Hyderabad. Therefore we are in the process of collecting information about street involved children at various locations in the city of HYDERABAD such as **railway stations, market areas, signals, bridges and flyovers, religious places and other similar places** frequented by street children. The information thus collected will be used for the purpose of study & help the Government of HYDERABAD child Protection Units.

The bearers of this letter are employees of **Don Bosco Navajeevan Hyderabad** and are duly authorized to collect the required information.

The respondents are free to choose whether or not to answer any query.

Director

Don Bosco Navajeevan

Hyderabad