

Preface And Acknowledgements

After completion of Masters Degree (M.A.) in Applied Psychology in the year 1999 and one year Post Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Psychology, 2000 from the University Of Calcutta, (India) I joined an international NGO named 'Child In Need Institute' (CINI) which is involved in diversified mother and child related welfare activities in both rural and urban Kolkata. I am grateful to Dr. S. N. Chaudhury, Founder Director of CINI for giving me the opportunity to work in such an esteemed institution. My exposure to rehabilitation program for the street children under 'Child In Need Institute' created an interest and concern to carry out a systematic study on the potentials of street children so that they can be rehabilitated within a shortest period of time given their mental aptitude.

Since, in India the number of street children is huge and their figure is increasing rapidly, it is important to rehabilitate all of them soon, within the best possible resources and prevent them from any deviancy. With this revelation, I met Dr. Sibnath Deb, Faculty Member, Department Of Applied Psychology, University Of Calcutta who did several studies on disadvantaged children. I am grateful to my supervisor Dr. Sibnath Deb, for his continuous guidance and support for carrying the study successfully. I have also received full cooperation and encouragement from other Faculty Members of the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta, I owe my gratefulness to Prof. Sukumar Bose, Prof. N.K. Bhattacharya, Prof. S.K. Dasgupta and Prof. D.C. Nath for the same.

The success of any research and/or fieldwork depends upon cooperation from different organizations for making acquaintances with the study subjects. I have received constant, assistance from the so NGOs of Kolkata viz., Liberal Association for Movement of People (LAMP) and Rainbow School at Loreto Day School, Sealdah (LDSS). I am indebted to the authorities of both the organizations especially to Sister Cyril for allowing me to collect responses from the needy children under their rehabilitation program.

For comparison of data, I had to cover two coeducation secondary Schools of Kolkata viz., The Assembly Of God Church School and the South Point High School. The cooperation of the said school authorities and students also deserve appreciations.

I am thankful to the Librarian and other Staff Members of the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta for their regular support.

Gratitude is acknowledged to authors of all the books, articles and journals that have added academic value to my work. I am grateful and thankful to all the study children who had spent a good amount of time and sincere effort for providing me their valuable responses. Without the cooperation and support from these children it would have been a difficult task to complete the mammoth task successfully.

Finally, I express humble gratitude to the family members specially my brother, my parents, holy grandmother and my husband, who on various grounds have contributed in bringing my project to realization.

Worthy to mention, I have attended two multidisciplinary training programmes on 'Child Abuse and Neglect' held at Nagpur and Kolkata, in joint collaboration with an NGO MIDSW, Kolkata and Government Medical College, Nagpur under the sponsorship of the International Society For Prevention Of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN, USA). This was a valuable exposure to learn more about the issue of child abuse and neglect in general and the problem of street children in particular. The literature and/or lecture notes of the training programs Resource Person's on child abuse and neglect helped me to acquire detailed information. I am grateful to ISPCAN for sponsoring such a good event in India and also to the organizers for giving me the opportunity to attend the same.

I have no tall claim for this single-handed program. I have done to the best of my abilities. I fondly hope to receive valuable suggestions from the evaluators of my work, which will guide me to carry on further work for good social cause.

Every care has been taken to present the data systematically and interpret the same logically and meaningfully without any prejudice. However, if there is any mistake and/or typing error the same are regretted.

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