CHAPTER V

FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY OF CHILDREN’S HOMES IN GOVERNMENT SECTOR

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CHAPTER V
FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY OF CHILDREN’S HOMES
IN GOVERNMENT SECTOR

5.1 Introduction
The Juvenile Justice Act provides necessary guidelines for the administration and functioning of Children’s Homes in government sector. The Act calls for the Children’s Homes to adopt a child-centered and child-friendly approach. The expected performance of these institutions as per the rules is discussed in the previous chapter. This chapter is purely based on empirical data collected from Children’s Homes through interview schedule, observation, focused interview and case studies.

5.2 Data Presentation and Discussion
A clear understanding regarding the real picture of the functional efficiency of Children’s Homes in the government sector has been one of the objectives of this study. Only such a comprehensive knowledge will help to identify the problems, relevance and prospects of Children’s Homes in the government sector and to devise progressive schemes and measures. Hence, data collection has been done with utmost care.

The general information regarding Children’s Homes and specific variables prescribed in Juvenile Justice Act regarding its day to day functioning and administration are analyzed. After the proper processing and analysis of the data, the results are systematically presented. They are
depicted in a tabular and diagrammatic form to make the variables in the study clear. Each table and diagram is interpreted and inferences are drawn. The data gained through observation, case studies and focused interview are presented to substantiate the facts. Statistical tools are also used to analyse the data. Results pertaining to hypotheses of the study are analyzed later. The details revealed by the data are discussed below.

5.2.1 District wise Distribution of Children’s Home

5.2.1.1 Tabular Presentation

Table - 5.1

District wise Distribution of Children’s Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Number of institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kollam</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calicut</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other districts</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Interview Schedule
5.2.1.2 Discussion

Social Welfare Department maintains six Children’s Homes in the entire state to safeguard the rights of children in need of care and protection. Limited number of institutions in government sector fails to provide the masses with basic welfare needs. Further the geographical distribution of Children’s Homes is also unequal. Most of the districts are ignored especially the northern districts of Kerala. Children’s Homes are also located primarily in affluent urban areas. It cannot be presumed that the needy children are non-existent in rural areas. The existence of innumerable number of NGOs for children in rural area proves the dire need existing there. Equal importance should be given by the government sector to all districts as well as rural areas.

5.2.1.3 Tool(s) Used

Through the interview schedule, enough information has been gathered regarding the district wise distribution of Children’s Homes. Besides, direct personal investigation also provided necessary information.
5.2.2 Gender wise Distribution of Children’s Home

5.2.2.1 Diagrammatic Presentation

Fig - 5.1

Gender wise Distribution of Children’s Home

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.2.2 Discussion

Five Children’s Homes in the government sector are maintained for boys and only one home is maintained for girls. The home for girls is functioning at Calicut. Besides the limited number and geographical bias, unequal distribution of institutions with regard to gender is also noticed. The number of homes for girls is not even half of the total number. The discrimination towards female gender observed generally in our society is reflected here as well. The existence of gender discrimination even in the field of welfare is a depressing trend. Welfare services in our country are
viewed as the right of every citizen and the duty of the government. Indian constitution is also against discrimination and oppression based on caste, sex, religion etc. In this background the welfare system in our society is supposed to be fair and nondiscriminatory. Therefore the government sector has to assume a broader attitude and responsibility towards the welfare of the children.

5.2.2.3 Tool(s) Used

With the help of the interview schedule, the researcher gathered information regarding the gender based distribution of the Children’s Home.

5.2.3 Length of Service

5.2.3.1 Diagrammatic Presentation

Fig - 5.2

Length of Service

Source : Interview Schedule
5.2.3.2 Discussion

Five Children’s Homes have been existing for more than thirty years. These homes were existing even before the establishment of Social Welfare Department. After the creation of the department these homes were brought under its control. The home at Trivandrum was established much later in 1995. No homes have been recently established.

Several changes have taken place in our familial, social and economic scenario in recent times due to urbanization and industrialization. Breakage of joint families, poverty, forced labour, fast life, familial problems such as divorce, separation, extra marital affairs, unhealthy habits of parents and so on have left several children without proper care and have increased the chances of exploitation against them. The absence of a healthy and stable familial and social atmosphere forces them to choose the alternative of institutionalization. The numbers of such children who need care and protection through institution have been increasing over the years. The government has not responded to this growing need. The fact established here is that welfare service is a routine activity for the government. They lack commitment and spirit of service. Government sector continues to be in the field as they are duty bound to provide such services. The beneficiaries and their real welfare is often neglected.

5.2.3.3 Tools(s) Used

Interview Schedule provided the quantitative data presented above. More details were revealed through the focused interview.
Focused interview with officials in the Social Welfare Department has revealed that in October 2004 government has issued an order (G.O. No.432/04/SWD, dated 7.10.04) sanctioning the establishment of a Children’s Home is Kasargode district. A year later during data collection in September-December 2005, it was found that this newly proposed home had not started functioning. Too much emphasis on procedures and processes and highly de-personalized and mechanical attitude of government sector creates delay in planning and implementing a programme. This inevitable evil of government sector acts against welfare interest

5.2.4 Number of Children Permitted and Supported in each Institution

Data presentation in this section has two parts – a table representing the number permitted and supported by each institution and a Lorenz curve depicting the inequality in the population distribution of the Children’s Homes

5.2.4.1 Tabular Presentation

Table -5.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Number permitted</th>
<th>Number supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kollam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calicut – Girls</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calicut – Boys</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
<td><strong>731</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Interview Schedule
5.2.4.2 Discussion

It is understood from this table that there is no uniformity regarding the number of beneficiaries sanctioned in each institution. Two homes (one at Trivandrum and the other at calicut) are overcrowded. Overcrowding can affect the quality of service. An inadequacy will be faced in all aspects of services provided ranging from healthy accommodation facilities, clothing, diet etc to proper education and health facilities. No attempts are initiated by these homes to balance the population through mutual transfer. In case of the home for girls, mutual transfer is impossible as there is only one home for them. If these institutions are to serve any real purpose they must not compromise on the quality of services and should provide minimum amenities to all children.

5.2.4.3

Inequality of Population Distribution in Children’s Homes

Fig-5.3

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.4.4 Tool(s) Used

The interview schedule helped to gather sufficient information concerning the number of beneficiaries permitted and supported by each institution

5.2.5 Categories of Beneficiaries

5.2.5.1 Tabular Presentation

Table – 5.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destitute</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruelty from parents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfit parents</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing/runway</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually abused/Risk of exploitation</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable to drug addiction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim of natural calamity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphans</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>251</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.5.2 Discussion

The table above shows that destitute children (37% of girls and 32% of boys respectively) and children of unfit parents (33% of girls and 22% of boys respectively) form the largest category of institutionalized children among both genders. Orphans also form a major category especially among boys (17%). These high percentages stabilise the fact that unsafe and improper family atmosphere is the main reason contributing towards the institutionalization of children. This indicates that the problem of children has deep roots in disorganized families and these disorganized families many a time neglect their children. Apart from this poverty and other economic problems also play a major role in the institutionalization of children. Vulnerability to drug addiction does not seem to be a risk factor for girls whereas 4% of boys are institutionalized for this reason. Similarly missing and runaway children are comparatively less among girls than that of boys.

Good quality of institutional care for children has become an urgent need of the day due to the negligence of families and parents. A permanent solution to this problem lies not in providing direct services to children but in taking efforts to eradicate the causal factors by providing family support services and community based services. This table is revealing the need for such outreach programmes

5.2.5.3 Tool(s) Used

The interview schedule contained enough provisions to gather information regarding the categories of beneficiaries in Children’s Homes.
5.2.6 Child Welfare Committee

5.2.6.1 Qualitative Presentation

Section 29 of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2000 and Rule 8 of the Kerala State Juvenile Rules 2003 empower the Government to constitute a Child Welfare Committee for each district or group of districts for exercising the power and discharge of duties conferred on them by the said Act and Rules.

Though this rule was constituted in 2003, two years later in 2005 this study has found that the Government of Kerala has not constituted a Child Welfare Committee.

5.2.6.2 Discussion

The non-constitution of child welfare committee shows the laxity on the part of the government while it is already constituted in the neighboring states. In Kerala, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Juvenile Court are performing the responsibilities of the Committee.

5.2.6.3 Tool(s) Used

Apart from the interview schedule that provided the basic information, focused interview is also used by the researcher.

Focused Interview with the superintendents of the Children’s Homes reveal that dominance of vested political interest is the reason for not constituting the Child Welfare Committee. During the period between 2003 and 2005, a panel of experts was prepared by the District Judge in consultation with the District Collector and sent to the ministry for approval. This panel was rejected by the ministry on grounds that the panel did not contain any competent persons.
Reliable sources from within the system believe that the panel was rejected as it did not contain the names favoring the party in rule. Dominance of political interest over welfare interest has adversely affected the functioning of Children’s Homes.

In the absence of Child Welfare Committee, the admission of a child to the institution depends on the superintendent’s discretion. The committee is expected to have professionals and experts from various fields. The absence of this committee deprives the children of the services of these professionals. The supervision and review of all other procedures essential for the development of each child such as education, counselling, rehabilitation etc are also not carried out.

This study indicates that the government, departments and the people responsible for serving the citizens are not bothered about truly benefitting them. Service to the inmates has taken a back seat and bare minimum is provided by the Children’s Homes. Lately, the Government of Kerala has issued a Government order (G.O.(P) No. 13/2006/SWD, dated 8th February 2007) for the constitution of child welfare committee for three districts – Idukki, Trichur and Kozhikode.

5.2.7 Children’s Home – A Comprehensive Child Care Centre

5.2.7.1 Qualitative Presentation

As per the Juvenile Justice Rules 2003, each Children’s Home shall function as a comprehensive child care centre with family based services and specialised services in conflict or disaster affected areas such as

- Adoption
- Foster care
- Sponsorship
- Child Line and Emergency outreach Programmes
- Link up with ICDS
- Networking with NGOs and individuals

The objective behind all these services is to promote an integrated approach towards child care. The reality regarding each of these facilities in the Children’s Homes as indicated by this study is that none of these provisions are properly practiced by the homes.

5.2.7.2 Discussion.

5.2.7.2.1 Adoption

During the period of data collection or in the recent past no child was given for adoption from any of these six homes. Years back, Children’s Home at Calicut had given four girls and the home at Kollam had give three boys for adoption. These were concluded as successful cases by the probation officer.

Adoption places institutionalised children in family atmosphere and substitutes their biological family. Through adoption a child may have a chance to form the long term affectionate relationships that are important for his or her normal social development. The importance given for adoption in child care services abroad had been already discussed in the literature review. This facility is not properly utilized in our state. Public here are unaware of adoption facilities in Children’s Homes. Moreover they have a mental block
in adopting children from an institution under Juvenile Justice System. The superintendents of all the home opined that they were not approached by any family who expressed desire to adopt a child from a Children’s Home. Efforts are not taken by Children’s Homes, Social Welfare Department and State Government to promote adoption.

The adverse effects of long term institutional care on young children’s emotional, social and cognitive development can be reduced through adoption. The government and department concerned need to take steps to promote adoption in Children’s Homes.

5.2.7.2.2. Foster care

Foster care was not found to be practiced in Children’s Homes. There was no child given for foster care during the period of study. Over the years, one child was given for foster care from the Children’s Home at Kollam. The follow-up revealed that the child was ill treated by the foster parents and hence the child was taken back to the home. Efficient monitoring and supervising system is absent at present and hence the superintendents do not approve foster care.

5.2.7.2.3 Sponsorship

Sponsorship is not received by any child or institution during the period of study or in the past. Sponsorship services can supplement the resources for a child’s educational, vocational and medical needs. It can help institutions to build infrastructure, establish vocational training centers, libraries, organize picnics, holiday camps and other such activities. These
homes only receive donations during festive occasions or sponsorship for feast. Such activities only provide beneficiaries short term material benefits. Efforts shall be initiated by the institutions and social welfare departments to gain sponsorship from individuals, clubs, corporate sector, financial institutions etc.

Further the study shows that provision for providing specialized services such as family counselling and peer counselling are not practiced in the absence of a counsellor. Child line and emergency outreach programmes, networking with ICDS, NGOs and individuals as mentioned in the Juvenile Justice Act are also not practiced in any of the homes in government sector. The institutions do not attempt to assimilate itself into the society. They do not extend their services to the society and do not take measures to gain support from the society. Hence they remain as a separate entity. Lethargic and irresponsible attitude of the welfare system is also exposed here. This study indicates a wide gap between the blue print for institutions found in professional writing and the reality of institutions as observed by the researcher.

5.2.7.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview Schedule merely provided information regarding the practice or non-practice of the above mentioned facilities in the Children’s Homes during the period of study. Focused interview revealed the attitude of the welfare personnel and the reasons for not practicing these facilities.
**Focused Interview** - One of the superintendents in the interview shared his worries for not practicing foster care with the researcher saying that “these days when we come across everyday news of children being unprotected, ill treated and exploited by own family members how can a child be sent to an entirely strange family”. Moreover in the absence of child welfare committee, the responsibility of the children given in for adoption or foster care falls mainly on the superintendent and the probation officer and they are not willing to take risks.

The difficulties in practicing adoption and foster care can be overcome by establishing and implementing a very efficient system of monitoring and evaluation. The essential qualities of parental care lacking in the institutional care can be provided to children through adoption and foster care. Stable placement through adoption and foster care is undoubtedly a better option than institutional care.

**5.2.8 Educational Facilities in Children’s Homes**

Educational facilities in the Children’s Homes of the government sector are analysed in terms of the number of children receiving education in both genders and also the various levels of education offered by Children’s Home to its beneficiaries.
5.2.8.1 Gender and Education

5.2.8.1.1 Tabular Presentation

Table - 5.4

Gender and Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Children receiving education</th>
<th>Not receiving Education</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.8.1.2 Discussion

85% of the total population is receiving education and 15% is not attending schools. 94% of girls and 80% of boys are attending school. Among both genders, children who are not receiving education form a minority.

5.2.8.1.3 Tool(s) Used

Factual data regarding the beneficiaries receiving and not receiving education in both genders is provided by the interview schedule. Statistical tool is also used here to test the association of these two variables.

Statistical Analysis: Maintaining the hypothesis as- Gender and Educational facilities are dependent, Chi square test is applied to analyse this. The calculated value of $x^2$ is 20.964 and the table value of $x^2$ for one degree of freedom at 5% level of significance is 3.841. The calculated value of $x^2$ is
much higher than the table value and hence hypothesis cannot be accepted which means that there is no significant association between the gender of the children and educational facilities provided for them. The two variables are independent.

5.2.8.2 Levels of Education offered by the Children’s Homes

5.2.8.2.1 Tabular Presentation

Table – 5.5

Levels of Education offered by the Children’s Homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Education</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP/UP/High school</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>50.64%</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural VHSC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Management</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children transferred to Private Schools</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>10.29%</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>17.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>236</strong></td>
<td><strong>38.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>386</strong></td>
<td><strong>62.05%</strong></td>
<td><strong>622</strong></td>
<td><strong>99.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.8.2.2 Discussion

30.9% of girls and 50.6% of boys are attending school at various levels. Together they form 81.5% of the total population. Professional or vocational course are not attended by girls. Very small percentage of boys are attending vocational courses such as ITI (0.16%), Agricultural VHSC (0.48%) and
Hotel Management (0.48%). 17.4% of the children receiving education are transferred to private schools as part of de-institutionalization scheme. They are sent to schools such as Ramakrishna Mission at Calicut, Dale View at Trivandrum, Sports School, Trivandrum etc. Their expenses are met by Children’s Homes. These 17.4% are selected students with good academic background. They receive better exposure and coaching in private schools but this cannot be considered as de-institutionalization because they still lack familial or parental support.

Based on the above table, it will be incorrect to say that educational facilities are not provided by Children’s Homes but the situation is not very encouraging as well. Though Juvenile Justice Act insist compulsory education only up to IVth standard and though all children cannot be professionally and technically trained; the superintendents and care takers can play a better role in improving the standard of education. Efforts can be taken to motivate, inspire and guide the children.

5.2.8.2.3 Tool(s) Used

**Interview Schedule** provided the quantitative data. Observation is also used to gain details.

**Observation**  It was observed during data collection that the superintendents of two of the homes have managed to arrange free tuition for the students of Xth standard out of their own initiative. They have used their personal contacts in doing so. These acts are appreciable. Such extra effort can bring about a lot of difference to the lives of institutionalized children.
5.2.9 Vocational Training

Vocational training under the guidance of trained instructors is insisted in all the homes by the Juvenile Justice Act. In contrast to this, the Children’s Homes were found to be less sensitized to this need. Vocational training facilities are provided by five of the six Children’s Homes. The various trades in which training is offered is presented in the table below.

5.2.9.1 Tabular Presentation

Table -5.6

Vocational Training facilities in Children’s Homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocation</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring Unit</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile Repairing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap Unit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seri Culture Unit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binding</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>127</strong></td>
<td><strong>26.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>182</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.9.2 Discussion

21.9% of girls and 26.5% of boys are receiving vocational training. Together they form only 24.9% of the total population. As indicated in this
only a small percentage of children are given vocational training. Tailoring unit is existing in all five institutions of boys and girls are trained in tailoring. This is the only area where girls are trained. Automobile repairing unit is existing in the institutions at Trivandrum, Kollam and Kottayam but the unit at Kollam is not functioning due to the absence of qualified instructor. The homes at Trivandrum and Kollam together train only 3.8% of children in this vocation. 1.7% of boys are trained in soapmaking, 2.3% in sericulture and less than 1% in binding. 1.5% boys are trained in carpentry and 2.9% in weaving. Binding unit exists only at Kollam, Carpentry and weaving exists at Trivandrum and Soap and Sericulture units function at Trichur.

5.2.9.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview schedule provided quantitative data regarding vocational training. Observation and case study is also used by the researcher. These tools revealed the unscientific approach of Children’s Homes in providing vocational training to its inmates.

Observation

Vocational training is given in outdated trades. The instructors in all homes are not properly qualified. This training does not equip them adequately to take up a job in those particular craft or trade since no certificate is given or no tests are held to evaluate their skill. The interest and aptitude of the children are also not considered while choosing a vocation.

Case study

Rafeeq, a 15 years old has a craze for vehicles. He is well informed of the latest cars and bikes through magazines, television and friends. He had a
genuine interest to attend training in automobile repairing offered in his institution. The care takers in his home choose the vocation for each child. Weaving session was selected for Rafeeq by the care taker. Though he expressed his desire to attend the automobile repairing session, his desire was not welcomed. The care taker was of the opinion that as he is a below average student he does not have the competence and ability required to learn a trade that demands technical knowledge. Rafeeq was not even given a chance to prove himself. He continues to attend weaving class without any genuine interest.

Vocational training provided in Children’s Homes today is characterized by lack of proper planning, systematism and organization. For the training to be meaningful it has to consider certain essential elements as shown in the following diagram.

**Essentials of Vocational Training**

**Fig -5. 4**
5.2.10  Counselling Facilities

5.2.10.1 Qualitative Presentation

Regular full time counselling services are not provided in any of the Children’s Homes. One of the homes provides part time counselling facilities. Two part time counsellors from an NGO visit this home twice a week. They are allotted cases by the superintendent or caretaker. Allotment is based on child’s behaviour. Usually a child who commits a mistake or shows disobedience is referred to the counsellors. Such counselling does not bring about much result.

5.2.10.2 Discussion

Counselling is not only a correctional service. It is a supportive service, problem solving service, crisis management service and a lot more. An in depth counselling session is not carried out in any of the homes. The counsellors themselves have agreed that they do not dig into the emotional, familial and personal problems of children. The counsellors are not providing the specialized services they are expected to do instead they are only duplicating the role of the superintendents, caretakers and teachers.

The overall picture regarding counselling facilities is disappointing. Further the institutional care system is highly mechanical and the apparent inability of the system to provide guidance and support on a personal level enhances the need and role of a counsellor in Children’s Homes. The guidance from a professionally trained person is crucial for the institutionalised children to realize their own inner feelings, control their behaviour and connect with people and world outside.
5.2.10.3 Tool(s) Used

**Interview Schedule** provided the basic information that the counselling facility is not provided properly in any of the Children’s Homes in government sector. The tool of observation confirmed the need for counselling facilities in these homes.

**Observation**: The researcher came across various problems in children that need professional intervention. One commonly seen problem among boys who attend schools outside is the tendency to use drugs. Children openly admitted that they smoke and consume other drugs such as panparag, hans and the like. The superintendents and caretakers are aware of this problem. The only measure adopted by them to prevent this tendency in children is to check them thoroughly while leaving to and coming back from school and to punish them if found guilty.

This approach will not solve the problem entirely. Educational programmes need to be arranged for them at right age which helps them to develop a realistic understanding of the ill effects of drug abuse. Counselling at an individual level pointing out the risk of drug use, providing accurate information on drugs and their effects, offering instructions on how to assertively say ‘no’ to peer pressure to use drugs, providing enjoyable drug free activities enhancing child’s self esteem etc. is essential to effectively tackle this problem. The existence of similar and various other problems underline the need for counselling facilities in Children’s Homes.
5.2.11 Recreation Facilities

5.2.11.1 Qualitative Presentation

The recreation facilities in Children’s Homes as per rules must include the following:

- Indoor games
- Outdoor games
- Music
- Television
- Picnics
- Cultural programmes
- Sports and Arts day
- Family Get together

Information collected through interview schedule revealed that none of the homes provide indoor game facilities, music classes or organize family get together. All other activities are said to be existing in all Children’s Homes.

5.2.11.2 Discussion

These homes do not take initiative to provide indoor game facilities to its inmates. Indoor games such chess, caroms, table tennis and the like are not very expensive. The home authorities can seek help from suhirt samitis, local clubs and other organizations to realize this objective. But discussion with superintendents made it clear that they have not even given a thought about it. Arranging music classes for the inmates is considered impossible due to the inability to get music teachers for low remuneration.
Family get-togethers are not organized for the reason that the parents find it difficult to spend time and money to travel from different places and make themselves available for the meeting. Juvenile Justice Act allows Children’s Homes to provide monetary assistance to poor parents to visit the homes, but the provision is not utilized in any of the homes. Outdoor game facilities provided by the homes get limited to the playground. Inmates are not provided any play materials such as football, shuttle and bat, ring and so on. Therefore children are found to end up playing cricket all the time with the limited materials available from nature. Even in the absence of resources, caretakers can plan open air games and sports for the physical and mental relaxation of the children. The caretakers hold an attitude that recreation of the children is not an area of their concern.

Picnics, cultural programmes and arts and sports day happens once in a year. Physical and mental relaxation is very essential for human beings. Recreation has a major role in the life of institutionalized children to break their monotony, divert them from undesirable thoughts and activities and make life more interesting.

5.2.11.3 Tool(s) Used

**Interview Schedule** only informed the researcher regarding the existence of recreation facilities mentioned by the Juvenile Justice Act in Children’s Homes.

**Observation:** The tool of observation revealed the consequences of the absence of proper recreation facilities. In the absence of enough recreation
facilities, the researcher has observed children in all the homes fighting, gossiping, sitting idly, overhearing conversation in the office room, criticizing the staff etc. In order to develop positive attitude and self esteem among these children, administration should plan creative entertainment facilities

5.2.12 Rehabilitation and Social Integration Facilities in Children’s Homes

5.2.12.1 Qualitative Presentation

Social integration and rehabilitation of the beneficiaries are stressed in the Juvenile Justice Act. Adoption, foster care, sponsorship and after care homes are the various provision through which the Act expects to attain this aim. Further familial and occupational rehabilitation of the inmates are also stressed. Presently adoption, foster care and sponsorship are not practiced in any of the homes. Very limited after care services are available in the state-one home for boys and one for girls.

Discussion

After care homes are the last phase of institutionalization. After care homes are expected to provide services and programmes for the inmates that accelerate the reintegration of each child into the mainstream. They are expected to reduce the dependence of the child and hasten the process of his vocational and social rehabilitation. Though the idea behind these homes is good, their contribution and accomplishments are rather weak.

The home for boys does not have a supervisor or other staff. The life in after care homes are not systematically planned or supervised hence the children who reach here have all chances of turning in to deviant behaviour.
Familial and occupational rehabilitation of inmates in Children’s Homes is also inadequate. In the history of Children’s Homes in Kerala, only one home claims to have occupationally rehabilitated a child and yet another home has attained familial rehabilitation in case of one child. This home is still working on six more such children.

**5.2.12.3 Tool(s) Used**

**Interview Schedule** provided the basic information regarding the social integration and rehabilitation facilities in Children’s Homes. The following case is an example of successful rehabilitation attained by one of the homes.

**Case Study:** Selvaraj is a thirteen years old boy. He was studying in VIII\textsuperscript{th} standard in a government school at Coimbatore. His family consists of his parents and a younger sister. He was scolded and beaten by his father for failure in examination. His father did not speak to him after this incident and a week after this he left his home with an intention to teach his father a lesson. His decision was to go to his maternal aunt who was living at palakkad. He stole money from his father’s pocket and boarded a train. Selvaraj got down at palakkad station but he could not find out his aunt’s house. He feared to go back to his own home and hence he spent two days wandering here and there. Finally he was caught by a policeman who sent him to the nearest Children’s Home. Once the boy was admitted to the home, superintendent after constant interview with the child found out his details and informed his parents through a letter that the boy was safe in their custody. On receiving the letter, his father came to the Children’s Home and the boy was released with his father
5.2.13  **Infrastructural Facilities in Children’s Homes**

5.2.13.1  **Qualitative Presentation**

Infrastructural facilities in Children’s Homes is analysed in terms of the following facilities.

- Own land
- Own building
- Own vehicle
- Kitchen
- Dormitories
- Bathrooms
- Study room
- Sick room
- Prayer hall
- Dining hall
- Cleanliness

All homes are functioning in own land and building. Vehicle is owned by only one of the six homes. All homes are equipped with kitchen and dormitories but their physical condition as observed by the researcher is dreadful. Dormitories are congested and over crowded and hence children sleep outside dormitories in the common hall. Facilities with regard to study room, sick room, prayer hall, dining hall are also inadequate. Personal hygiene of the beneficiaries and the general cleanliness of the institutions need much improvement.

5.2.13.2  **Discussion**

Only when institutions are well occupied, the children under its care can be expected to have a better life. The administrators need to give more importance in improving the infrastructural facilities.
5.2.13.3 Tool(s) Used

Apart from the common tool of interview schedule that gave general information, observation is also used by the researcher to assess the infrastructural facilities in Children’s Homes.

**Observation:** Broken windows, peeling paint, doors hanging from hinges, improper ventilation, inadequate and unhygienic bathrooms are a common sight. A common space is used in almost all homes as study room, prayer hall, dining hall, and in certain homes for vocational training as well. Kitchens are far below minimum standards required.

5.2.14 Other facilities as per the Juvenile Justice Act

5.2.14.1 Tabular Presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other facilities</th>
<th>Number of Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Routine</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet Scale</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and other amenities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Medical Checkup</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care plan</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of computer Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors Book</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievance.Redressal Mechanism</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout Unit</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balasabha</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious-Moral Instruction</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and community Based re-integration programme</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.14.2 Discussion

Daily routine and diet scale as prescribed by the juvenile Justice Act is followed in all homes. Other items such as clothes, cot, bed sheets, oil and soap are not always provided according to the quantity mentioned and its renewal is also not carried out as expected. The children are found wearing torn, untidy clothes which clearly indicate that the renewal process is not being properly carried out. Medical check up on a monthly basis is not done in any of the homes. If a child is found sick he or she is taken to the doctor or hospital and hence the medical record of each child is not maintained. The Act calls for a care plan for each child and its timely review for the appropriate development and rehabilitation of the child. In the absence of counsellors, child welfare officers and proper rehabilitation facilities, such a care plan is not being given importance in any of the homes. Family and community based reintegration programmes are absent in all homes. In the absence of family based programmes the real problem never gets solved and in the absence of community based programmes prevention and reduction of the magnitude of the problem also becomes impossible.

5.2.14.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview Schedule furnished the above data

Observation - The researcher observed that the superintendent of only one home is found to be using computer. He has maintained all data regarding the home and children in computer and hence could easily retrieve and give the required information to the researcher during data collection. A computer
was recently installed in yet another home but has not been made use of till then. In all other homes the superintendents and caretakers were not sure of the number children attending school or vocational training, category they belong to and the like. Though the Act insist that the details of every person’s visit to the home shall be recorded; the researcher was asked to record her visit only in one home. Similarly the researcher’s interaction with the inmates revealed that some of them were unaware of the grievance redressal mechanism existing in their home. Some have noticed a box kept in the home but were unaware of its use

Maintaining a book and box for the purpose of visitor’s book and grievance redressal mechanism is not what matters. How effectively the remarks and complaints are analysed and follow up is planned is what really matters. The effective use of these facilities was not noticed by the researcher. Two of the homes maintain a library for children. Efforts were not taken by any homes till then to start a scout unit. All the homes mentioned that they have constituted a Bala Sabha and discusses matters relating to the daily functioning of the home with the children. But the home authorities opined that the children’s participation in this regard is very minimum. Interaction with children revealed that their suggestions are not mostly welcomed and hence they do not involve actively in Bala Sabha meetings.

Daily prayer is observed in all homes but the religious and moral instructions are not given with prior planning. Superintendents sometimes
manage to arrange resource persons to take classes for them. But this is not done systematically, instead provided once in a while depending on the availability of resource persons. In one of the homes, the researcher observed the superintendent giving moral lessons through stories and discussions during assembly and this is a routine activity in that home. The researcher felt that it was more useful and could be followed by other homes as well. This table shows that even the minute details regarding the institutional administration are not effectively practiced in all homes thereby preventing the Children’s Homes from bringing about the expected and desired results.

5.2.15 The Staff in the Children’s Homes

Under the broad heading of “The Staff in Children’s Homes”, various aspects relating to the staff such as institutional organization, categories of staff and their qualification, training received by the staff, categories of staff and their job satisfaction, categories of staff and reasons for job dissatisfaction are discussed.
5.2.15.1. Institutional Organisation
5.2.15.1.1 Tabular Presentation

Table - 5.8
Institutional Organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number of Post as per law</th>
<th>Number Occupied</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number Vacant</th>
<th>percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Deputy Superintendent</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>District Probation Officer /case worker</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Care Takers</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>P.D./Literacy teacher, Hindi teacher</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Vocational Instructor</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Psychiatrist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Psychologist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Male or female Nurse</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Store keeper account</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lower division clerk</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>L.D.Typist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Head clerk</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sanitation Worker cum pump operator</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Music Teacher</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Physical education/Yoga Teacher</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Watchman</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.15.1.2 Discussion

Table IX indicates a consolidated figure of the staff requirement in the Children’s Homes in government sector as per the Kerala Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care) Rules 2003.

This table offers a comparison between the actual number of staff required, occupied and vacant in Children’s Homes. The posts of superintendent and other administrative staff such as clerk, typist, peon and watchman are occupied as per the rules in all homes. The post of district probation officer (grade II) is completely vacant. Inadequacies of 49% of caretakers, 40% of teachers, 46% of vocational instructors, 33% of doctors are also noticed. The posts of psychologists, psychiatrist, store keeper, washerman, yoga teacher, gardener, cook, helper etc are also not sufficiently filled.

The effective functioning of any institution depends on the committed and qualified persons who are involved at various levels of its administration and who play different roles and responsibilities. Co-ordination between their activities is also required. Though the government sector has a clearly defined hierarchical set up of staff with well defined duties and responsibilities a large shortfall in staff at various levels is observed in Children’s Homes. This fact calls for a re-examination of manpower policy in the welfare sector.

5.2.15.1.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview Schedule itself provided the required information regarding institutional organization
5.2.15.2 Qualification of the Staff

5.2.15.2.1 Tabular Presentation

Table - 5.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Number of Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Superintendent</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care takers</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.15.2.2 Discussion

As the above mentioned categories of staff have a greater role in the administration of Children’s Homes as well as in the development of the children, their qualification is considered here. None of the superintendents are professionally qualified. They are either post graduates or graduates with no academic background in administration or social work. As the deputy superintendent’s post is also the headmaster’s post, the three deputy superintendents have qualified B.Ed. The caretakers who deal with children all the time is only required to be qualified up to Plus Two and all the thirty seven caretakers from six homes are having only a qualification of Plus Two.

The children in care homes have their own problems, in many ways more complex than that of adults. Therefore the huge responsibility of providing each child opportunities for his or her overall development and solving their problems lies with the staff of these homes. Despite having to
fulfill this huge responsibility they are only expected to be with minimum qualification which is a disappointing fact. Lack of professionalism is likely to act against the interest of children. Hence the services provided by them are inadequate in terms of diagnosis, counselling and rehabilitation.

5.2.15.2.3 Tool(s) Used

The interview schedule was felt adequate to provide the required information

5.2.15.3 Training for the Staff

5.2.15.3.1 Diagrammatic Presentation

Fig.5.5

Training for Staff

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.15.3.2 Discussion

As indicated in the above diagram, 29% of staff in government sector have received training while a majority of 71% have not received any training at all. Majority of the staff are untrained because training is given only to permanent staff. Presently most of the members of staff are appointed on a temporary basis. Moreover training for the employees is not systematically planned. Training is given only occasionally.
A lack of training is very strongly felt in the government sector. Though the welfare service sector does not involve highly complicated technical knowledge and skill, the importance of training for the employees in this sector cannot be undermined because they deal with human mind and life which is even more complex and unpredictable. Training can influence a person’s approach towards his job and introduce him to new and better ways of doing his job there by equipping him in every sense and enabling him to deliver best of services. Moreover training should not be a one-time affair; it has to be a continuous process.

5.2.15.3.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview Schedule had enough provision to gather details of the training for the staff in Children’s Home

5.2.15.4 Job Satisfaction and Categories of Staff

5.2.15.4.1 Tabular Presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Satisfied Staff</th>
<th>Dissatisfied Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Superintendent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care takers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Instructors</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>32%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.15.4.2 Discussion

The above table exhibit that 69% of the staff interviewed have expressed dissatisfaction in job and only 32% of staff expressed job satisfaction. 33% of superintendents, 78% of caretakers, 85% of vocational instructors and 61% of teachers are dissatisfied. Dissatisfied employees are found among all categories of staff in government sector except deputy superintendents.

5.2.15.4.3 Tool(s) Used

The interview schedule for the staff brought out information regarding the categories to which the staff belong and their level of job satisfaction.

5.2.15.5 Categories of Staff and Reasons for Job Dissatisfaction

5.2.15.5.1 Tabular Presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for dissatisfaction</th>
<th>Superintendent</th>
<th>Care takers</th>
<th>Vocational instructors</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of interest</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of job stability</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of job</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low remuneration</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.15.5.2 Discussion

Lack of interest is the only reason for dissatisfaction among superintendents. Focused interview with them revealed that they had worked earlier for long in other welfare institutions such as ICDS and old age home
and were transferred recently to the Children’s Home. Their interest lies in the earlier sector they worked and their interest were not considered before being transferred. They were not given any training before or after being appointed as the superintendent of Children’s Home. They found it difficult initially to get adjusted to the new sector and are now coming into terms.

14% of the caretakers are dissatisfied in their job due to a lack of genuine interest but still they continue since they work in a government sector. 62% of the caretakers are appointed on a temporary basis and the lack of job stability makes them dissatisfied. 21% of caretakers find difficulty with the nature of their job. The night shifts associated with the job is found difficult by most women caretakers who have their own children to be taken care of. Male caretakers also complained that night shifts deprive them of spending time with their family. All the dissatisfied caretakers are unhappy with their remuneration as well.

Low remuneration is also a reason for dissatisfaction among all dissatisfied vocational instructors and 45% of them consider the temporary nature of job as a reason for dissatisfaction. Similarly 73% of the teachers are also dissatisfied due to lack of job stability and 27% of them find difficulty with the children and institution they deal with.

Job satisfaction has a greater say in the performance of employees in any sector. There is a bunch of dissatisfied personnel working in the Children’s Homes in Kerala. No consideration is given to qualification and genuine interest of candidates during recruitment. Moreover remuneration is
unattractive, avenues of promotion are limited, training to motivate and equip them are meager, all of which results in a bunch of dissatisfied employees and hence Children’s Homes are not bringing about desired results in the lives of its beneficiaries. Efforts must be initiated to ensure an attractive conduit for recruitment in the welfare institutions.

5.2.15.5.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview schedule administered on the staff brought out the reasons felt by them for job dissatisfaction.

5.2.16 Public Relations

5.2.16.1 Diagrammatic Presentation

![Diagram](Fig-5.6)

**Public Relations of Government Sector**

- **Suhrit Samitis**
- **Meeting with Other Children’s Homes**
- **Networking with other child welfare institutions**

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.16.2 Discussion

Suhrit samithis are functioning in all institutions. They are active in raising donations or rendering monetary help in celebrating festivals, distributing old clothes, books etc to the beneficiaries. The Suhrit Samitis have not grown up to the level of sponsoring a child’s education, adopting
children or providing foster care to these innocent lives. Opportunities are made available for the inmates of different Children’s Homes to interact each other through sports and cultural competition. This opportunity remains limited only to those who participate in the events. Children’s Homes do not maintain any relation with NGOs and other such agencies working in the field of child welfare. Though the Juvenile Justice Act calls for maintaining a list of names and address of ‘Fit persons or Fit Institutions’ by the competent authority, such a list has not yet complied and as mentioned earlier the competent authority itself is not established. As a result all scope of exploiting external resources and possibilities of consultation and discussion with skilled persons and institutions for solving the problems, overcoming the limitations and improving the conditions of Children’s Homes and its beneficiaries remain closed.

5.2.16.3 Tool(s) Used

**Interview Schedule** for the institutions provided the researcher the necessary information regarding the public relations of the Children’s Homes in government sector.

5.2.17. Evaluation Procedure

5.2.17.1 Diagrammatic Presentation

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Fig - 5.7
Evaluation

Evaluation Procedure

Inspection

Social Auditing

Source: Interview Schedule
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5.2.17.2 Discussion

Inspection by the Social Welfare Department is the only means of evaluation practiced in the government sector. Though there is a provision for social auditing by external agencies working with children, it has not been carried out in any organization so far. Therefore the administration is not transparent. The internal inspection becomes a routine activity. One does not find tremendous changes in the functioning of Children’s Homes in Kerala over the years. It is quite obvious that the inspection fails to be evaluative in nature and put forth constructive suggestions. On the contrary it becomes a mere reporting.

5.2.17.3 Tool(s) Used

Facts regarding the evaluation procedure were gained through interview schedule. There was not much scope for observation and focused interview in this regard.

5.2.18 Beneficiaries and Children’s Homes

Under the broad classification of ‘Beneficiaries and Children’s Homes’, different aspects of the life of beneficiaries’ in the institution are analysed such as gender and level of satisfaction of beneficiaries in institutional life, reasons of beneficiaries for dissatisfaction in institutional life, years of stay and dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, beneficiaries’ view on the extent of institutional facilities and the problems faced by them.
5.2.18.1 Gender and Satisfaction of Beneficiaries

5.2.18.1.1 Tabular Presentation

Table – 5.12

Gender and Satisfaction of Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude of Inmates</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule

5.2.18.1.2 Discussion

43% of children considered their life in Children’s Home as a happy experience while majority of 57% are dissatisfied with institutional life. Life is Children’s Home is viewed differently by girls and boys. It is a pleasant experience for 56% of girls. Majority of boys i.e., 64% consider institutional life as an unpleasant experience.

5.2.18.1.3 Tool(s) Used

Interview Schedule provided information regarding the percentage of children satisfied in institutional life among both gender. Statistical tool of Chi-Square is used to find out the association between the variables – gender and level of satisfaction

Statistical Analysis - Maintaining the hypothesis as gender and satisfaction level of inmates are dependent and proceeding with the chi-square test, it is
found that the calculated value of $x^2$ is 2.12 and the table value at one degree of freedom at 5% level of significance is 3.841. As the calculated value is less than the table value the hypothesis can be accepted. Hence the two attributes are dependent. It can be concluded that there is a significant association between gender of inmates and their level of satisfaction. Majority of the girls are satisfied in institutional life. This may be due to the adjusting and compromising nature of females compared to males.

5.2.18.2 Reasons for Dissatisfaction among Beneficiaries

5.2.18.2.1 Tabular Presentation

Table – 5.13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strained relations with staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination from society</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punishments</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partiality by staff</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of freedom</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of comforts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duties and Responsibilities</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.18.2.2 Discussion

Strained relation with staff is the main reason for dissatisfaction among inmates. 64% of girls and 84% of boys share this opinion. 16% of girls and 24% of boys consider discrimination from society as reason to dislike institutional life. 44% of girls and 62% of boys dislike institutional life due to the punishments they receive. 24% of girls and 38% of boys consider partiality by staff as a reason for dissatisfaction. 32% of girls and 54% of boys experience a lack of freedom in institutional life. 20% of females and 44% of males complained of lack of comforts. 56% of girls and 44% of boys hate institutional life because of the duties and responsibilities they have to fulfill.

5.2.18.2.3 Tool(s) Used

The quantitative data provided by the interview schedule is supported by observation and case illustrations

Observation and interview with inmates have revealed more facts regarding these aspects. Most of them shared the opinion that strained relationship with care takers makes their life miserable. Care takers sometimes beat them up, call them bad names, show faces to them and so on. The researcher has also observed this during data collection. Care takers expressed hopeless and negative remarks about these children to the researcher. The words of one of the care takers go like this “spending our time and energy on these children is a waste”. Such thoughtless remarks often hurt, leaving permanent scars on person’s psyche. A potentially good relationship can be spoilt by such unfavourable remarks and sometimes life long grudges are held.
Discrimination from the society is yet another reason given by them. One of the children told the researcher that she is always referred as “child from the orphanage” by all her teachers. She is never addressed by her name. She hates to hear this and due to this reference by teachers, her friends and classmates ask her questions regarding her family, parents and life in the home which she finds difficult to answer. Yet another boy was accused of stealing by class teacher and classmates for the simple reason that he came from an institution under Juvenile Justice System. Later he was proved innocent and no one bothered to feel sorry for him.

The duties and responsibilities that they have to fulfill in the home make some unhappy while some others dislike institutional life for the punishments they receive, for the partiality shown by the staff, for lack of freedom and comfort. Some children considered life in these homes satisfactory for a different set of reasons. They consider institutional life peaceful, fearless, and comforting compared to their family atmosphere. They also enjoy the companionship of other inmates.

In short, life in Children’s Homes is not always a pleasant experience for all its beneficiaries. Placing a child in the care of welfare institution is not an end in itself. It is just a beginning and there are a lot of other things also to be taken care of in making it a pleasant and useful experience for each and every child.

5.2.18.3 Years of Stay and Dissatisfaction of Beneficiaries

Data presentation here has two aspects. A table showing the quantitative data and a diagram expressing the correlation between the two variables.
5.2.18.3.1 Tabular Presentation

Table- 5.14
Years of Stay and Dissatisfaction of Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Stay</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
<th>In institutional stay</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10 years</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Interview Schedule

5.2.18.3.2 Discussion

As revealed by this table, 24% children have been in institutional stay for less than five years and 12% of them are dissatisfied in institutional life. 28% have been in institutions for 5 to 10 years and 13% of them are dissatisfied in institutional life and 48% have been in institutional life for more than 10 years and 32% of them dislike institutional life.

5.2.18.3.3 Diagrammatic Presentation

Fig - 5.8
Years of Stay and Dissatisfaction of Beneficiaries

Source : Interview Schedule
5.2.18.3.4 Discussion

The presence of co-relation between the variables – years of stay of the beneficiaries in institutions and their dissatisfaction in institutional life is tested in the above diagram. As the two lines in this diagram move in the same direction, co-relation is said to be positive. The years of stay in institutions and dissatisfaction of the beneficiaries are related. It is noticed that higher the years of stay, the more the dissatisfaction among inmates. This may be due to the monotony and frustration created by the long years of institutional life in the beneficiaries.

5.2.18.3.5 Tool(s) Used

Apart from the quantitative data gathered by interview schedule, correlogram is also used to test the association between the two variables

5.2.18.4 Beneficiaries’ view on Institutional Services

5.2.18.4.1 Tabular Presentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities offered by institutions</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solve personal problems</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solve family problems</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate peer group interaction</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for talent promotion</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.18.4.2 Discussion

Majority i.e, 77% of the children interviewed in the government sector are of the opinion that institutional life promotes peer group interaction where as those who believe that institutional life solve their family problems are a minority, i.e, 11% and 44% of them found that institutional life offers them opportunities for talent promotion. A similarity is observed in the opinion of both genders in this regard. 8% believed that institutions solve their personal problems.

5.2.18.4.3 Tool(s) Used

Data regarding the beneficiaries’ view on institutional services is gathered by the interview schedule administered on them.

5 Problems Faced by Beneficiaries
5.2.18.5.1 Tabular Presentation

Table 5.16
Problems Faced by Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems faced</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loneliness</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monotony</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of love and care</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of self confidence</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of individual care</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of motivation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of future</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment problems</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Interview Schedule
5.2.18.5.2 Discussion

As revealed by this table, 56% of girls and 34% of boys experience loneliness in institutional life. Monotony is the problem faced by majority of inmates. 88% girls and 90% of boys experience monotony. 80% of girls and 86% boys complained of lack of love and care. 68% of girls and 18% of boys face lack of self confidence and 76% of girls and 68% of boys feel lack of individual attention in institutions. 36% of girls and 76% of boys lack motivation and 48% of girls and 18% of boys fear about their future. Adjustment problems are experienced by 88% of girls and 68% of boys.

Among the various problems faced by the beneficiaries, monotony and lack of love and care are experienced by most of them. Despite the presence of children of their own age group in the institutions, 41% of children experienced loneliness. Lack of self confidence is largely experienced by girls compared to boys. Lack of individual attention is experienced almost equally by both genders. Lack of motivation is experienced comparatively less by girls than that of boys but fear regarding future is found more among girls. Adjustment problems with other inmates and staff, is experienced by both gender though slightly more among girls.

5.2.18.5.3 Tool(s) Used

The general picture regarding the problems faced by the beneficiaries are provided by the interview schedule. The extent of the problem faced is revealed by the case study.
Case Study: Roopesh is 13 years old. He was put in to a Children’s Home due to the financial crisis of his family. In the Children’s Home he was once affected by chicken pox. As the home did not have a sick room and as this was a contagious disease he was isolated from others. He was given a cot which was placed near the store room. The only person whom he met for two weeks was the cook who gave him food and medicines. None of the caretakers or the superintendent visited him or enquired personally about his health condition due to fear of contracting the disease. The words of Roopesh goes like this -“I was unattended for two weeks. They behaved as if they were unaware of my existence. The cook who gave me medicines and food behaved as if I am a dangerous species. I was longing for my mother’s touch” Institutions cannot be expected to substitute family or parents but it can be more humane in its approach to its beneficiaries especially when the beneficiaries are children of tender age.

5.3 Hypotheses

The present study is based on two hypotheses. The sample size in government sector is small and all the variables pertaining to the government sector cannot be quantitatively expressed. Moreover Children’s Homes in government sector exhibit almost uniform pattern of functioning and hence there is not much statistical variations in the data. As a result the scope for statistical analysis of the hypotheses is limited .Therefore both the hypotheses are analysed below in terms of qualitative data.
5.3.1 There is a gap between vision and reality in the field of social welfare.

The variables considered in analyzing this hypothesis are grouped into two major headings.

5.3.1.1 Administration of Children’s Homes

5.3.1.2 Services for the beneficiaries

5.3.1.1 Administration of Children’s Homes

Once legislation is adapted providing social welfare services and directing the appropriate authorities to set up an organization, administration has its beginning. In case of Children’s Homes, Juvenile Justice Act lays down the guidelines for its functioning and Social Welfare Department is the administrative authority that controls and supervises the Children’s Homes.

According to the Act a child welfare committee shall be established consisting of experts from fields of social work, child psychology, education, sociology or home science. Every child shall be admitted to the Children’s Home through these committees. The committee shall initiate enquiries into the child’s circumstances and evaluate the progress of the child in the home. There shall be a child welfare committee for every district or group of districts. In reality, the child welfare committee has not yet been created and therefore the responsibilities of the committee are fulfilled by the superintendents of the home.

The quality and efficiency of administration depends on the personnel correctly placed in the organization. The organization should have sufficient
number of well trained staff. The intelligence, imagination and devotion of the staff matter. The Juvenile Justice Act has prescribed the various levels of staff required and the staff and beneficiaries ratio in each organization. As per the Kerala Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Rules 2003 each institution is supposed to have one case worker for every twenty five inmates. Therefore while considering the total number of 731 inmates from all six institutions there should be a total of twenty nine case workers in the government sector. Practically there is not even a single case worker in the government sector. The above said rule also prescribe four caretakers for every ten inmates and hence there should be seventy three care takers to take care of the 731 inmates but only thirty seven care takers were appointed during data collection and thirty six more caretakers were required to satisfactorily manage the inmates. Similarly as opposed to twenty four vocational instructors at a ratio of four vocational instructors for each home; only thirteen instructors were appointed. An inadequacy was also noticed in the number of other professionals required for the home such as doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists and teachers.

Social welfare programmes need qualified and trained personal for its successful implementation. Training for the staff has therefore been given importance by the Juvenile Justice Act. All the staff from ministerial level to those in the institutions need to be given training as per the Act. The study has revealed that only 31% of the staff has received training and 69% has not received any training at all. Majority of the staff has not received training because they are temporary staff.
Maintenance of registers and reporting is an important ingredient in the social welfare organization. The Juvenile Justice Act prescribes certain registers to be maintained by each home corresponding to the inmates as well as the administration of the homes. Though all homes claim to maintain all the registers as per the Act, in the researcher’s experience the proper maintenance of records were not noticed. Interview schedule revealed that routine medical check up is absent in all homes and hence the medical records of the inmates as mentioned by Act could not be maintained. Though visitors book is kept in all homes, the researcher was not asked to record her visit by any of the homes except one. All these point towards the fact that the registers are not maintained in the way they are expected to.

Budgeting is a prominent component of administration. Funds are allocated under various heads and released by the Social Welfare Department. As revealed by the superintendents, a timely release of grants is not observed always. Social auditing as means of evaluation prescribed by the Act is also not carried out in the Children’s Homes. In nutshell, shortfalls are noticed in all aspects of institutional administration.

5.3.1.2 Services for the beneficiaries

Juvenile Justice Act lays down in clear terms the services to be provided for the inmates by Children’s Homes. Though adoption, and foster care are insisted by the Act for the social re-integration of the inmates, the study has revealed that adoption and foster care are not practiced in any of the homes. Sponsorship is yet another measure suggested by the Act for social re-integration. None of the institutions are receiving sponsorship for any of
the children under its care. Moreover the Act entitles the Social Welfare Department to establish as many after care homes as possible to support the children released from Children’s Homes. At present only two after care homes are functioning, one each for each gender. The Social Welfare Department has not taken steps over the years to establish more after care homes.

Though the Act insist on providing educational and vocational training facilities for all inmates, only 85% of inmates are covered by the educational facilities offered by the home and only 25% is covered under the vocational training facilities. Rehabilitation of inmates is also stressed by the Act but only one home have a single case of successful familial rehabilitation to its credit. These homes wind up every case by discharging them with the parents or by sending them to after care homes. Counselling for children is another area stressed by the Act but the government sector does not provide regular counselling facilities to its inmates. Recreation facilities provided by the homes include out door games, television and yearly picnics, cultural programmness and sports and arts day. Apart from this, creative entertainment facilities are not offered by any of the homes.

Despite the impressive presentation of the Juvenile Justice Act the lacunae in the implementation seem to be far too many. In the process of transferring the policy into programme, several aspects of administration and service delivery are lost. One does not find Children’s Homes functioning as per the Juvenile Justice Act in Kerala.
5.3.2. Social Welfare Administration in Kerala lacks scientific application of social work methods and developmental approach.

5.3.2.1. The variables considered for analysing the practice of social work methods are the following

5.3.2.1.1 Social case work
5.3.2.1.2 Social group work
5.3.2.1.3 Counselling
5.3.2.1.4 Home visits
5.3.2.1.5 Rehabilitation
5.3.2.1.6 Follow-up
5.3.2.1.7 Efforts to solve family problems
5.3.2.1.8 Research Activities

5.3.2.2 Need for social work methods in Children’s Homes

It must be admitted forthwith that quite a significant number of children who reach institutions bring with them tangled problems, emotional and adjustmental, family problems, deficiencies like educational backwardness, inaptitude for learning, history of failures and exploitation, lack of self confidence and self esteem etc. The reformation and rehabilitation of the inmates which is the ultimate aim of institutionalization can be achieved only when these problems are effectively addressed. Specialized service and reasonably sufficient resources of qualified men and money and vigour and dedication of administrators are essential to realize this. Specialized services in this context refer to the various social work
methods and techniques which is indispensable for attaining the development and welfare of institutionalized children.

5.3.2.3 Practice of social work methods in Children’s Homes as revealed by this study

The practice of social work methods requires professional expertise. It has already been discussed in this chapter that none of the staff are professionally qualified. In the absence of a professionally qualified social worker, practice of social work methods remains out of question. The services for the inmates provided by Children’s Homes are found to be limited to basic needs, basic education, and unscientific vocational training. The case studies presented in this chapter as well as described later and the response of inmates regarding institutional life confirms the need for case work in the institutions. All the problems of inmates are found to be left unattended in the absence of case work and counseling.

The concept of group work also appeared new to both the staff and inmates. There are no efforts to facilitate the intellectual, emotional and social development of inmates through group activities. The problems faced by the inmates such as monotony, feuds with inmates, indisciplined group behaviour and the like remain untracked in the absence of positive group life.

It is noticed that in the absence of social worker, the measures of social integration such as adoption, foster care and rehabilitation are not given due importance. The role of social worker and various techniques of social work in providing these facilities are highly significant. The techniques of
counselling and home visits are essential in this process. The social worker is in an advantaged position to find out prospective adoptive parents, study their familial, social and economic condition through home visits, observation and interviewing, explain the procedure of adoption and foster care, prepare the parents and child for adoption, act as a liaison between them to make the case successful. Home visits and counselling are essential to solve the familial problems of the children as well.

Rehabilitation which is yet another measure of social integration has various dimensions such as familial, occupational and social. Familial rehabilitation includes solving the family problems and providing support services for the family of the child, thereby helping the child to lead a normal life within the safety and security of his or her own biological family. In case of those who do not have a biological family, it can be substituted through adoption or foster care. Similarly occupational rehabilitation involves studying the ability and aptitude of the child, helping him or her realize that and make right choices and providing opportunities for vocational training and finally help him or her in getting placed. Social rehabilitation is a two way process. It involves moulding the child’s behaviour in a socially acceptable manner and removing the stigma of the society in accepting an institutionalized child.

Only a social worker can perform well in successfully rehabilitating a child by playing various roles such as that of a facilitator, educator, enabler activist, and negotiator and so on. None of the institutions could mention a
single case of adoption, foster care or rehabilitation. Follow up services become insignificant in the absence of adoption, foster care and rehabilitation. The discharged children and their cases are not considered as a matter of their concern.

Research activities are also important in an institutional set up to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the programme and bring about necessary changes. The absence of any significant or considerable changes in the role and contribution of Children’s Home in Kerala towards the welfare of needy children can be attributed to the absence of research activities. In short, social work methods are not systematically practiced in the Children’s Homes in government sector.

Children’s Homes today are only focusing on providing bare minimum to its beneficiaries. Efforts to solve their personal and familial problems through case work, counselling, home visits and efforts to re-integrate the beneficiaries with family and to the society through rehabilitation and providing them continued support through follow up are not heard of or seen in Children’s Homes. Further, research activities that would broaden the perspective of administrators and planners regarding the system is also not found to be given due importance today. The immense scope for professional social work in welfare institutions is ignored and in its absence welfare institutions become a mere stretcher bearer service to the causalities.

5.3.2.4 Developmental approach

Developmental approach refers to all the interventions by the
institution that contributes positively to the overall development of each child. The overall development of an individual has various components as shown in the figure below.

5.3.2.4.1 Dimensions of Individual Development

**Fig - 5.9**

**Dimensions of Individual Development**

In case of the institutionalised children, it is the responsibility of the institution to provide inputs required for the development of each of these components. The following services are expected to be provided by institutions to attain this objective

- Nutritious food, health check up and physical exercise
Guidance and value education
Education, general awareness, career guidance
Professional intervention such as catharsis, positive re-enforcement etc.
Creative entertainment, facilities for talent promotion
Religious instruction

5.3.2.4.2 Developmental Services in Children’s Homes

5.3.2.4.2.1 Physical development

Sound mind in a sound body is a commonly heard saying. A healthy physical condition is essential for the proper development and well being of every individual. Children’s Homes cannot underestimate the importance of all essential conditions for the proper physical development of each of its inmates. Hence Juvenile Justice Act has prescribed a diet scale and regular health check up for the children. Though the diet scale is followed in Children’s Homes, routine medical check up is absent in all homes. Further the absence of physical exercise and enough facilities for outdoor games are likely to affect the physical development of children adversely.

The other factors that affect the physical health and development such as hygienic surrounding, pure and enough water supply, enough living space, proper ventilation etc are observed to be very weak in Children’s Homes. A visit to Children’s Homes makes it clear that the institutions are preoccupied with other services and physical development of children are often neglected or given a back seat.
5.3.2.4.2.2 Moral development

Morality refers to the socially acceptable behaviour of a person by applying the principles of right and wrong. Morality and character are closely related. Anyone, to elucidate respect from society need to have a strong morality and character. At a young age children confine to moral behaviour because they are asked to do so due to fear of punishment. As they grow older children start questioning, doubting and confronting. At this stage if they are expected to conform to decent behaviour, they might be brought up from childhood with a strong value base, proper guidance and in a god fearing atmosphere. In the absence of family members, the institutions have the responsibility to bring up children is such a manner. This study has revealed that only one home provides value education though not provided regularly. Guidance, religious instruction, moral or value based education at individual or group level are completely absent and disobedience and indiscipline are noticed among the children in institutions by the researcher.

5.3.2.4.2.3 Intellectual Development

As the child grows, his or her intellectual development also takes place. Intellectual development includes the child’s ability with regard to perception, imagination, thinking, reasoning, memory etc. Though heredity plays an important role in determining a person’s intellectual development, the role of environment is equally important. In order to attain intellectual development of each child institutions should provide opportunities for learning through formal education and awareness classes, should facilitate
reading, discussions, questioning, open communication, interaction and the like. Except providing formal basic education, institutions do not go further. Opportunities to think, read, question and express themselves are minimum in institutions and are not welcomed by the staff.

5.3.2.4.2.4 Emotional Development

Emotions refer to the feelings of the human beings that motivate human behaviour. A well adjusted and mentally healthy person is one who is able to keep his emotions under control. Children should be shown love and appreciation so that they may grow to emotional maturity. A happy family atmosphere is essential for emotional adjustment. In case of institutionalised children, as the family element is absent institutions should provide them opportunities to cultivate hobbies, good habits of reading and recreation, develop a philosophy of life to avoid mental conflicts, help them understand their own limitations, provide opportunities for emotional catharsis etc. This responsibility can be successfully executed by only professionals. It is already discussed that social work professionals are absent in Children’s Homes and none of the above mentioned areas are stressed in the service delivery.

5.3.2.4.2.5 Personality Development

Personality implies certain physical and mental traits of any individual. Personality development takes place in each individual in definite stages of growth and are influenced by heredity and environmental factors such as family, peer group, teachers, personal experiences and exposures. For proper
development of personality, institutions should provide them positive life experiences, role models, opportunities to identify and promote talents, creative entertainment facilities and so on. The study observed that Children’s Homes are not found to be interested in the personality development of its inmates.

5.3.2.4.2 Spiritual Development

While talking of holistic development of an individual, spiritual dimension also acquires significance. Spiritual development refers to that part of the individual which reaches out and strives for meaning and purpose in life. In order to attain this, institutions should help children to imbibe certain values, ethics, principles, integrity and commitment in life. In the Children’s Homes of Kerala where even the physical and emotional development of children are found to be areas of least concern, spiritual development of inmates which is a much higher and complicated task is also found to be neglected.

If child welfare programmes are to be developed effectively, attitude towards welfare and maintenance of standards need careful consideration. Welfare services should never be considered as a matter of leisure, sympathy, favour or luxury. This study has helped to understand that we still plan and provide welfare services with the same light-heartedness with which we throw a coin at some unfortunate outstretched hand with the sole object of satisfying an impulse. We have to go a long way even today to cover the modern democratic and scientific thinking and recognize the need for a more
professional approach towards welfare service. Only a professional approach can view problems technically and render lasting results. Moreover child welfare should mean nothing short of the total well being of the child. It comprises totality of measures-economic, administrative, technical, educational, social and familial intended to give each individual an equality of opportunity for growth and development. The thinking that bare minimum is good in the field of welfare will only give rise to sub-standard institutions and services. Welfare programmes on these lines can only mutilate the young and developing minds and prevent them from aiming better lives. The government must therefore lay down standards and emphasise professionalism which are not only minimum but adequate and also ensure that these are strictly observed by all agencies and if necessary enforce them.

It is better to change with the times and proceed gradually on right lines, rather than continuing the sub-standard services which makes no impact and fail in the long run.

5.4 Conclusion

The tables and figures presented in this chapter reveal the true picture of Children’s Homes. Though the Children’s Homes are a solemn promise to the children in need of care and protection by the Juvenile Justice Act, this study reveals that a cursory comparison of the provisions of the Act with the experience of Children’s Homes show that the reality on the ground does not match up to the lofty pronouncements of the Act. The solemn promise is broken on a daily basis by the government officials who are supposed to interpret, implement and monitor these services. The Department of Social
Welfare responsible for providing infrastructure to the Children’s Homes and socially reintegrating the children have failed the children miserably and the authorities routinely violate the law and are lax in its implementation. Effective steps have not been taken to strengthen the existing institutions and set up sufficient number of institutions. The basic problem reflected is that the spirit behind the Juvenile Justice Act is completely missing in the treatment of children in need of care and protection.