

Street Children of Udaipur: Demographic Profile and Future Prospects

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ABSTRACT Street children, still remain an unsolved problem in the developing country like ours. They lag behind in their socio-cultural, psychological, physical and mental development in comparison to normal children. Hence, this study has been under taken to find out the socio-cultural background, ecological factors and various problems faced by these children. This cross sectional study conducted in and around Udaipur city included 200 street children chosen randomly. After obtaining a detailed history regarding their caste, profession of their parents, family and environmental history, a detailed assessment of child labour was done. Special emphasis was laid upon child abuse, factors responsible for compelling them to adopt child labour and life style of these children. All of them were subjected to physical examination and signs of occupational hazards. Data analysis was done. We concluded that the street children were subjected more frequently to child abuse, were addicted to gutakha and tobacco and were working at a remote place from their house and not getting adequate shelter. They were not well entertained and were not satisfied with their owner's attitude. They were exposed to occupational hazards, deficiency diseases and had ambition to become a good citizen of the country. So, these street children must be provided tender care and emotional support and we must empower their educational and co-curricular activities, so that they attain a secure future.