The present chapter covers review of literature on street children and related aspects covers a wide variety of publications, reports, and documents, apart from articles, empirical studies, and policy oriented documents from India and international agencies.

2. Review of Literature on Street Children

In this section, an attempt is made to understand the critical and detailed reviews of literature on street children. Available literature is arranged in a chronological order from 1986 to 2011 to facilitate quick reference.

**Agnelli, Susanna** (1986)\(^1\) says, “The fate of these children will inevitably be a major factor in determining our collective future. The fate of the 26 million children born here annually will be as the nation itself.”

**Aptekar** (1988)\(^2\) points out that the term ‘street children’ tends to carry very strong emotional overtones, because every aspect of their lives is exposed to the public gaze - their physical appearance, their way of life and their behaviour. Hence, conflicting emotions of pity, disgust, horror and disapproval among the public have resulted.

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Bahni (1989); Marglin (1985); Mowli (1992) observed that religious prostitution is practised in various parts of India and Nepal. Devadasi cults are found in Southern India and also practised in other parts of the country such as Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. They derive customary sanction from oppressive upper-caste temple traditions. Pre-pubertal girls, aged between five and nine years, from poor, low-caste homes, are dedicated by an initiation rite to the deity in the local temple during full moon. After a girl is married to the deity by the tali rite, she is branded with a hot iron on both shoulders and her breast. She is then employed by the temple priest. Sometimes, even before menarche, she is auctioned for her virginity; the deflowering ceremony known as udilumbuvadu becomes the privilege of the highest bidder. Religious prostitution is known by different names such as venkatasani, jogini, nailis, muralis and theradiyan.

Ahmedullah Mia (1990) in his study highlighted the problems of street and working children in Bangladesh. He says that in 1990 there were 1.8 million children in the age group of 15-18 years, and it would increase to three million by the year 2000 constituting sixty-four per cent of the urban poor. The Bangladesh Government has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children, and has adopted a ‘National Plan of Action Addressed to Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances.’ The Underprivileged Children’s Education Programme (UCEP) runs special schools providing formal education and vocational training for

3 Bahni, (1989), Prostitution with religious sanction: The devadasi problem, enkatasani, Jagnini and the Basavi cult, New Delhi: Joint Women’s Project.


6 Ibid
children. He stressed the need to develop a link between schools of social work and the NGO network.

**Weiner, Myron** (1991)\(^7\) felt that child labour and the presence of children on the streets must be seen as less a phenomenon of poverty and more of phenomenon of social attitudes, exploitation, compulsions and sensibilities. This is evident from some developing countries, which tackled this problem much before the economic advancement.

**D’lima, Gosalia** (1992)\(^8\) points out that many crowds of people move in and out of the stations fanning out in all directions on the road. Street children are found precisely in the vicinity of railway stations, street junctions, bridges and half-dug pavements.

**Rizzine, Irene** (1992)\(^9\) the problem of street children in urban India, thus, is a very complex and acute, and therefore calls for immediate, suitable, and feasible policy action to bring these children back into the normal system. Very little work has been done exclusively on the problems and situation of the street children in our country covering all the aforesaid aspects in its holistic perspective. The study it is hoped would be of help to planners, administrators and policy makers in providing them with sufficient knowledge and information about the street children and in carving out suitable schemes and programmes not only for welfare

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and rehabilitation of these children but also for possible and feasible preventive strategies to contain the problem.

**MSN Reddy** (1992)\(^{10}\) conducted a survey in Bangalore City in India. He revealed that Bangalore had about 45,000 street children and out of them approximately 25,000 were said to be homeless. The phenomenal increase in the economically marginalized migrant population from rural areas to the city, in recent times, has led to this type of situation. Railway station and bus stand are the places, which provide them with night shelter. They get daily-wage jobs or contract jobs, for first few days. However, they are soon disillusioned. Their hopes and aspirations spattered by the cruelty of society which chooses to ignore their plight. In cities, these children are seen at places such as airport, railway stations, bus stands, markets, shopping areas and also in residential areas. Street children are deprived of the basic needs such as shelter, nutrition, medical care, education, recreation, and immunization, and they have no access to water, bathing facilities or toilets. Almost all these children suffer from scabies, chronic dysentery, lung, ear, nose and throat infections. A large number of them are anaemic and are malnourished.

**The Consortium for Street Children (CSC)** (1993)\(^{11}\) is a UK based global network of NGOs working for street associated children. CSC’s overall goals are to improve the quality and stability of projects to serve street children, and to prevent further generations of children being forced to live on the street. Working through a global network, CSC aims to achieve improvements for street children with a collective strength, reaching wider audiences with a greater voice.


\(^{11}\) Ghosh A (1992), Street Children of Calcutta, National Labour Institute, Child Labour cell, NOIDA, p. 14
Symonds (1993) found that rejected children indulge themselves more often in delinquent behaviour and are more aggressive than overprotected children. Such children become withdrawn or distractible, hyperactive and have night terrors, while some of them run away from home. Sometimes they exhibit a mixture of submissiveness, aggressiveness, insecurity, sadistic tendencies, shyness, stubbornness and non-compliance.

Ghosh, A (1993) observed that the phenomenon of street children is the main reason behind the clustering children in the cities. The frequent crop failure due to flood and drought, small economic land holdings, dearth of employment and above all the lure of the city life pushed people more and more to the city. When the parents came, with them children too came to the city. The poor parents who could seldom earn enough to feed themselves allowed their children to grow up unprotected and uncared for and many children took abundance in large cities. Some took up jobs as helping hands to their parents by working in shops, small wayside factories.

Remington F. (1993) identified that the number of “street children” in India and Nepal is increasing at an alarming rate because of urbanization. Each year an estimated 150,000 young Nepalese girls are sold as prostitutes in India where the number of working children under age 14 has grown from 13.59 to 18.17 million during 1981-90. Indeed, these figures may be unrealistically low, with

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13 Consortium of street children (1993)

actual numbers of street and working children in India at 44 million. Street children are at risk of exploitation by adults in hazardous, or even banned, jobs.

The children recognize that the skills provided by learning centres offer them their only hope of an improved life. The experiences of 3 such NGOs in India and Nepal shed some light on the special needs of these children. Alternative schools are ideally set up in the slums where the children live and work. The curriculum of the schools should include opportunities for enhancing self-esteem and learning income-producing and survival skills as well as basic literacy training. It may take several years to create a curriculum specific to the children of a particular area. NGOs would benefit from international assistance in using new technologies and strategies to help learning-disabled children. Donations from international sources could also facilitate an exchange of information among NGOs, which now view each other as competitors for scarce funds. NGOs try to persuade parents that the education of their children is more beneficial for families in the long-term than putting the children out to work.

The children come to school in various stages of cleanliness, but they find acceptance there if fun is incorporated into school time, and teachers assure the children of their worth and act as important role models for them. It is hard to find teachers trained in non-formal education to work for the minimal salaries NGOs can offer. Funding is a special problem, since governments tend to ignore these children, but international donations could provide much needed learning materials and teacher training. Governments must realize that it is less expensive to meet the current needs of these children than to incur the long-term cost of harbouring millions of ignorant young people.
Francise Remington (1993)\textsuperscript{15} said that over 120 million children live in the cities and towns of South Asia. Denied their rights, enshrined in the CRC and deprived of basic services, many of them suffer extremely from exploitative and violent conditions. Growing up in crowded slums and shanties, competing with adults for their share of crumbling urban services and leaving school early in order to help their families and themselves, to fight the pressures of extreme poverty, these children have become victims of the urban cash economy and its individualism. Many of these children spend a significant part of their time away from home and school, and many are engaged on the streets and marketplaces without support or protection.

The Human Development Report of the UNDP (1993)\textsuperscript{16} shows that our country has the greatest number of street children. It is reported that New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta have around 2 lakhs street children each, and Bangalore has about 45,000 street children.

Asha Rane and Neela Shroff (1994)\textsuperscript{17} based on the UNICEF sponsored research studies in seven major cities and their practical experiences of working with street children, in their paper presented a profile of street children in terms of age, sex, family background, living and working conditions, and health conditions. The major problems encountered by street children in India include harassment by the municipal authorities and the police, exploitation by employers, and a general lack of recreational facilities.


\textsuperscript{17} Asha Rane J. (1994), editor street children: a challenge to the social work profession. Bombay: Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
Nigam S. (1994)\textsuperscript{18} observed that in India, 90\% of street children are working children with regular family ties, but they are on the streets due to poverty and their parents’ unemployment. The remaining 10\% are either working children with few family ties who view the streets as their homes or abandoned and neglected children with no family ties. The National Policy for Children established in 1974 emphasizes the provision of equal opportunities for the development to all children during their growing years. Policy stresses programs to maintain, educate, and train destitute children and orphans.

An UNICEF study found that almost 40,000 children die every day in developing countries, 25\% of whom are in India. Studies in some major cities indicate that the street children in India are of moderate health status, suffering from various chronic diseases and undernourishment. They are deprived of all health programs, but seem to prefer government hospitals in case of dire need. Street children often have to pay for water. Almost 97\% in Calcutta, 99\% in Bangalore, and 90\% in Madras reported having no access to toilet and bathing facilities, 83\% in Kanpur, however, had access to such facilities.

UNICEF (1994)\textsuperscript{19} estimation reveals the fact that in six major cities of India - Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kanpur - there are about 4,14,700 street children, and of these about 48\% spend their nights on the open street. Thus the phenomenon of street children with all its magnitude and dimensions is a challenging social problem of urban India.


Joseph (1995)\textsuperscript{20} revealed that there are about 2,400,000 child prostitutes and estimated a total of 100,000,000 sexually abused children in the world, but did not distinguish adequately between the categories of child prostitute and sexually abused children.

Irene Rizzini and Mark W. Lusk (1995)\textsuperscript{21} presented an overview of the situation of street children and youth in urban Latin America. Findings from numerous studies throughout the region, including original studies by the authors, are synthesized. The authors suggest that economic factors underlie the marginalization of vast numbers of Latin American children. The result is the exclusion of many of the region’s children from meaningful participation in society and its institutions.

Desai (1995)\textsuperscript{22} Parents also play a vital role in child behaviour. Prolonged breaks or conflict (in the mother-child) during the first three years of life leave characteristic impression on the child personality. As per his observations while dealing with child behaviour, clinically, such children appear emotionally with drawn and isolated. They fail to develop individualities with other children or with adults, and consequently have no relationships worth the name. There is a specific connection between prolonged deprivation in the early years and the development of an affectionless psychopathic character given to persistent delinquent conduct and extremely difficult to treat.


Collette Suda (1997)\textsuperscript{23} observed that poverty, rapid urbanization, population growth, family instability and the declining role of the extended family system are among the key factors responsible for the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Nairobi. In this state of flux, cases of children who have been battered, abandoned, abused and neglected by their families or displaced as a result of armed conflict in the region have increased at an astounding pace over the past several years. One out of every three children from poor urban families in Kenya is regularly battered or subjected to other forms of maltreatment by a parent or other family members, the public and the authorities. Basically, there are two levels of abuse, and neglect. There is abuse and neglect which children experience at home and which drives them on to the streets. There is also abuse and neglect which street children endure while on the streets.

Guruswamy (1997)\textsuperscript{24} experiences that forces of modernization, including those of industrialization and urbanization, coupled with the conditions of poverty have adversely affected family life. Marital disharmony, separation or divorce, family tensions, death of parents, ill treatment by step parents, mortgaging of children as bonded Labourers are some of the conditions that bring a large number of children on the streets. Amongst them there may be different types who spend their time on the pavements and streets only returning home for the night, or may be others whose parents have no commitment towards them. So, they stay on the street not only during day time but also often during the night and only occasionally they meet their parents; and further, there is a more vulnerable group consisting of abandoned and neglected children who work, sleep and live fully on


the streets or pavements of cities. The stories of their brutal exploitation and inhuman treatment, and the conditions in which they live will put any civilized society to shame.

**T. Scanlon** (1998)\(^{25}\) states that millions of children throughout the world live on the street. These children are among the most deprived, they usually have no access to health care or education and some of them have been victims of violence even before taking to the street. Street children are seen by many as worthless, and many countries have used violent and punitive measures to remove them.

**Kevin J. Lalor** (1998)\(^{26}\) reported widespread abuse of street children. More than half of the street boys who had been questioned reported being “regularly” physically attacked. Street life is also highly victimogenic for street girls. Sexual offences, in particular, were widespread. 44% had been raped and a further 26% had been sexually attacked. Similarities between Latin American street children and their Ethiopian counterparts regarding gender, background and street life experiences are noted.

**Manimekalai, N and R. Kunjamal** (1999)\(^{27}\) revealed that the street children, who are the worst suffering of all the child labour community, are actually toiling themselves for the sake of the family survival in the unorganized


nature of work. This is really a social crime, and attributed to the lack of state’s responsibility and its inability.

**UNESCO in Jakarta (1999)**\(^{28}\) with support from the Japanese Funds began implementation of a regional pilot project on Basic Education Programme for Social Protection for Out-of-School Children. The project involved four countries - Indonesia, Thailand, The People's Republic of China, and the Philippines. Child hope Asia was selected as the focal point for the project in the Philippines. One of the components of the project was a Regional Training and Planning Workshop on Non-formal Education for Out-of-school Children Living in Difficult Circumstances, for the member countries.

**Anandharaja kumar (1999)**\(^{29}\) examined the magnitude of the problem of street children. He says that it is very difficult to estimate the data for most countries, as it is not available. However, given the existing poor socio-economic scenario coupled with the phenomenal growth of cities and towns under the process of urbanization, the number of street children is estimated to be very high.

**Rajib K Haldar (1999)**\(^{30}\) Prayas made a maiden effort to work for the neglected, street and working children with simple promise for the basic rights of the child. The needs are shelter, food, clothing, care and protection besides health care. Education, being the important thing, it has always been given priority. It has established a highly successful and replicable model with a focus on community based management approach.

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\(^{28}\) *Ibid.*

\(^{29}\) Anandharajakumar P. (1999), “Working on the street; Biter Present Bleak Future,” *social welfare* November, p. 4

Newar (1999)\textsuperscript{31} said that street children are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. Their vulnerable conditions in the street, increase in the cases of paedophilia, and the expanding sex market appear to be some of the major causes of sexual abuse and exploitation of street children. CWIN (2001) indicates that foreign paedophiles abuse about 5\% of the street boys in Nepal. There is no available information on Nepali paedophiles so much so that presently all paedophile activity is considered synonymous with foreigners only. The situation of paedophilia is further compounded by lack of national legislation on the issue, and as a result it is speculated that Nepal may increasingly become a hotspot for paedophiles and sex tourists.

Punithavathi Pandian (2000)\textsuperscript{32} observed that children who spend considerable part of their time in gainful employment are deprived of education. That is not only a loss to children but also to the nation in the future. Education is an investment both to the individual and to the society at large, producing not only huge direct benefit but also an immense magnitude of externalities, economic, social, cultural and political. Education is also considered a human right, and efforts are initiated in the recent years to make elementary education a fundamental right in the constitution,

NIPCCD (2000)\textsuperscript{33}: Street child has become his or her habitual abode and who is without adequate protection taken into account three dimensions such as

\textsuperscript{31} Newar, Naresh, (1999), Pedophilia the Silent Sufferers: Molested Children, Voice of Child Workers, Quarterly Newsletter of CWIN, no. 28, pp 2-5.

\textsuperscript{32} Punitavathi Pandian (2000), child labour and literacy-making the parents-aware; Social welfare, Vol 140, No8, Sept-1999, p. 35.

\textsuperscript{33} NIPCCD (2000), Symposium on street children, NIPCCD, New Delhi.
age, physical setting and social environment. Children on the street still have more or less regular family connections, children of the street have no or hardly any family ties left. They may be permanently on the streets. Usually the latter group is smaller but more complex than the former.

SKCV (2000): “Children are our future” as aptly said. Problem with children will affect the future of our world. Therefore understanding the status of children in need of the care is also the need of the hour. Majority of the investigations which have explored the phenomenon of street children make a mention of the social and economic conditions such as extreme poverty, marital discard, family breakdown resulting in the homelessness of the child, arrival of step parent, etc. Other factors such as marginalization of families, social and regional inequalities impinging on individuals, communities and families at local levels and natural calamities were also found responsible for the swelling numbers of street children in our society.

UNICEF (2000): Education for street and working children in India, programme for children in India has enabled the organization to provide substantial funding and technical support for educational activities in favour of children in difficult circumstances. UNESCO is to play a key role in helping a coordinated policy planning at national, regional and international levels to ensure that all children, with special emphasis on girls and children in difficult circumstances from ethnic minorities have access to complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality by 2015.

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35 Ibid.
Asha Das (2000) explained the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide the support to the children. She emphasized that the Ministry provides support only for "of the street" category of children who have no support on the streets. She felt that the findings of the study support the contentions of the Ministry, which the majority of these children should be made to reintegrate with the families and sensitize the parents about their responsibilities towards their children.

Zutishi (2000) discussed the issue of the street and working children phenomenon, issues to be addressed include prevention, (through awareness), promotion of basic survival facilities, security, psychological support, and educational and vocational skills, implications. One important problem children face when they are withdrawn from hazardous industries is: What to do next? Where to go from here? They no longer earn, they have no other skill and have never been to school.

A Special Article (2000) on educating street children in India revealed that children who are most distinctive of other categories are known as street children. This is the group of children who have been seen away from home due to unbearable and traumatic environment. This is the most vulnerable group facing worst form of abuses and by exploitation at all levels i.e family, work place, and anti social elements in and around their environment. They stay on the street, work on the street, and pass through most torturous street life. They are often found at


the railway stations, crowded bus stops, and commercial places across the pavements. Many of them earn their living as shoeshine boy, car cleaner, rag picker and wayside restaurant helper. Some of them have no other choice but to do begging on the street. Some even live the most abused life of the prostitute. Many of them lead a high-risk life as HIV/AIDS victims.

**UNESCO (2000)** project in Bangkok, jointly with the Jakarta and Beijing Offices, has initiated the capacity building and information exchange project to strengthen the expertise of practitioners concerned with out-of-school children, mainly from NGOs in selected countries in the Asian region. UNESCO has also supported a network of NGOs through Civil Society Forum on Promoting the Rights of Street Children. Forums for South Asia and Southeast Asia were organised in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

**Singh (2000)** in his study says that the review of literature indicates that there is a dearth of studies in the area. However, the street children in Chennai (1996) and in Coimbatore (1997) indicate that the street children are mostly urban children and majority of them have regular contact. It is, therefore needed to concentrate more on the reintegration of children with their families rather than to keep them in shelters and to provide them with care and protection.

**Government Census Report (2001)** Hyderabad is the largest city as well as the capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh. According to 2001 Census, in Hyderabad, the total city population was 7,280,000, out of which 40% were children. As per the Government report, the street children in Hyderabad City are

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41 Govt. Census Report (2001)
more than 55,000. Majority of these street children are below the age of 15 years, and mostly are migrants from rural or semi-rural areas from all over Andhra Pradesh.

S.H. Koller and C.S. Hutz (2001)\textsuperscript{42} observed that millions of children can be found working and, sometimes, living on city streets around the world. Although they all look alike, a distinction must be made between children actually living on the streets and those who go home in the evening. These two groups have different life histories and prognosis; they differ especially with regard to the risks they face and the protective factors which are available to them. The knowledge about their psychological development is still sketchy. Some studies have indicated that living on the streets is harmful because of the exposure to addictions, violence, and exploitation.

However, other studies have shown that the street allows for cumulative experiences, which promote a healthy development. Recently, researchers conducting systematic studies on the emotional, cognitive, and social development of street children have found that, although these children are exposed to stressful situations and to great personal and social risks, they develop coping skills that allow them to overcome the hazards of life on the streets. They master strategies to establish social groups that increase safety and improve the odds of surviving. Recently researchers have found that street children and low SES children present similar levels of depression and of subjective well-being. Nevertheless, alternatives to a nurturing home must be found. The street is not a

healthy place for a human to live, even if it does not cause great psychological harm.

**KC et al.,** (2001)\(^{43}\) said that street children are often involved in marginal economic activities like collecting rags, shining shoes, pulling carts and rickshaws, cleaning the streets, dishwashing in hotels, and begging. Furthermore, children who are undertaking marginal economic activities are also involved in various illegal activities.

**Sergio Luiz de Moura** (2001)\(^{44}\) argued that the discourses on street children naturalize social deprivation and stigmatize poor families and children. Street life is presented as the outcome of an organic and linear chain of adverse factors including migration, economic hardship, family dysfunction and child abuse. Street children and their families are portrayed as displaying socially unacceptable attributes which place them outside mainstream society. It is also argued that the social construction of street children prompts interventions which sustain the status quo of social inequalities. It is suggested that a potential way to move forward is to employ these arguments along with other perspectives in a communal reflexive exercise, as the foundation for the co-creation of a new future for children and adolescents.

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\(^{43}\) KC, Bal Kumar; Yogendra B. Gurung; Govind Subedi and Keshav P. Adhikari (2001), Situation Analysis of Child Rag Pickers as A Worst Form of Child Labour A Rapid Assessment (Kathmandu: ILO/IPEC and DPS).

M. Kenyon Densley and Donna M. Joss (2002)\textsuperscript{45} are of the opinion that street children represent a rapidly growing socio-educational challenge affecting both the developing and industrialized nations of the world. At risk for physical, emotional, social, and cognitive violation, these children are in need of interventions that appropriately address their needs in the context of their environment, and build upon the positive survival skills that they have developed as a result of street life. This study explores the causes, and consequences of this growing phenomenon. It seeks to make known the global dimensions of the physical, social, mental and developmental health consequences of street life for the child. It offers possible occupational therapy intervention strategies and opportunities for working with street children which transition them from youth to mainstream adult and citizenship in the world.

Catherine Panter-Brick (2002)\textsuperscript{46} observed that the turn of the twenty-first century has seen a sea change of perspective in studies concerning street youth. This review examines five stark criticisms of the category “street child” and of research that focuses on the identifying characteristics of a street lifestyle rather than on the children themselves and the depth or diversity of their actual experiences. It relates to the change of approach to a powerful human rights discourse - the legal and conceptual framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which emphasizes children’s rights as citizens, and recognizes their capabilities to enact change in their own lives. Finally, this article examines literature focusing specifically on the risks to health associated with street or homeless lifestyles. Risk assessment that assigns street children to a category “at risk” should not overshadow helpful analytical

\textsuperscript{45}M. Kenyon Densley, Donna M. Joss (2002), Street children: Causes, consequences, and innovative treatment approaches, IOS Press Friday, April 05.2002.

\textsuperscript{46}Catherine Panter-Brick (2002), “Street Children, Human Rights, and Public Health: A Critique and Future Directions email: Catherine.Panter-Brick@durham.ac.uk
approaches focusing on children’s resiliency and long-term career life prospects. This review, thus, highlights some of the challenging academic and practical questions that have been raised regarding current understandings of street children.

Justice Ananth Mane (2002)\(^{47}\) observed that children around the world suffer appalling abuses. Too often, street children are killed or tortured by police. Children as young as seven or eight are recruited or kidnapped to serve as soldiers in military forces. Sometimes as young as six years old, children are forced to work under extremely difficult conditions, often as bonded labourers or in forced prostitution. They are often brutalized by guards or not protected from assaults by other inmates. Refugee children, often separated from their families they are vulnerable to exploitation, sexual abuse, or domestic violence. Ironically, within the care of the state, children are often subject to abuse and mistreatment – orphaned and abandoned children are housed in appalling institutions where they suffer from cruelty and neglect.

Ennew (2003)\(^{48}\) has emphasized the importance of understanding the lives and roles of children in any culture. For example, he asserts that the notion of The African child is as much of an obstacle in this process as the global construct of the child. Children in different cultures experience different childhood and so must be understood according to their history and culture.

Sujay Mitra (2003)\(^{49}\) says that child labour is a problem with several dimensions. There is no single determination cause for its prevalence. Some of the


causes commonly attributed for the continuation of child labour are; a) poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of assets and inadequate wage levels of adult workers. b) low literacy level of adults in which female literacy is abysmally low, high dropouts and discrimination towards female education, c) social and cultural factors particularly caste or community at an early age, community exploitation resulting in child and bonded labour, and social acceptance of child labour.

Saheb Singh (2003)\textsuperscript{50} is of the opinion that child labour in India is more of rural than urban phenomena. Approximately 90 per cent of the working children in the rural areas are employed in agriculture and allied activities of the unorganized and informal sector. Urban informal sectors account for almost the entire child labour force. States having a larger population living below poverty line have a high incidence of child labour and it is accompanied by high dropout rates in schools. The incidence of child labour is partly linked to the level of socio-economic development of an area, and partly to the attitude and approach of parents of street children.

NISD (2004)\textsuperscript{51} Non-Governmental Organizations or in India are doing laudable work in this area and are dealing with issues related to shelter, health, education and training of these children. A Central Scheme for the welfare of street children has recently been initiated by the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. This scheme gives grant-in-aid to NGOs working on issues of street children.

Shanmuga Velayutham (2004)\textsuperscript{52} felt that child beggary is prevailing in the cities. The most lucrative ventures for the child beggary are the temples, where people stuffed with godly feeling as the devotees are quickly motivated to part with money

\textsuperscript{50} Saheb Singh(2003), Child Labour- Problems and Possible solutions, \textit{Yojana}; Vol47, May-,p.35.
\textsuperscript{51} NISD (2004), \textit{Training manual for Street Educators}.
in order to earn more blessings. Child beggars are increasingly seen over rail foot over bridges and road signals, causing hardship to passengers. In Chennai city around 1500 child beggars are present on full time. Income of the child beggars is more than 60 per cent earning of the normal workers Rs. 30-100 daily. A small per cent of child beggars earn more than Rs. 100 per day.

**UNESCO (2004)**\(^{53}\) the manual translates globally accepted human rights standards into guidance for national education strategies. It is a reference tool for policy makers and practitioners in education as well as for those working in international cooperation. The realization of the right to education is a continuing process as is the attainment of education for all. The manual aims to facilitate human rights mainstreaming in education by listing and describing relevant human rights standards.

**Duong Kim Hong Kenichi Ohno (2005)**\(^{54}\) observed the problem of street children in Vietnam, a country rapidly growing and integrating with the world. He classified causes into broken family, mindset problem, and economic migration. Situations are divided into current protection and future investment. It is shown that the broken family group is most difficult to assist while the economic migration group often shows strong desire for study and better life. However, their aspiration is frequently interrupted by various setbacks. Since street children are not a homogenous group, intervention must also be diversified according to the needs of each type of children.

\(^{53}\) *Ibid*

\(^{54}\) Duong Kim Hong Kenichi Ohno(2005), Interactions of Old and New Causes in a Growing Economy Street Children in Vietnam.
Panicker (2005)\textsuperscript{55} has pointed out that many of the children in South Africa are basically rootless, mostly because they exist without resources, homes, education and guidance, or care and affection. They are often brutalized by police, older street children or gang members, and are often exposed to drug dealers and pimps. In a nutshell, they are exploited by all levels of society. The more these youths are exposed to street life, the more they are assimilated into the street culture, and therefore, their chances of staying on the street increases.

John Hagan (1995)\textsuperscript{56} argues that the children who lack the parental care due to various circumstances, i.e., parental imprisonment have a greater tendency to exhibit many of the problems such as social competence that generally accompany parental absence including low self esteem, impaired achievement, motivation and poor peer relationships. In addition, these children with feelings like anxiety, shame, sadness, grief, social isolation and guilt and develop low social competence skills. As the children reach adolescence they may begin to act out in anti social ways, searching for attention and gradually get into delinquency.

Ujjwala Rani (2005)\textsuperscript{57} in her control theory advocates that two types of controls evolve during the early socialization of the child – 1) personal controls which result from internalizing social norms and the child's acceptance of their legitimacy as guides for conduct, and 2) social control which refer to external forces that reinforce conforming behaviour and operate through conventional

\textsuperscript{55} Panicker Rita (2005), Street Children, How do we research out them, paper presented to the National Workshop on Street Children, organized by the National Institute of Social Defence, GO I, New Delhi.


social institutions such as family, school and community, through the distribution of rewards and negative sanctions.

Radhakrishna Murthy (1996)\textsuperscript{58} said that no society can afford to ignore the street children, as they are society’s future citizens. They are to be integrated with the mainstream of social development by providing them opportunities to grow in a congenial social environment. But the task of their development is such a difficult and gigantic one that it cannot be left alone with the local government or with a few NGOs only, though they are contributing to this in a significant way. More than this, what is required, perhaps is the social awareness among the parents and general public towards their responsibilities for the care and upbringing of children in the families and the society with tenderness and affection. In the light of such awareness only, any programme of action initiated for the welfare of these street children by any agency or government may pay the dividends fruitfully in preventing, curing and containing the problem.

The Child Hope Asia (2006)\textsuperscript{59} observed that Pakistan does not have many children who live on the street but there are many who are living off the streets, and the number is increasing. Many children of school age go out on the streets to earn money to supplement their family income. In Pakistan it is estimated that 3 out of 10 children aged 5 to 9 years, do not go to school, and 3 out of 5 have never been inside a classroom. Among the groups of street children, the most vulnerable, marginalised and ignored are the gypsy children. While recognition of child rights to education, protection, and just and humane conditions of work are enshrined in

\textsuperscript{58} Radhakrishna Murthy (1996), Street children in Visakhapatnam, A study in relative deprivation, Centre for Policy Studies, Visakhapatnam.

\textsuperscript{59} Child Hope Asia (2006), Population of Improved learning opportunists for street children Resource pack for the promotion of improved learning opportunities for street children, Philippines.
the Constitution of Pakistan and reflected in state policies and legislation, enforcement is reportedly insufficient. Numerous programmes targeting street children have, however, been implemented in Pakistan.

**The Child Hope Asia in Nepal** (2006)\(^{60}\) observed that the available estimate of 5,000 children living and working on the streets is considered very low, particularly in the face of political insurgency since 1996 that has been driving greater number of people from the countryside to the urban areas. The response to street children remains ignored or sidelined by the government in Nepal.

**Ochola L.** (1996)\(^{61}\) said that More than 80 million African children lack access to healthy shelter, and 16 million of these children are living on the streets. This phenomenon of street children represents massive social failure as well as a violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Urbanization – and the attendant processes of industrial expansion, land speculation, and “beautification” – has created a cycle of poverty, evictions, family disruption, and unwanted and abandoned children. NGOs have been successful in preventing some evictions and have established programs for the care of street children. What is recommended is improved coordination between NGOs and local and national governments, as exemplified by the urban child welfare task force established by the Kenyan Government. Above all, however, NGOs need to develop strategies for dealing more effectively with mass urban poverty and providing the necessary infrastructure to improve the lives of slum residents.

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\(^{60}\) *Ibid.*

The Child Hope Asia in Indonesia (2006)\textsuperscript{62} observed that a little more than half of street children in Indonesia are still in school, 42.5 per cent are out of school, including 17.2 per cent who had never been to school. The parents’ income was also very low (below 25), and thus demonstrated the apparent need to let children earn money. Street children are growing phenomena in Indonesia, especially in the bigger cities.

The Child Hope Asia in Philippines (2006)\textsuperscript{63} estimates that 1 to 3 per cent of the children and youth population living in the major cities of Philippines are street children. Metro Manila and the National Capital Region have an estimated 50,000 children on the streets. Although 75 per cent of these children return home to their families, and many, after working or begging, are still able to go to school and the remaining 25 per cent live on the streets and do not go to school, having dropped out or never enrolled. The Philippines, as a signatory of the World Conference on EFA implemented a ten-year EFA Plan of Action covering 1991 to 2000. Its assessment report, however, showed a lack of progress within the EFA decade. The EFA plan for 2004 to 2015 is now on. The National Project on Street Children provides educational assistance to street children through a network of government, non-government, and community organizations. Regardless of this progress, two major challenges remain, formal and non-formal schools need to adjust their educational system to cater to children with irregular schedules and learning capacities, and facilities need to be closer to where disadvantaged children reside and work.

The Child Hope Asia in Asia and Pacific Region (2006)\textsuperscript{64} observed that CSC and its members are actively involved in working with street children in the

\textsuperscript{62} Ibid \\
\textsuperscript{63} Ibid \\
\textsuperscript{64} Ibid
Asia and Pacific region. The CSC organized a Regional Civil Society Forum for East and South East Asia in close collaboration with UNESCO on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children, in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2003. This Forum was attended by some seventy delegates from ten countries in the region. The right to basic education of street children was a major theme of the Forum. The delegates felt that the countries within the region must ensure equal and non-discriminatory access for poor marginalized children, to free, appropriate and quality basic education. Furthermore, it was highlighted that street children often have limited or no access to the formal education system due to discrimination, lack of identity papers, inflexible timetables that conflict with their need to work and the inability of street children to pay school fees and associated costs with formal education.

**Hanna Anandraj** (2007)\(^{65}\) every child, during the span of development runs several risks to his/her healthy development. It is the duty of significant adults to be mindful of these barriers to development and enable the child to experience and enjoy the process of growing up. After all, childhood is meant for growing, learning and developing into all that one is meant to be. When the developmental process is hindered, a child is in a situation of risk in such situations; and the complexities of the situations must be understood and relevant efforts must be made to rescue these children.

**Child Rights Forum** (2007)\(^{66}\) said that Forum for Child Rights and CHILDLINE is a common platform of NGOs working for the cause of street children in Vijayawada for collective action towards children at risk. Its vision is

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to promote the Rights of the Child as enshrined in the UN Charter: Survival, Protection, Development and Participation. Its mission is to make Vijayawada a child-friendly city. The Chairman of Care and Share is the Secretary of the Forum (The Governing Body includes the Mayor, Commissioner of Police, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation and Assistant Labour Commissioner). Its office is at the Tana Bhavan, which also functions as a rescue shelter. The Forum runs CHILDLINE 1098 - a 24 hour Helpline for children in distress. The staff are located at 3 places in the city Tana Bhavan, Police Control Room and the Railway Station. CHILDLINE has been functioning since 20\textsuperscript{th} November 2000, So far Childline has reached out to 7,479 children through a programme supported by Government of India and NGOs.

\textbf{UNICEF (2007)}\textsuperscript{67} India has also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force in 1990. This ratification implies that India will ensure wide awareness about child issues among the government agencies, implementing agencies, the media, the judiciary, the public at large and the children themselves. The Government's endeavour is to create a conducive climate for acceptance of the goals of the Convention, and to amend all legislations, policies and schemes to meet the standards set in the treaty framework.

\textbf{ILO (2007)}\textsuperscript{68} the street child runs into a friend who introduces him into his gang for a price. He has to slowly gain inroads, contacts and acceptance. Generally, within a month, he gets accustomed to the rough life. But it takes at least two years to make the grade as a street child, somewhat equipped to cope. He

\textsuperscript{67} \textit{UNICEF (2007), Child Protection Policy work report.}

\textsuperscript{68} \textit{ILO - IPEC (2007), International Programme on the elimination of Child Labour and Street Children, Evaluation Report IPEC in India.}
learns the hard and cruel way to survive to beg, steal, scavenge and win patronage of the bigger boys or pimps. And slowly he is on his own, in his own gang of street children but ‘independent’ and ‘his own master.’ Most kids live on the railway platforms, in the bus terminus, market yards, and shop verandas, parks, pavements and footpaths.

**International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2007)** revealed that more than 60% of the street children are rag-pickers and more than 50% of these boys were some way or other attached to different ‘Rag shops’ (Places to exchange recyclable materials for small amounts of cash). In many a case, the children pledge themselves to the rag shops owners by borrowing money from them. Later, with the meagre amounts of money, which the children make, they are not in a position to pay back the borrowed money. In fact, they borrow even more which make them "Bonded Child Labourers". The henchmen are there to hunt them out bringing them back; if they try to run away from the respective shop owners. An investigation by the street educators reveals a fact that apart from girl children, the cases of sexual abuse of male children are also on the rise in the city. Most of the street children live in dirt and filth. Some of them are severely malnourished, and are the victims of diseases such as Tuberculosis, Typhoid, Malaria, Jaundice, Hepatitis B, Kidney Disorders, etc., which often go untreated and result in death. Many of them are victims of drug abuse and liquor addiction. Sexually Transmitted Diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, are becoming rampant. Needless to say, the vast majority of these innocent children, unless rescued and rehabilitated at an early age, are prone to become anti-social elements. The reality of the street child is the naked and vicious face of broken home, poverty and exploitation. Apart from these street children who have no contact with their families, there are a huge number of children on the streets, flowing onto the city's streets from its slums to be engaged in various works to them an income to their families.

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Ibid
UNICEF (2007)\textsuperscript{70} : The present condition of the urban child, particularly the street child, is a cumulative consequence of: rural landlessness and unemployment, rural out-migration, municipal incapability, absence of good governance; mismanagement of municipal and national resources, environmental degradation, eroding spirituality, values and support structures, increasing urban violence and criminality. More children were born in urban areas during the period 1960-1980 than in any preceding decade. Increasing proportions of children are born and growing up in urban, low-income environments, joining the poverty cycle due to their limited options for future, and thus threatening their own development as well as that of their communities and country as a whole. Urbanization is, therefore, a child rights issue.

UNESCO (2008)\textsuperscript{71} “Being a street child means going hungry, sleeping in insalubrious places, facing up to violence and sometimes becoming an expiatory victim; it means growing up without companionship, love and protection; it means not having access to education or medical services; it means losing all dignity and becoming an adult before even having been a child”

Shilpa Hassani, (2008)\textsuperscript{72} many of them who have run away from their homes were either beaten or sexually abused. Tragically, their homelessness leads to their further abuse through exploitative child labour and prostitution. Most Indian street children work. Children who work, are not only subject to the strains and hazards of their labour, but are also denied the education or training that could

\textsuperscript{70} UNICEF (2007), Child Protection Policy work report


\textsuperscript{72} Shilpa Hassani (2008), Street children struggle to survive in Mumbai, Filed under India Street kid News, June 3.
enable them to escape the poverty trap. Poor health is a chronic problem for them. Half of all children in India are malnourished, but for street children, the proportion is much higher. These children are not only underweight, but their growth has often been stunted. Such homeless kids are seen begging, some near a ticket-counter, some near a food store, some at traffic signals, selling flowers or books. Mumbai, a city that gives place to each and everyone, doesn't have place for them. Their plight is getting worse day by day. A small deed can get millions of smiles. Therefore, people should wake up now. Give these sweet and innocent children, a better life to live and show them a proper path towards a bright future.

**Prajwala (2008)**: Thousands of women and children are globally trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation every year. With in India, women and children procured from different parts like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bihar, and trafficked to major red light areas. A sizeable number in these areas are also trafficked from Nepal and Bangladesh. Commercial sexual exploitation is not just confined to red light areas. It has spread its fangs in the form of pornography, sex tourism and cyber crimes. Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the largest organized crimes. Thousands of young girls are deceived, forced or coerced to enter this trade every year. It is, perhaps, the most degrading form of human rights violation. Victims of sexual exploitation are subjected to irreversible pain and trauma that handicaps them psychologically and becomes a major block in their social reintegration.

**Meena, Mathur (2009)** carried out a detailed study with an aim to map the socio-economic realities of street children in Jaipur City, India. The field

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73 Prajwala (2008), Profile of the organization, Behind Charminar Bus stand, Charminar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, www.prajwalaindia.com

74 Meena Mathur(2009), Socialization of Street Children in India -A Socio-economic Profile, *Psychology Developing Societies*, vol. 21, p. 2299-325.
scenario indicated that majority of street children were boys (71%) and in 8–12 years age group. Incidence of migration was observed and 70.5% of these children lived with their families. Gambling, watching films and television smoking and drinking, and taking drugs were common modes of entertainment and relaxation for these children.

**Javid, P, Toyama, K. and Biswas, M.** (2009) observed that Street children typically live independent of families in makeshift living arrangements, and survive on little. They estimated that there are 100 million street children in the world. To better understand the lives of street children, they conducted 150 days of ethnographic investigations in and around Calcutta, with an emphasis on street children who live in train stations.

**Bernardo Turnbull, Raquel Hernandez and Miguel Reyes** (2009) analyse the interaction between street children and youth and the people who try to help them. They seek to understand outsiders’ role in the children and youths’ career on the streets and to provide ideas for programs and interventions. A group of volunteers in a Mexico City bus station gathered data in field diaries as observations and interviews with street children, youths and helpers, and analyzed them using the Grounded Theory method over a period of 4 years. This retrospective uses the core concept of Social Interface, which is a point of encounter between two social systems, to understand the relationship between the children and their many helpers. The data revealed that the children use the programs and services in their own way and the helpers try to make them “use it

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75 Javid, P.; Toyama, K.; Biswas, M (2009), Microsoft Res. Bangalore, India. This paper appears in: *Information and Communication Technologies and Development* (ICTD), 2009 International Conference.

right” by modifying the programs. Thus, each side protects its own view of the situation from the other and this struggle contributes to keep the children and youths on the streets. Attentive self-awareness is necessary on the part of those who own the programs and services, so that the children’s view can be included in the planning, implementing and running of these programs.

Prakash, Satya and Singh, Lata (2011) identified that several of runaway children come to cities mostly through railways. Therefore, the need for special safeguards and care for children around Railway Stations is important. This is the point where they can be contacted, treated with respect and their rights to protection and development guaranteed lest they join the huge numbers of invisible and vulnerable children.

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