

## **Street Children: A Great Loss to Human Resource Development in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

*The paper denotes research findings regarding human development amongst street children in Pirwadhai, Rawalpindi. This study provides an empirical evidence that how human development and street life influence each other in respect of adverse effects of poor management, impact of environment, role of social values, interaction of genetics and culture etc. Street children had lost their trust on the people and their false promises and this mistrust led them to juvenile behavior that ultimately retarded their development as a human. The challenges encountered by the street children outcastes them from the mainstream while at the same time labeling them as deviant or in extreme cases as social evils. Once the children are able to overcome the tough street tests, they accept the culture of the street where dishonesty and double dealing is considered a norm. Gradually they come to know that certain groups wish to highlight their plight and misery and thus they start learning the art of lying and deceiving them. They learn to fabricate stories and distort facts according to the situation. This study depicts together with, street children's life in terms of human development and their experience in the streets.*

**Keywords:** Street Children; Human Development; Juvenile Behavior; cognitive and socio-emotional processes and Deprivations.

### **I. Introduction**

The present study deals with the nature and extent of street children in Pakistan and its impact on human resource development. The importance of children signifies in social structure that has its role in human and societal development. Child is father of the man (Proverb): The experiences of childhood determine a person's character as an adult. (Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary; Encyclopedic Edition).

Street children, the richest domain of human resource, were being wasted instead of developing because they were directionless, ignorant of their future development. Experience of street life impeded their human development, depriving them of basic needs i.e. food, education, and protection. They were labeled as notorious children who

were the products of poverty, trouble families, and their condition further promoted poverty in the society.

Pirwadhai, Rawalpindi was selected to conduct this study which is famous mainly due to bus stand, which was established in 1976. It is considered a well-accommodating place than any other location for street children to live, work and survives. Nearly 1,100 to 1,200 buses run from the bus stand across the country every day and thousands of people arrives from diverse parts of the country belonging to different ethnic groups. It is considered the first and best accommodating place for street children.

## **II. Research Methodology**

Anthropological research techniques such as participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions were employed to collect primary data. The duration of field work for this research was about four months. Snow ball sampling technique was used for the study.

### **Problems faced by the Researcher**

The researcher had to face the main problem in Pirwadhai was that of distrust. A good rapport was established with local people through friends who belong to that area to gain the confidence of community. This rapport helped a lot to overcome the reservations of the people regarding the research as well as the researcher. A reasonable stay in the field and regular interaction with street children and other people of the area made it possible for the researcher to built trust for the collection of reliable data. Even than some of the people especially new entrants including children remained scared of the researcher and used to escape, without being paid. In general street children were hesitant to provide information.

## **III. Results and Discussion**

### **a. Human Development**

Human development is about the life experiences and adjustments according to the situation. One may call it coping with and developing a defense mechanism to take an offensive position by adopting rational approach towards issues and their solutions. Humans have tendency to learn, respond, get motivated and possess sense of differentiating between right and wrong, and develop self control over external and internal forces. Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. We are faced now with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Martin Luther King Jr. 'where do we go from here: chaos or community' (cited in Human Development Report, 2007/2008).

Human Development is a very vast subject and has a lot of dimensions, for instance social, economic, psychological, geographical, physical, and cognitive etc; it is quite difficult to cover all those dimensions in this study. Development is pattern of change that begins at conception and continues through the life span. Most development involves growth, although it also includes decay (as in death and dying). The pattern of movement is complex because it is the product of several processes. It's better to group it in a way where relevant human development can be covered to the maximum. The development can be determined by **biological** processes (involving physical changes in

an individual's body), **cognitive** process (involving changes in an individual's thinking and intelligence), and **socio-emotional** process (involving changes in an individual's relationship with other people, in emotions, in personality, and in role of social context in development). (Santrock, 2003)

Although these biological, cognitive and socio-emotional processes are interlinked and influence one another, one way or the other, but keeping in mind sensitivity and complexity of their nature, the researcher found it preferable to confine the study to the relationship with those environments where street children spent much of their time, interacted with others and underwent diverse kind of experiences. There was a good reason to know how these experiences shaped their lives, transformed their personality and impacted their development as a human being. The personality traits, which street children developed under peculiar environment, had vital impact on their development as human.

Street children were exposed to a certain environment where they interacted with others and as a result of this interaction they developed certain personality traits. Their behaviors became apparent which usually afforded them an opportunity to take a direction that was either harmful or harmless to the society. These traits had double-faced dimensions and as a result, society had obedient and deviant characters. The society having more obedient persons focused on prosperity, development and well being of its members where as a deviation-blended society always faced turbulence, lawlessness and insecurity. The individuals are an integral part of any society; they make or break the society and ensure its existence. When individuals gather and work harmoniously they develop some rules and regulations, norms and values and make it obligatory for its members to abide by those rules so that developmental issues of individuals and society can be addressed and both could move ahead. Those who obeyed or followed those norms and values became useful part of the society and were considered as obedient and those who refused or failed to obey them were considered as useless part of the society, were labeled as miscreants, deviants, violent, abnormal, and criminals etc. it was all due to the deviant behavior that ruled their personality.

#### **b. Adverse Effects of Poverty**

New trends suggest that handling of the economy and its benefits had been restricted to a privileged few and the gap between rich and poor had been continuously expanding as a result. Disparities were widening and deprivation amongst various groups and classes was very evident. It was becoming very difficult rather impossible in some cases for those who lived under extreme poverty to earn basic necessities for survival such as food and shelter. There were various measures to judge the extreme poverty such as calorie intake, income per day etc.

One of the most striking features of the world today is the enormous disparity in living standards within and among nations. The wealth of the world's 358 billionaires is greater than the combined annual incomes of countries with half the world's population. At the other end of the spectrum, more than 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day. The eradication of extreme poverty, a more equitable distribution of wealth, and

production systems that do not degrade the environment are essential preconditions for sustainable human development, (<http://humandevlopment>, February 12, 2008<sup>1</sup>).

These street children were product of poverty, family violence, sub-standard living, poor housing and inadequate education, health, food and shelter. Among them 80% children, who were on street, were due to poverty and 20% due to other socio-economic and psychological reasons. This showed that if the system refused to give equal opportunities of basic needs to all citizens and remained hesitant in changing the economic structure that could ensure reasonable, if not equal access to wealth, then it was indeed responsible for producing unwanted segments of the society such as the street children. In the study area, the disparities and exploitation of street children was hugely visible and that too at a place where the twin cities and district governments of Rawalpindi converge.

Street children were denied of their basic human needs and this severely hampered their development and boosted their deviant and depressed behavior due to which they became vulnerable to every kind of threat. Street children were found showing hatred and talking against the people, police, government and its policies. For them, money was everything with which they could do whatever they wanted. This was primary reason why they wanted to get hold of the hard currency either by hook or by crook including, indulging in sex trade, used as tools for smuggling, drug business and other crimes all for a few hundred of rupees. It all depended on the kind of offers they got, as in most of the cases opportunists like mafias and gangs benefited from this kind of tendency in the children. They used them for their own interest and never paid them as per the promise. The question was why did all this happen? According to the children, it was illegal, criminal and dangerous work. Neither they had power to get their rights nor could they ask the police to help since the nature of work was illicit. It was also a common belief that police provided back up support to the mafias for their illegitimate activities and they got Bhatta (illegal forced monthly payment) from them in return. Whenever the street children complained to the police, they had to face adverse consequences. Street children had lost trust of the people and this mistrust led them to adopt juvenile behavior that ultimately hampered their human development.

### **c. Poor Governance and Unstable Institutions**

Governance is the way of efficiently manipulating a state's affairs in line with the constitution and rules of business, managing its resources and administering institutions for the welfare of society and its members in a very transparent, smooth and effective manner. By welfare of society and its members, one means all those interventions and measures taken by the government towards the development of institutions, who at the end of the day can take the responsibility to provide healthy environment that suits the people in respect of human development. UNDP defines the concept of governance by relating it to that of sustainable human development. Under the parameters of Sustainable Human Development, sound governance has come to mean a framework of public management based on the rule of law, a fair and efficient system of justice, and broad popular involvement in the process of governing and being governed. This requires establishing mechanisms to sustain the system, to empower people and give them real ownership of the process, (UNDP, 1995).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://humandevlopment.bu.edu/dev\\_indicators/start.cfmheader\\_id=21and\\_id=13](http://humandevlopment.bu.edu/dev_indicators/start.cfmheader_id=21and_id=13): February 12, 2008

Street children had developed a repulsive attitude and hateful behavior, and were completely dissatisfied with both the government and governance mechanism. Street children seriously doubted sincerity of anyone showing any interest in them and working for their betterment or well being and that included any of the government officials, civil society, NGOs and NPOs. They reported that everybody wanted to use them for their own purpose such as NGOs made money in the name of street children, parents and civil society got rid of them by calling them deviant and their relatives thought they were earning machines. They didn't have any place in the society in terms of any relation to any one, including government and its different tiers. Street children were deprived of education and health due to scarcity of financial resources. They had to fight for food and shelter, and struggled for safety and security. This was the state of poor and poverty stricken street children. This life according to them was worst than death that too was probably annoyed with them. The institutions of governance shape the societies in which we live. These intertwined structures of governance form the institutional context of sustainable human development, (<http://humandevlopmentstart>).

The question arises, whether or not these public welfare institutions, which had heavy responsibility towards the people, were fulfilling their responsibilities or were working for their own interests. The behavior of the institutes with the street children was highly discriminatory and these vital pillars of the state were either passing time or concentrating on their own priorities. In context of our society, the Child Protection Bureau (CPB) was established to protect child rights. CPB made tall claims of their achievements but ground realities reflected just the opposite and questioned their claims in a very simple manner by asking why then were children still on the streets, and why were they more rampant instead of being contained? It already indicated that these institutions were not working according to their mandate. That was why street children were widespread and labeled as ill behaved, ill mannered, juvenile delinquents and unreliable. When the street children were asked the same question as to why be they so negative in their behavior? Their reply was, "Just to survive". Additionally, people's repulsive attitudes also compelled them to be like that. Human development indicators are very disappointing especially in Pirwadhai and its suburbs, the study area of the researcher.

#### **d. Lack of Interest in Education**

Education is another component of basic social need and an indicator to determine the human development. Just as nutrition is essential for health, education is essential for development of cognitive processes. It provides awareness that is very important for the individual in general and for the society in particular. Awareness about health issues, importance of education, problems of marginalized sections of the society (street children are one of them), and environmental nuisance was the motivating force for the responsible persons of the civil society to think about possible solutions, interventions or remedies to overcome such acute difficulties. Unless someone is not aware of his actual problems or those around them how one can find any remedy to it? The case of the street children was not different, as their parents and relatives were unaware of the prevalent adverse situation and the complexities involved in tackling them. That was why it was hard for this down trodden section of society with limited resources to find any solution to address their issues. This was possible only if people were educated and realistically understood the problem and had the commitment to overcome the prevailing challenges.

Education creates in the human beings a sense of responsibility, adaptability and motivation as well as capability to cope with unpleasant situations. Access to timely, accurate, and diverse sources of knowledge is a major foundation of human development. Education in primary school, vocational training, or community institutions is essential to stimulate economic growth, slow population growth, build strong communities, and encourage democracy, (<http://humandevlopment>). Parents as a primary institute of socialization have more responsibility to understand how important education is for the betterment and future prosperity of their children and of the nation.

The runaway and drop outs from school were on higher side and this phenomenon was being addressed as much as possible through launching awareness campaign in schools, communities, and particularly among the parents. One of the primary causes of drop outs was the existence of corporal punishments in the schools by teachers who were devoid of decent teaching methods. The street children (except a few) were still interested in getting education but the unfavorable circumstances hindered them in doing so.

#### **e. Schooling of Street Children**

Children's response towards their schooling was very casual as only 27% had joined schools for year or two and left it due to various reasons. About 73% never went to school (See table 1).

**Table 1 Number of Children Attended School**

Attended School	Number of Children	% age
Yes	23	27
No	61	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>

They had variety of reasons for not attending the school. Almost 32% said that it was due to fear of corporal punishment so they avoided to go to school or left the school. Among other reasons 54% were unable to go to school because their parents could not afford their education, though latter were interested in sending them to the schools. Parents were unable to provide uniform, books, and transportation for school to their children and 14% children disclosed that they disliked studies without giving any valid reason (See table 2).

**Table 2 Reason for Not Attended School**

Not Attended School	Number of Children	% age
Fear of Corporal Punishment	27	32
Parent's Can't Afford	45	54
Don't like study	12	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **f. Impact of Heredity and Environment**

It refers to the complex situation through which humans pass in their whole life cycle that shapes their personality and keeps on demanding transformation all the time while they pass through different stages of life span. In contrast to shared expectations,

which form the culture of the group, it was also observed that individuals had some expectations from their particular group. When society and groups fail to protect their children, fail to provide them food and shelter, fail to provide them affection, education and health that they deserve then blaming children for adopting street life and for their inappropriate behavior seems unjust, irrational and biased. The care-givers who were supposed to take care of them became abusers; instead of affection they started abhorrence, instead of mainstreaming them they ripped their personality apart.

An individual's social environment, already complex at the moment of birth, changes constantly. Infants are born into many social groups—a family, perhaps a tribe, a social class, a racial or ethnic unit, a religious group, and/or a community. Each of these social entities has some shared ideas, beliefs, assumptions, values, expectations, and “appropriate” patterns of behavior. These shared expectations form the culture of the group, (Craig, 1986).

Socialization, human and institutional treatment finally decides the destination of the persons and their success or failure, their developed or underdeveloped personality, the obedient or deviant humans. Socialization is the lifelong process by which individuals learn to become members of a social group, whether a family, a community, or a tribe. Becoming a member of a group involves recognizing and dealing with the social expectations of others—family members, peers, and teacher etc. Whether tense and anxiety-producing or smooth and secure, our relationships with these socialization agents determine what is learned and how well it is learned. Socialization also forces individuals to deal with new situations, (Craig, 1986).

Humans, especially children participate in the process of socialization and interact with other agents of socialization according to their personality traits throughout the life span. They learn, implement, make their choices and modify their attitudes, temperaments and behaviors based on their learning. Children's primary socialization plays a pivotal role to make them capable to fight against different situations and overcome all kinds of menaces except those which are beyond the human control, in an appropriate manner. Street children felt handicapped in this regard because of their distorted primary socialization and threatening circumstances in the pro-antisocial environment. They were basically moving against the wind but for a certain time, afterward they were forced to start moving along with the wind without knowing the repercussions. There were several factors that influenced particularly the development and control of the emotions and behavior of the street children during the process of socialization. Culture and socialization supported individuals to develop their personality and behavior by utilizing their potentials through learning processes that helped them to fit into or space out from the culture. Rewards reinforce the behavioral configuration and personality traits whereas punishment is usually used to make the behavior appropriate but it may prove obstacle to the development and cause anxiety and depression. Another important effect of punishment is that the child becomes aggressive and impersonates the same rather than discontinue the behavior that deserves penalty. This accumulative effect on personality due to punishment is more an impediment in the development of personality behavior rather than being useful to develop the appropriate behavior.

#### **g. Developmental Issues in Street Perspective**

Children required acquaintance to deal with a variety of developmental issues and

also with the barriers to human development, a few of them being pleasant, and the rest unpleasant. They should be ready to exert their energies to find out the applicable solution to those issues. They had to adopt the mechanisms suited to them in their environment to cope with the series of challenges imposed upon them while choosing street as their abode. Such challenges gave birth to numerous feelings and conflicts, which hamper human development. Developmental conflicts occur also as they adjust to their own changing needs. Dependency, autonomy, mastery, and competence are pressing issues in their lives, (Craig, 1986). Dependence and independence were two sides of the coin. Both demand opposite sets of roles to perform in the life, and surely its outcome too was opposite. Dependency may be defined as any type of activity demonstrating that one person derives satisfaction from other people. Dependency, therefore, includes the wish and/or need to be aided, nurtured, comforted, and protected by others or to be emotionally close to or accepted by another person, (Hartup, 1963). This means if some one who was voluntarily getting independence was withdrawing himself from the said needs. But what if he was abandoned or his environment forced him to have independence, then who was responsible for his deprivation of said needs. Children who have had strong and satisfying dependency relationships in early years often become the most self-reliant adults (Sears, Rau, & Alpert, 1965). Many young children alternately display both dependent and independent behaviors, especially when independence is measured in terms of self-reliance and achievement striving (Beller, 1955; Heathers, 1955).

Hereditary traits with supporting or comfortable environment produced more positive results as compared to those which experienced unfavorable environment that result just the opposite in most of these cases. Although autonomy, mastery, and competence are slightly different drives, they are all part of the same behavior complex that influences our behavior throughout life (Erikson, 1968; Murphy, 1962; White, 1959). Every individual regardless of age remained in search of or tried to get autonomy, control, and competence in its true sense to be labeled as successful. As one sees in practical life that success is achievable and could be attained through consistent struggle, vigorous effort and favorable environment. People, especially children, and more particularly street children might get frustrated and could lose self confidence to struggle for achieving success in their life, where environment doesn't suit or supports them. Friendly environment must be ensured for progressive struggle otherwise human development could not be sustained.

#### **h. Aggression and Resultant Behavior of Street Children**

The basic responsibility of familial socialization is to organize and regulate children, their behavior and in addition to provide an environment where they can find their way to success and to become useful part of the society while complying with the societal and cultural norms and values. They learn some rules that are necessary for becoming effective component of the social life. Street children who had chance to live with their families and siblings and still maintaining their contact, though not frequently, behaved in different and acceptable ways, but here too their behavior was shaped in accordance with their parents' behavior. If they were loved, got affection, had learned to develop control over their behaviors, as it reflected in their conversation, no matter why or how they were abandoned. They knew all the good manners that were a prerequisite for being labeled as an obedient. Those who were product of family feuds, abuses, traumas, and were willingly living on the street could be termed as 'bad characters', who didn't know the essence of good behavior. Their actions and talking style was rough,



language filthy and above all most of them were habitual liars. They were experts in fabricating stories and knew how to divert the other’s concentration and jump from one topic to another. They were very intelligent and aggressive with a sharp ability to survive in every kind of situation under worst conditions.

Socialization, interaction with others around them and circumstances shaped their personality like optimistic, pessimistic, responsive or hostile. But one thing that was found to be very common amongst them was that they lived in pairs. The ones, whom they claimed as their best friends, shared every thing with them, as they supported one another in even wrong doings e.g. theft, street fight, drugs etc. As a mark of friendship they pooled their money, did sex with one woman as such prostitutes were easily available at very cheap rates. The rate of these prostitutes varied from Rs.300 upward unlimited depending on their looks and features. But if she was a virgin, her rate was too high. As in the case of female prostitute, same situation was prevalent for having sex with male child; his complexion, age and facility were considered the main criterion for selection and fixation of rates that appear in the following chart.

Rates	Manji (bed only)	Room only	Bacha + Manji (bed with child)	Room + women, 25+	Room + girl age: 18 ~ 25
50 ~ 100	√				
100 ~ 150		√			
150 ~ 500			√		
500 ~ 1000				√	
1000 ~ 1500					√

Early exposure to such activities developed extreme personality traits amongst the children especially the ones who were ready to fight for their rights and others who were ready to scarify their rights without any resistance and became frustrated. Mussen and Eisenberg-Berg (1977) describe pro-social behavior as actions intended to benefit others without the anticipation of external reward. These actions often entail some cost, sacrifice, or risk to the individual. Frustration and hostile behaviors go hand in hand and depend on ones socialization and fear. Socialization with aggressive children creates aggressive behavior, and fearful socialization can cause frustration amongst the children at the end of the day. Some scholar call fears a pro-social behavior but they also agree that it entails some cost that can be sacrificed and even extended to risk. Sacrifice if not frustrating, gives satisfaction, while on the other hand risk can be of any type from minor to extreme resulting sometime in death. Psychologists with several different perspectives have hypothesized a direct relationship between frustration and aggression. Some have gone as far as to suggest that all aggression is derived from frustration, and that all frustration, sooner or later, results in some direct or disguised forms of aggression, (Mussen and Eisenberg, 1977).

Like frustration, aggression then leads to extreme form and it also entails some cost. It demands sacrifice from others, which is just opposite to frustration. It is called social evil, deviance, and anti-social behavior. Social and antisocial behaviors are antonyms but interdependent, socialization and interaction with others and environment help in shaping those behaviors and categorizing those into social or antisocial, obedient or deviant, successful or unsuccessful, acceptable or unacceptable by the community judging them according to their cultural values. One must be careful about interpreting cultural values because different culture may interpret those actions in just opposite way

e.g. upward and downward thumb indicate appreciation or depreciation whereas in Saraiki and Sindhi (Ethnic groups) consider these abusive signs. Appropriate attention and supervision was required to control those behaviors and to shape the acceptable personality, there was a need to provide street children the environment where threat to these children could be minimized while putting maximum efforts to make the environment friendly for their development so that they should turn into decent persons of the society. Surely it could only be possible through making the environment safe, removing insecurity and protecting the street children who were vulnerable to all kinds of menaces. Without proper protection this vulnerable group can suffer undernourishment, poor health, and intellectual underdevelopment, which can have lasting impacts on young peoples' ability to participate fully in their communities and the broader economy. Investing in their protection has profound implications for the development of the region, (ADB, 2001).

Children are considered a ray of hope, a beacon in the darkness for better future of any society and nation; they have the potential to change their environment positively or negatively in accordance with the expectation of the society to a large extent, if not fully. Environmental impediments had long lasting impacts on their physical and cognitive development. The cognitive and intellectual level of the street children remained underdeveloped thus preventing them from taking part in the development of society. Family, society and state were responsible for their protection and provision of basic needs and proper environment that was necessary for their grooming and well being.

As defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, society through good governance must provide measures to ensure that the child is protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation, such as child labor, child prostitution, or the adversities faced by the girl child, street children, children with disabilities, and children under armed conflict. Investment in children is a key factor in poverty reduction and economic growth but it is usually a small proportion of national budgets, despite ample evidence that the small investments currently made bring considerable future benefits to society as a whole, (ADB. 2001).

As it is already discussed, the children joined the street life for various reasons, such as to financially support their families, escape from a hostile domestic life, rural to urban migration, or other difficult family milieus. Whatever drives them to the street was a set of deep rooted social problems. It was found that some efforts were being made at government, private, local and donors' level to curb the street children phenomenon. However sincerity, honesty, professionalism and coordination among the above-mentioned agencies were found lacking. Duplication of the same type of project from various stakeholders was financially beneficial for NGO, NPO, donors, philanthropists, government, semi-government, provincial government and their employees. Their intention could be the well being of street children but their officials had ulterior motives that focused on making money or getting other material benefits out of this situation. There was a lack of trust amongst all the stakeholders. The target of reduction of street children could not be achieved without building trust through combined efforts. The said agencies carry out their projects for short duration depending upon the availability of funds; and then they make money and vanish or end up in making flowery reports, with almost no practical significance or benefit for the street children. This practice was repeated so frequently that street children did not trust them and were hesitant to take

them seriously. Such agencies prepare eye-catching reports with imaginary and exaggerated statements and figures to hunt new projects. Especially most NGOs were interested basically in funding projects rather than ensuring progress of street children. According to the children if they were not on the street then from whom these people (NGOs) would come for? So because of their material benefits and other vested interests they did not actively wanted street children to be developing or progressing. It was in their benefit if the children remained in the street and they felt happy in case their number increased. Due to obvious reasons they provided children some benefits and services although those were substandard, and the poor children had to avail these opportunities because they had no option but to accept whatever was offered to them or be ready to face adverse consequences on the street. By assisting the NGOs and obeying them at least gave them and their parents some sigh of relief from hardships of street life though it was a temporary phenomenon.

Striking a balance between human development activities and service provision is important when considering interventions for street children. In one sense, street children are in a permanent emergency situation. Children in anger, frightened, hungry, or ill cannot be ignored because development theory demands long-term solutions. They need immediate help, but this will be of greatest use if it is planned as part of a long-term development solution, ( Ennew, 2000).

Situation often remained beyond control as far as the problems of the street children were concerned and made them vulnerable to substantial dangers. Hopeless situation distracted them and caused to enhance their antisocial activities. The efforts should focus on all aspects of rural urban migration, socio-economic development including employment, health and education facilities in rural areas due to which people were tempted to migrate to urban areas. No doubt, urban areas were equally important and were needed to be focused at for the said developments but were still far more attractive for the rural communities and so they were easily lured to migrate. Opportunities of employment, education, health and all possible facilities should be provided to the street children, both in the rural as well as urban areas. Children are not just lured to towns by “bright city lights” but also seek schools and jobs that are not available in rural areas. No matter how unpleasant and dangerous life may be on the streets, it may still offer greater opportunities than subsistence in a rural hamlet with no amenities, (Panter, 2001).

Basic facilities and services in highly populated, low class localities like Pirwadhai were essential for human development. Besides, the education must be relevant to the needs of the market; otherwise the existing education system especially in the rural areas would remain useless. To be more precise inappropriate education was main source of frustration leading to human under development. There was not much difference between a typical rural area and that of Pirwadhai the so called urban area. As a matter of fact the conditions were even worse than the available living condition in rural areas of the country. The standard of education in schools was very poor and drop outs rate was on higher. The private schools were also making money; the only difference between the private schools and the government schools was the medium. In government schools the medium was Urdu while in private schools the medium was English otherwise both were teaching the same low standard semi- educated stuff and producing below than average human resource. A child who witness violence of instruction, from a young age, suffers

from variety of problems that scar his/her personality forever. It impacts adversely on his emotional and psychological health, academic and social performance and generally ruins him/her as a human being, (State of Pakistani Children, 2007). It is observed that safe warm and congenial environment was not available to street children. They live on the street unprotected, unsupervised. They become under stress due to various socio-economic reasons, among those the family problems affect them a lot. The future of the society (children) would surely be at risk, the probability of conflict becoming high and attitude of reconciliation a far cry.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This study focused on the street children phenomenon, its causes and impact on human development and concluded that street children transpire as a result of poverty and trouble families. The importance of children signifies in social structure that has its role in human and societal development. This research indicates the importance of children and role of socio-psychological experiences children undergo through interaction with other people and the prevailing environment of the streets have substantial impact on their human development. Street children formed a group against inequalities in society for their protection and survival. They must be regarded only as children but social environment and culture discriminates them as street children. Some of these got sympathy and others hatred from the people. So environment had insightful impact on the human development of the street children.

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