

A qualitative exploration of abuse among street children;
Nature, Practices and Dysfunctional Laws



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DEDICATION

Imran Haider Naqvi, my husband, who has been a constant source of my support and inspiration during the difficulties of this research. This work is also dedicated to my beloved daughter, because she was in my womb during all this research work. This emotion offered me insight on how to handle children with kindness and compassion. My work is also dedicated to my beloved parents.

And special dedication to the “Street Children of Islamabad”.

FORMAL DECLARATION

I hereby certify that the ideas and words contained in this writing are mine, unless otherwise noted. I have correctly acknowledged and cited the original sources. This work is unique expertise that hasn't been published in the same or a similar format for the purpose of degree completion or institutional examination at any other university.

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SYEDA FARWA

QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY

Final Approval of Thesis

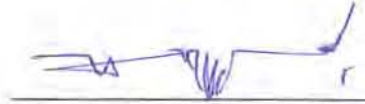
This is to certify that we have read the thesis submitted by Ms.Syeda Farwa. It is our judgment that this thesis is of sufficient standard to warrant its acceptance by the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad for the award of the Degree of M.Phil in Anthropology.

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In every situation, Muslim people needs to thank to God, Allah the Almighty for giving us blessing and mercy. Especially the valuable health that the writer could accomplish this post-graduate thesis. And our prophet Hazarat Muhammad SAWW a great leader for all Muslims over the world that has brought us from the darkness to the lightness.

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Abstract

The research findings on street children in Islamabad are represented in this thesis. The purpose of this study is to discover the child abuse among street children and its determinants—the socioeconomic circumstances that push kids into a life on the streets. And another objective of this research is to determine the social and legal insight of street children in Islamabad. Which policies and laws is needed to be implemented and how can we support the children who are surviving on the streets.

Primarily participant observation, interviews, and other anthropological research methods were utilized to gather primary data in order to gain first-hand information. In order to understand the nature of abuse that occurs among street children, secondary data was also gathered through library and online resources. The fieldwork for this study took place in the years 2022–2023. The study was only conducted in the G-9 markaz, I-8 markaz, Rawal town, and Mehar-Abadi due to the dense population. By using the nonprobability sampling procedure, purposive sampling and snow ball sampling technique was opted for the current research. The sample size was 30 street children, 10 parents and some of the government officials.

The study's key findings suggest that poverty, lack of education, Afghan migration, family troubles and economic position, and peer influence are the main factors of street children becoming involved in social evils and sexual activities. On the streets of Islamabad, these youngsters were subjected to multiple types of abuse, such as verbal, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The current study's respondents were primarily scavengers aged 10 to 18 years, the majority of whom were illiterate, slept in the storage area, and some of whom lived with their parents in the kachi abadi. They worked for 6-8 hours a day and earned between Rs. 200 and 1200 a day, depending on the nature of their work. They had 5-7 siblings, 2-3 working members in the family and 6-9 members who are dependent on the breadwinners.

The findings reveal that once a child leaves his or her home, he or she is categorized as a street child, regardless of the reason for their flight. People viewed these kids poorly and saw them as a societal burden. The street children

have no idea about their basic rights. The study found that the primary reason for youngsters joining the street was a lack of safety and health care from their families. Physical and verbal abuse are common among street children, and those in power do not protect them. That is why they create organizations in order to protect themselves against abuse and exploitation. The research revealed that some of the street children are happy with their work because they get a good amount of money in a day and according to them their monthly income is so high that if they were educated, they could not earn that much. The city police also share their earnings, street is the most unsafe place for all the types of abuse.

The study also discovered that these children are extremely talented, but their surroundings limit their ability. Several institutions and NGOs play a vital role in spreading education and awareness about abuse among street children. The field findings revealed that number of street children is increasing in Islamabad due to poverty, migration, lack of opportunities and education. To address these issues there is need to firmly establish strategies which should be based on ground realities of these vulnerable children. A positive atmosphere should be created for these people, with children are protected from neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Key words: Street children, child abuse, exploitation, child trafficking, child rights, substance abuse, child protection system

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDs	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIG	Additional Inspector General of Police
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CPWB	Child Protection and Welfare Bureau
CPS	Child Protection System
CRC	Child Rights Convention
EOTO	Each One Teach One
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
FIR	First Information Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International labor organization
IMCP	Institutional Management Certification Program
NCCWD	National Commission for Child Welfare and Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPC	Pakistan Penal Code
PIMS	Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences
PCP	Pakistan Center of Philanthropy
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPARC	Society for the Protection of the Rights of Child
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SSP	Senior Superintendent of Police
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UN	United Nations

USIAD	United States Agency for International Development
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VTI	Vocational Training Institute

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Chapter-1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Street children phenomenon is a global interest through which millions of youngsters worldwide live and work on the streets. Unequaled, universal development, poverty, urbanization and material pressure are the major reasons for the increase in the number of street children and their abuse. According to this, children are on streets for multiple causes including domestic violence, unemployment, migration, natural disasters, peer pressure etc. On the streets of the Pakistan's major cities and urban settlements there are around 1.2 million children which forming the country's largest social group. These comprise the children that are not just working on the street but also children who are surviving on the street (Tufail, 2005).

Children required proper care from guardians to ensure their well-being, physical and personality development. However, due to the number of factors, a large portion of kids is not receiving the necessary attention from their adults. Therefore, many children are forced by their parents to engage in street labor. There is term "street children" relates to those for that the street plays an important part in their life and serves as a point of reference (De Benitez, State of the world's street children: violence, 2007). According to the United Nations¹ (2000), street children are any boys or girls for whom street become a source of income, and who is ineffectively supervised and protected by adults. Earlier introducing the phenomenon of street children, it is essential to understand "child" in totality and types of children in a given social system. Additionally, it would be helpful to set a criterion for defining "children". According to the United Nations, any girl or boy below the age of 18 is child (UNICEF, 2000). This principal line on the basis of age is given by United Nations and so all the population below 18 in the world are children. They are facing several problems in their respective social, cultural and economic setups.

¹United Nations (UN) is founded in 1945, is the global entity dedicated to advancing international collaboration, upholding global peace and security, nurturing social and economic progress and ensuring human right worldwide.

The growth of street children is increasing as the flow of time and their problems are universal about which most of the government and other child related institutions are worried. To overcome this problem a number of charity programs have already in progress nationally and internationally but this is a long way to introduce a planned policy reduce this problem. The reasons were lack of policy implementation and lack of priorities setting by both sectors, private and public. The ground realities of problems faced by street children remained untouched because of cold behavior of those who matter. There is need to bring these children in the mainstream of the society. The migration of the street children in urban slums and shantytowns increases the number of children and youth (Jacobson, 1990).

From different studies question rises as to why these situations are emerging in which more than 50% children of the population are facing various susceptibilities in the developing countries like Pakistan. With the beginning of the 21st century, human population especially in under developed countries and in developing nations like Pakistan going through the cycles of food shortage. This population outbreak not only gives rise to a lot of environmental and physical stresses. Precisely, children are highly prone to these unpredictable situations. They face neglect of their basic rights. The discriminations they face due to behavior of adults are indescribable, however the indicators are same in any setting. The conditions faced are same all over the world. In the growth of the child's behavior, parents, peers and physical setting play a vital role. There are certain factors which forcing the child into different behavior such as mistreatment, indifferent parental behavior that can also create substantial and long-term harm to the child's personality. Many societies witnessed an invasion of children ending upon the streets due to cold attitudes of their parents, poverty and family breakup (Abdullah, et al., 2019).

Furthermore, the numbers have been steadily increasing to major spreadable sizes. Societies have fallen far short in providing proper follow-up and safe environments for these displaced kids, named "street children". The alarming numbers of street children in Pakistan show that displaced children has not gotten the spotlight it needs in the fight against child poverty and suffering. The absence of seriousness may be due to the fact that, in many countries, the

phenomenon of street children is regarded as a part of the country's cultural heritage instead of a serious societal problem that requires quick attention and strong remedies. Apart from poverty, street children confront other challenges such as physical attack by police officers, truck drivers, and other drug addicts. Some government employees have a tendency to consider street youngsters as criminals.

Every year, violence affects more than half of the entire world's children. Perpetrator's brutality and the survivor's pain, as well as the consequences, are frequently kept from public view. Child abuse is a serious problem in every civilized community. In this age of globalization, there is an urgent need to empower and educate the most vulnerable members of society against abuse from strangers, as well as their instructors and family. It hasn't been long since the case of Zainab² from Qasur, a city in Punjab, has made headlines. Earlier to this incidence cases of sexual abuse of over 200 children from the same city created a disturbance in the media and in the country. There has been a rise in the number of incidences of child abuse revealed in the media in recent years. Over the last couple years, there appears to have a sudden rise in the number of reported cases of child abuse. The alarm over rising incidence of child abuse and mistreatment has established global attention. Multiple national and international organization have shown some serious concern are demanding strict measure to confront the issue of child protection (Avais, Narijo, & Parker, 2020).

There are constant stories regarding various sorts of child abuse in either local or national press. Because of the cruelty and brutality recounted, some of these stories appear unbelievable. Some dads are found to be assaulting their own children, mothers batter boys, professors harass their students, and employees try to hire illiterate, unskilled young youngsters under the age of maturity. These sorts of child abuse are not reported in Pakistan or other nations for a variety of reasons, including poverty, family pressure, social barriers, parental neglect, and political influence of offenders. The home to 23% of the world's inhabitants is south Asia and is also renowned as the world's most impoverished

² Zainab Ansari, a Pakistani girl who was sexually assaulted in her own town, Kasur, in the age of seven years. This was a case which shook the entire social media. But due to the media influence, the accused in the Zainab murder case was punished.

region. Child labor, child prostitution, child trafficking, and child sexual abuse are major concerns in most South Asian nations, including Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India, and Bangladesh (Venkateswarlu, et al., 2003).

Uncontrolled price increases, rising unemployment, and the economic crisis have created a climate in which parents have begun to lose their self-control, become angry, and they abuse their children severely. Clearly, those in power's oppressive practices, social injustices, an unsatisfactory justice system, the continuation of materialistic goals, and the alliance of allocated interests all over the country have caused distress and anger among society, even parents, became less caring and loving. Likewise, the rise in violence in society, along with a lack of enforcement of domestic abuse laws, exposes children to ill treatment not just by their guardian but also by other relatives. A brutal or immoral treatment of children, such as neglect, beating, or involvement in sex acts is known as abuse in a broader sense (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current Encyclopedic Edition, 1992). Child abuse is also growing in the home, on the streets, at work, and in schools. The facts on the ground painted a different and horrifying picture of these educational institutions and their damaging teaching practices.

Denial of basic needs, corporal punishment³, and abuse drive children away from their schools and homes, encouraging them to live on the streets. While family issues, unemployment, and the economic crisis were the primary motivators for parents to disregard their children. Another issue was the increase in the number of children seen on the streets who belonged to poor families living in slums. Their living culture and life were quite strange, and they were continually exposed to maltreatment because their parents moved out to earn money and were missing for long periods of time. The structure of their living quarters was found to be hazardous and unsuited for protecting them, and their presence in such unfamiliar areas rendered them more vulnerable to different types of hazards. Street children are deprived of their rights and their childhood. Their potential should not be discouraged since they have talent that

³ Corporal punishment, is the act of using physical force, such as striking and bodily pain as a mean of administering discipline and it is an offense of child's rights.

should be used positively to bring them back into the mainstream of social life (Shabbir & Anwar, 2007).

Street children, like all Pakistanis, have the right to the means and atmosphere required for their existence and well-being, regardless of why they chose to live on the streets. Everyone has a liberty to a satisfactory standard of lifestyle that is sufficient for them and their family's well-being and health, containing clothing, nutrition, shelter, therapeutic treatment, and required communal services; everyone has deserves to work, an education, and social safety. Children, the government and the society as a whole, are aware of unemployment, socioeconomic instability, denial or inadequate access to school, healthcare, sanitation, recreational facilities, and other forms of vulnerabilities. They attempted to overcome the aforementioned issues, but the pace was not only slow but also disappointing. On December 16, 1980, the Pakistani government formed the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD). On a provincial level, the Punjab Government established the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) on February 24, 2005, in accordance with the Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004. Both entities are charged for protecting, supporting, and training children and adolescence, yet its standards and conduct are extremely poor, with no durable, sustainable influence on their forthcoming (Gera, 2004).

Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, has a population of roughly 2 million people; street children are visible, and their numbers are growing. Despite extensive research over the last few decades, it is still unclear why street children appear in some societies but not others. The topic of street children has been researched in both developing and economically advanced countries. Much of the research has been on the street life style, the features of these youngsters in terms of their usage of public spaces, and their relationship with family. On the other hand, children's perceptions of their life on the street remain understudied in academia, particularly in the setting of Pakistan.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Individuals who live or spend the most of their time on the streets are referred to as street children. They live on the streets alone, with no adequate guidance or

safe shelter. These children coexist on the streets with millions of adults, many of whom see them as creeps and tiny criminals. They are a vulnerable and marginalized part of society, frequently confronted with several obstacles that impede their well-being. Among these difficulties, the topic of abuse appears as a key concern, impacting their quality of life and hopes for a bright future. Despite infrequent attention from researchers and policymakers, there is still a dearth of comprehensive understanding about the occurrence, primary drivers, and complicated dynamics of abuse in the lives of street children. This study aims to bridge this gap by exploring the nature and extent of abuse experienced by street children.

The goal of this research is to find out whether the youngsters that survive and labor on the streets are from slums or illegal places, or they came from other countries avoiding conflict. The current study is an attempt to explain why, instead of being nourished and raised in safe families, children prefer the harsh reality of street life. Which circumstances compelled them to join the streets, whether they joyfully adopted street life or they became a part of it due to external influences? The reality is that the occurrence of street children exists in all civilizations, including Islamabad, although its intensity varies from community to community.

One of the main factors in child molestation which is important to understand in order to judge any issue relating to child abuse is the nature as well as the context of the abuse. There are multiple types of abuse which children faced on the streets, these types are unknown to the local people because their main emphasis is on sexual abuse. These types must be known to every citizen of the Islamabad. In order to eliminate child abuse and rescue children first we need to understand its context and nature. Then we need to understand the causes, and factors which stimulate the act of abuse. For this purpose researcher will focus on the lived experiences of victim of child abuse in Islamabad. In order to gain first-hand information the researcher will conduct in-depth interviews and focused group discussion and expert opinion from the persons working on very theme under consideration. In this way researcher will be able to address some of the basic questions like, why molestation is increasing day by day and people do not raise their voices? Which type of abuse they faced on the streets of

Islamabad? What factors contributing to increasing child abuse? What kind of policies and laws is needed to be implementing to protect child? And how can we support the sufferers of abuse? These are the questions which need to be answered in order to reduce child abuse and to protect children from maltreatment.

1.3 Objectives

- To understand the nature as well as the context of the abuse among street children.
- To examine the socio-economic determinants of child abuse.
- To know the social and legal insight about the street children.

1.4 Definition of key terms

1.4.1 Street children

Definitions of street children are imprecise and have been heavily criticized by academics. NGOs⁴ and sponsors, but one thing is certain: the phrase "street children" is extensively used. A few things are shared by all definitions, and criticism is intended to provide a clear picture of what this research is all about and the findings connected to street children.

"Street children are persons for whom the street has converted into their primary house, overshadowing their family environment. In this situation, they lack the safeguards, guidance and supervision usually provided by responsible adults" (Ennew, 2003).

The essential term in this statement is street, which has replaced their family as their true home. The United Nations has added in the definition that, i.e. the street seem as a source of living and the rest of the phrase having the same demonstration which states, "Any girl or boy who is poorly protected, directed and supervised by responsible member of the society and for whom the street become their territory in broadest sense."

1.4.2 Child Abuse

Child abuse is describe as any action carried out by guardians, parents and caregivers that ends in the death, sever bodily or emotional damage, sexual

⁴ NGO stands non-governmental organization.

abuse or mistreatment of child. It also comprises situation where a child in immediate danger of significant harm.

According to UNICEF, abuse is "a conscious act of mistreatment that has a potential to badly affect a child's welfare, safety, self-respect, or growth." Abuse comprises all sorts of physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm imposed upon the child" (UNICEF).

1.4.3 Child exploitation

Child exploitation is complicated and frequently cannot be easily classified into one term, and many children and young people cross the various categories.

Child exploitation is defined by UNICEF as "the use of children, against their consent, for private benefit or gain." Sexual assault, child soldiers, or kid laborers are all examples of this. Child exploitation frequently results in cruel or damaging treatment of the child, as the actions in which they are coerced can cause emotional, physical, and social difficulties.

1.4.4 Child trafficking

The illegal acquisition and relocation of children, usually for the aim of involuntary labor or sexual exploitation.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), trafficking is one of the "forms of slavery or activities similar to slavery" that should be eradicated as soon as possible (O'Connell Davidson, 2011).

1.4.5 Child Rights

A right is a contract made between the person who has the right and the persons or institutions who have accountable for fulfilling that right. Child rights are human rights that applicable to anyone under the age of 18.

In general, child rights are outlined by the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). According to the UNCRC, child rights are minimal advantages and freedoms that should be given to all people under the age of 18 irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, origins, wealth, birth status, or aptitude, and so apply to all people worldwide. According to the UN, these rights are interrelated and interdependent, which means that one right affects another (Melton, 1980).

1.4.6 Child Protection system

Child protection systems (CPS) are a collection of primarily owned by the government programs that aim to protect minors and young adults while also supporting the stability of families. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) defines a child protection system as "the collection of policies, legislation, rules, and services needed throughout the social sectors, specifically education, social welfare, medical care, safety, and justice, to support the avoidance and response to safety related threats". These systems are part of, and go beyond, social security. Their purpose at the prevention level is to develop and support families in order to decrease social exclusion and the risk of segregation, exploitation, and violence. (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2008).

1.5 Significance of the study

The goal of this research is to learn about and understand the nature and context of abuse among street children. Street children are more susceptible to various forms of maltreatment. Current research show that the number of street children and child maltreatment is increasing by the day, there is a need to bring this issue to the attention of those in positions of authority. From this study researcher will be able to highlight the causes and factors which promote child abuse. This study will also analyze the local perception of people about the act of molestation. Apart from this, this study will also understand how law maker agencies play a role to prevent child abuse, and what are the gaps for the implementation of law and policies. How NGOs and people who are in power take notice of this problem and protect street children from abuse.

This study can help public to know about their roles and responsibilities in order to help themselves preventing and lessening child abuse up to a possible degree in their surroundings. It can trigger a spark of thought in parents to think about un-thought in term of their children that how they should behave and look after their children with reference to Child Protection principles. Those agencies which are working on child abuse can also get help from this research by knowing the alarming status of street children, from which they can formulate their intervention techniques in order to avoid socio-cultural

loopholes which can possible causes of driving abuse. This research will also be helpful to the policy makers to overcome the institutional and legal gaps and to plan an effective and efficient child friendly environment which are beneficial for the proper growth and development of the street children.

This study will be significant in all respects for academia, civil society, NGOs and those who are related to policy making and planning for the country. This anthropological study would give clear insight about the lived experiences of street children and abuse they faced on the streets.

1.6 Limitations of the study

This study employed only boys due to small number of girls in the area which were selected for fieldwork and interviews and the willingness of those who were available to participate.

This fieldwork based on short duration of time and the limited number of in-depth interviews. To have a better knowledge of the lives of street children, a lengthy study is required, which will provide rich information about the children's experiences on the streets.

The researchers were unable to interview the parents of the youngsters being studied. The reason for this was because their parents were not living with them, and some of the kids were not comfortable disclosing details about their relatives. This information would have been helpful in understanding the circumstances at home that cause children to leave.

Gender was one of the most significant limitations of the current study, limiting the researcher's mobility. As a female researcher, she is unable to watch street children at night or after dark, which limits her exposure to other facets of streetism, such as the fact that many crimes are perpetrated at night.

Language also limited the research because most of the children were Afghani, they spoke pashto and Persian language which researcher unable to understand. In order to conduct research and collect data researcher used interpreter. Which translate their information but the problem with using an interpreter was that a lot of information was misrepresented.

1.7 Problem faced by researcher

Convincing working children to participate in the interview was difficult, and some children refused to cooperate since their activities were being disrupted by the interview. They were demanding a large sum of money for the interview, which the researcher did not have because it was not a funded study.

The researcher encountered numerous obstacles when speaking with the children, including being thrown garbage and rotten fruits. All of the kids would form a circle and begin shouting and cracking jokes. It was the most difficult time.

The most difficult aspect of the research interview was obtaining sensitive personal information. Many children shared their own and others' stories, but they asked that the material be kept private.

Most of the respondents were boys, they hesitate to share their personal data, and my husband helped me a lot in decoding the information because boys has their own code words.

1.8 Organization of the study

Each chapter is arranged and constructed in the following manner to fulfill the study objectives:

Introduction to Chapter 1: This chapter introduces the background and defines the specific topic addressed in the investigation, as well as outlining design components such as objectives, significance of the study, important term definitions, study limitations, and study organization.

Review of Literature in Chapter 2: This chapter examines the relevant literature on street child abuse and the implementation of laws. Also, provide a brief introduction to theory, which provides a wide framework or perspective for interpreting data.

Chapter 3 Methodology: This chapter discusses the data gathering methods and processes, sampling methods and sample size, and tools and techniques for data collection and analysis.

Chapter 4 Area Profile: This chapter described the aspects of research locale, in which geography, demographic and socio-cultural patterns are explained and formulated.

Chapter 5 and 6: These chapter gives the detail data which gathered during the process of research. Chapter 5 fulfill the requirements of our two objectives which were related to nature and context of the abuse and socio-economic determinants of abuse. Data is presented with the help of tables and case studies. Chapter 6 describe the social and legal perceptions about the problem under study.

Chapter 7 Summary and Conclusion: In this chapter, a quick summary of the research, its findings, and conclusions is provided.

At the end there is a glossary that includes local words used in the research and bibliography of the studies which were used in order to support current study.

Chapter-2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The available literature has been thoroughly reviewed in order to gain a clear grasp of the aims of the current study on street children. The available literature was then researched and compiled in this chapter to provide context for the argument investigated in this study. The literature contributes significantly to the comprehension of the research area and provides a good structure to the investigation.

2.1 Introduction

A great deal of previous research on street children has provided insight into their phenomenon. To comprehend the tendencies, various factors from various disciplines and schools of thought have been investigated. There are several reasons for children to leave their homes; these causes vary from nation to country and even within countries; for example, industrialized society have different dynamics than agrarian households. The study's goal was to look into the factors that lead to them becoming street children. Price (1989) investigated the causes, which could include poverty, family dysfunction, illiteracy, and so forth. Such causes not only push minors to the streets, but also have a negative impact on their personalities, making them vulnerable to abuse. The majority of street children in industrialized cultures leave home to live or work on the street to avoid neglect, dysfunctional families, physical violence, or sexual abuse, or out of a desire for freedom, rather than because of socioeconomic concerns (Price, 1989).

As a matter of fact it is not always the continuing process for street children to leave home, as in some cases there are other reasons too for ending the homes. For instance they are fed up of parental restrictions, strict environment at home and look up for more independent atmosphere. This is not always a gradual process some of the children were on the street due to their unexpected decision under the circumstance in which they were living. children reported that, in

contrast to the limited and restricted spaces of the home, the street appears to be a carefree open space where one can indulge in all that appear to be forbidden elsewhere. The street is therefore, a permissive space allowing freedom to everyone (Rizzini & Butler, 2003).

Before we proceed, we must first grasp the term "Street Children" from the perspective of several authors. As a result, any public or private sector organization that works with street children must have a clear charter on street kids. It is difficult to function effectively without understanding the concept of street children; therefore, a working definition should be provided.

According to Tufail, "the term street children signify to comprise street-working children, who may keep strong relationships with their families, and street-living children, who have very limited or no contact with their families and have no or transitory shelter without reliable employment" (Tufail, 2005).

According to the previously stated concept of street kids Tufail describes the several classes of street children. According to him, there are two types of children on the street: those who work on the street with their relatives or parents and have a deep relationship with their families, and those who do not. Another type is those that live on the street; they not only work on the street, but they also survive on the street. They are not living with their parents; some have no contact with their parents, while others have a limited contact.

2.2 Defining the street children

To explain any character, problem, or phenomena, basic traits must be constructed. However, there is no universal definition of street children; each country, public or private sector, and stakeholder uses its own or one of the existing definitions based on their requirements and needs. Many policymakers and practitioners use UNICEF's idea of boys and girls under the age of 18 who made the street their home and source of income, and who are ineffectively secured or monitored. Definitions continue to grow in order to convey the flexibility and variations in children's conditions, including phrases like street-connected children and children in street situations (De Benitez, State of the world's street children: violence, 2007).

"There is no and perhaps cannot be, a clear definition of street children," says Abebe Trans-Cultural Psychosocial Institute Addis Abeba University Ethiopia's Amsterdam and Behailu, who has extensively worked on the subject. This is due to a variety of factors. First, definitions are occasionally used for political goals. When foreign organizations emphasize the large number of street children, they are, even if accidentally, claiming a large number of financial allowances. As a result, when one reads a UNICEF report estimating that there are over 300 million children living on the streets worldwide, one is hit by the enormity of the situation and the need to act quickly and passionately. This can be dangerous for children because an overstated number tends to heighten public panic. Another cause for the lack of a precise description of street children, which exacerbates their problems, is cultural ethnocentrism (Aptekar, 2000).

In the 1980s, terms like "on, of, or in" the street were popular for defining street children, but in today's research, three broad approaches to definition are visible: first, approval of development of UNICEF's "on and of" the street classifications, second, substitute terms or definitions, and third, rejection of the term "young people on the street" as a social issue (De Benitez, State of the world's street children: violence, 2007).

Because of the dispersion of street children and differing points of view, the phrase "street children" was not exactly defined. "The meaning and definition of street children are contested between policymakers, scholars, practitioners, politicians, and the citizens, with many individuals and groups having their own desired definition." Because street children are not routinely counted or surveyed, their actual numbers in Pakistan are unknown. Numerous organizations do local assessments, and even conventional figures show that Pakistan has a sizable proportion of street youngsters.

Ennew defines street children as "teenagers who give the majority of their time to the street and the street is now their home and above than their own family and circumstances where there is no monitoring, security, and direction from responsible guardians." (Ennew, 2003).

The primary distinguishing feature in the above definition is that these children frequently have damaged family relationships. A "street child" refers to youngsters in urban areas who have entirely or partially lost familial ties and are involved in different survival activities on the streets. On the streets, these children were subjected to various forms of abuse, exploitation, addictions, and crime, as well as a lack of approach to basic necessities such as schooling and well-being care. The social perspective of street children worsened their condition. These children are frequently targeted by the police, who beat, detain, and charge them without due process. Government organizations, policies, and communities may exclude or dismiss street children, denying them their basic human rights.

2.3 Types of abuse faced by street children

Child abuse is categorized into the following categories: neglect, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. A kid might be exposed to one or more of these forms of abuse at any moment. Abuse and mistreatment can occur in the family, society, or even in institutions. The perpetrator might be an adult or another child, a friend or a stranger. When a child is accused of abusing another child, this becomes a child welfare and protection matter for both, and we must initiate child security procedures for both the victim and the suspected abuser. Now we'll look at the various forms of maltreatment that street children face.

2.3.1 Emotional/Verbal Abuse

Emotional assault is defined as a child's repeated psychological and mental cruel treatment as a result of the child-caregiver interaction. Emotional abuse does not include occasional conflicts and one-time incidences among a parent and child. Abuse happens when a kid's fundamental requirements for affection, concentration, approval, stability, and safety are not met due to failure or neglect on the part of his or her parents or caretakers. Emotional abuse also takes place when those in charge of the welfare of kids are unable to meet and are unaware of their children's emotional and developmental needs. Because the effects of emotional abuse are not clearly visible, we cannot easily identify it. When the behavior became distinctive of the child-parent relationship, there

would be a realistic concern for the child's wellbeing. Refusal, absence of attachment, lack of peace as well as affection, lack of appropriate stimulation, lack of consistency of care, constant criticism or blaming of child, restricted parenthood in which the child's good care or affection is dependent on his or her behavior, unacceptable intangible punishment, and continuing disputes between families and domestic violence are all examples of emotional abuse.

The Tusla child and family agency said that "We cannot find tangible evidence of emotional assault until it occurs along with another type of abuse. A child's actions and feelings might show evidence of emotional abuse in a variety of ways. These include unhappiness, unstable attachment, low self-confidence, academic and cognitive failure, and aggressive and reckless behavior." (What are the types of abuse and how do I recognise them?).

It is important to note that no single symptom is convincing evidence of emotional abuse. When emotional abuse occurs over time and there are few protective circumstances, it is more likely to have a negative influence on a child. Emotional abuse may lead to a child making a mistake. Some youngsters attempt to flee their homes, while others become drug addicts. Every day, street children were subjected to this form of maltreatment. People accuse them and say hurtful things to them, which effects their mental health. As a result, these children are compelled to participate in inappropriate behaviors.

2.3.2 Physical Abuse

Injuries caused by a caregiver or other persons are considered physical abuse or non-accidental suffering. Physical abuse is possibly the serious sort of child ill-treatment as it is almost certainly incurable without resources and intervention. The injury is frequently the result of an aggressive attempt by the caretaker to discipline the youngster for disobedience. When an unrelated crisis occurs, it is sometimes an uncontrolled strike against a youngster who happens to be in the way of the caregiver. Physical pain can be defined as mild (a few cuts, scars, wounds, welts, scrapes), moderate (many wounds, small burns, just one fracture), or extreme (a huge burn, numerous fractures, intestinal injury, the nervous system injury, and other fatal injuries).

According to Schmitt (1986), children who have been physically abused are frequently young children. In the meantime, corporal punishment is common in our society. Physical punishment that creates bruising or causes an injury that necessitates medical or dental treatment is not permitted. Mark suggests beating without restraint. A few bruises presented as discipline can quickly progress into a more serious injury the next time. Even if there are no visible signs of injuries, beating with a closed hand or kicking the child constitutes physical abuse. All previous instances of corporal punishment should be reported to the appropriate authorities so that these families can learn safer methods of managing children and their conduct (Schmitt, 1986).

The physical abuse is also described by TUSLA and the child and family agency. According to their findings, "when someone intentionally harms a child's body or puts them in danger of physical harm." It could be only one case or a sequence of events. There is a practical worry in cases when the child's development and health may have been affected as the outcome of alleged corporal assault."

According to a recent study, many children have claimed physical abuse, and they have also displayed the marks created by beating. When these children go to pick up trash or beg, some individuals beat them so severely that their bodies are scarred. Some scars are so deep that medical attention was required. Previously, other research reported symptoms of physical abuse, allowing us to conclude that this youngster is a victim of physical abuse. Slapping, hitting or punching or pushing, pinching, gnashing their teeth struggling to breathe, or hair grabbing, suffocation, faked illness, and female genital mutilation are examples of physical punishment.

2.3.3 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is describe as any inappropriate sexual behavior by an adult with a minor under the age of 18. The majority of the perpetrators are family members, others are familial connections, and outsiders are the least common. Molestation (fondling or masturbating), intercourse (non-assaultive vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse), and family-related rape are examples. Sexual abuse happens if an innocent child serves as a tool for the pleasure or arousal of another person, or

for the pleasure or arousal of others. It involves the child engaging in sexual behaviors such as libido, verbal or deep intimacy, fondling, or openly or through pornography subjecting the child to sexual activity. Childhood sexual exploitation is widely regarded as a serious breach of human dignity. It has a variety of negative physical and mental consequences, including infectious disease, substance misuse, and unplanned pregnancy. According to many research, Africa has the highest rate of sensual abuse in infancy (34%), Europe has the lowest incidence rate (9%), and America and Asia range between 10% and 24% (Pereda, Guilera, Forns, & Gómez-Benito, 2009). Street children endure more sexual abuse at work and are more vulnerable to sexual assault because they are powerless and economically disadvantaged.

Child sensual abuse refers to a wide range of violent acts. It is usually a single event and, in certain circumstances, it continues over a number of years. Abuse of this nature is common among family members, particularly elder siblings and extended family members. Sexual abuse cases are often revealed through disclosure by a kid or his or her peers or siblings, an adult's uncertainty, or physical symptoms. Any sexual act performed for any purpose in front of a child, touching a child's body for the purpose of sexual stimulation or satisfaction, having sexual relations with a kid, forcing a child to engage in adultery or the creation of child pornography, and showing sexually explicit material to children are all examples of sexual abuse.

The most common kind of sexual abuse, according to Gharaibeh and Hoeman, is "unwanted kiss/touching in a sensual way and unwanted touch to child's private part." According to a review of the literature, numerous research demonstrate that females are more vulnerable to sexual assault than boys (Gharaibeh & Hoeman, 2003). Many kids reported being forcefully molested by touching their private parts and engaging in intercourse in the current study. People offer them money to perform intercourse, and when they refuse, they severely touch their private parts.

2.3.4 Neglect

Blumenthal (2015) discovered in his research that adolescent neglect by parents is the most common sort of child ill-treatment inside the home sphere around

the world. The failure to provide a kid with the required care and protection is referred to as child neglect. It is divided into four categories: medical, educational, emotional, and physical. It can include inadequate medical treatment, inadequate shelter, a lack of food, and a lack of suitable supervision of a kid for extended periods of time. Domestic neglect was more widespread in terms of both physical and emotional neglect. It is widely acknowledged that reporting child neglect may protect the child by obtaining assistance from the family. (Blumenthal, 2015).

Neglect can be challenging to describe because there are no uniform, international standards for good or partially acceptable child parenting behavior. According to numerous research, neglect is frequently associated with other types of maltreatment and danger. However, neglect is typically described as a lack of parental attention and a consistent inability to fulfill children's basic needs. The United Kingdom's Department for Education and Skills described neglect in 2006 as "determined failure to meet the child's fundamental psychological and physiological needs, which may result in serious harm to the child's well-being or growth."

Neglect while expecting a child may arise as a consequence of the mother's substance abuse issues. When a parent or caregiver fails to provide adequate food, shelter, and clothing for a kid after birth, neglect occurs; fails to secure the child from mental and physical injury or risk; fails to offer adequate supervision; or fails to provide access to adequate medical care or treatment. It may also refer to ignoring a child's fundamental psychological requirements. (Davies, 2006).

Physical neglect is defined by some academics as neglecting to care for children in accordance with established or adequate standards. As it contains things such as dirty hair, dirty or not enough clothing, insufficient lunches, incomplete immunizations, unsanitary home environments, insufficient after-school guidance, a disappointing environment, and a lot of work, neglect is easily confused with ignorance, poverty, or challenging problems. Physically abused children should be assessed for continuous physical abuse. It was also looking

for significant emotional illnesses. Parents or guardians are frequently depressed and withdrawn in cases of purposeful physical neglect (Schmidt, 1986).

The warning indications that a child is being mistreated or neglected differ depending on the type of abuse.

- Dressing ill-fitting, improper, or unclean clothing for the weather is one of the warning indicators of child neglect.
- Consistently exhibit poor hygiene (unbathed, matted, and unwashed hair, visible body odor).
- Suffer from physical injuries and untreated disease.
- Be repeatedly left unattended or alone, or be left to play in dangerous conditions.
- Be frequently late or absent from school.

2.4 Child Protection Laws

Multiple studies have indicated that in Pakistan, a high proportion of children are subjected to physical abuse or assault, forcing them to drop out of school, run away from home, and wind up living on the streets, in jails, or as sex agents for survival. According to a 2005 Save the Children and UNICEF study, assault on children is an unaccepted and unavoidable component of South Asian communities, and it is well understood as a result of shame, humiliation, and guilt. Despite being a guarantor to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and related treaties and protocols, Pakistan ranks fifth among countries with a bleak picture of children, as kids continue to face abuse, anarchy, and denial of essential rights (Rasool, Noor saani, Khan, & Gul, 2021). As in any federalist state, the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan can pass legislation. Federal laws often provide a universal authorized requirement that is detailed and enforced by laws or rules of provinces. Pakistani provinces tend to be more active and developed in terms of children's rights than the Federal State. Pakistan, like any other federalist state, has the ability to pass legislation through both the National and Provincial Assemblies. Federal laws may include broad regulations that are then applied and regulated by provincial laws or ordinances. Pakistan's provinces are seem to be more

energetic and advanced than a federal state in several aspects of children's rights.

Anees and Zarina Jillani also talk about provincial laws. According to them, the Punjab Children Act 1952 and the Sindh Children Act 1955 were probably the first child-related laws that make an attempt to include child-friendly principles into legislation (Jillan & Jillani, 2000). Children's rights in Pakistan must be nourished at the federal level and thus documented in the federal legal framework, despite the provinces' efforts to create specific legal protections for children. Provinces can clearly play an important role in the advancement of children's rights, but their actions must be guided and regulated by the federal government and legislation. Pakistan committed to improving the rights of all children on its territory by signing the Convention. However, delegating responsibility for spreading and implementing children's rights to provinces causes inequality among children from various provinces and undermines the ability to successfully implement these rights.

The reason for such prejudice is that Pakistan's CPS is motivated by cultural values impacted by diverse cultures in different sections of the country. As a result, child protection legislation differs from province to province, resulting in a fragmented system with an imbalance in international duties and local standards around child safety. While the global standard for child security is that it is the process of securing individual children that are either suffering or are at menace of suffering severe harm as a result of mishandling or neglect.

Several studies found from a review of the literature that the division of legislative and executive powers between the federation and provinces is an important component in understanding how policies are executed in Pakistan. This duty distribution can be both an encouraging and a discouraging aspect for children's rights.

2.4.1 Pakistan's current child protection and judicial system

Pakistan's current policy and judicial framework for child protection incorporates the country's commitments as a signatory to various international treaties and conventions, provisions of the national constitution, federal and provincial laws, including criminal law and sharia law, as well as children-related national action plans and policies.

Pakistan's constitution is the top national legislation, and it guarantees basic rights to all citizens, including children (Articles 8-28)⁵. The Constitution contains explicit bans on torture and the abolition of all types of exploitation (Article 3)⁶. According to Article 25(1)⁷ of the Pakistani Constitution, "all citizens are equal before the law and have equal protection of the law." However, in our society, street children are the most vulnerable community; these youngsters are denied their basic rights. There are several laws and constitutions in Pakistan for the rights of children, as well as many monies in their names, but these youngsters are still denied their rights. According to Article 38, it is the role of the state to provide basic requirements (food, clothes, education, housing, and medical care) for all people, including children, who are unable to earn a living due to disease, disability, or unemployment. However, Pakistan's economy is currently mired in low growth, high unemployment, and high inflation, as well as plummeting investment and a deteriorating external balance position (Younus, Chachar, & Mian, 2018)..

2.5 Theoretical Framework

Every discipline has its own collection of theories that evolve throughout a certain period of disciplinary history. The discipline's evolution can be best understood in terms of theoretical objectivity and methodological direction. It is a theory that gives a wide framework or perspective for fact interpretation. According to traditional social scientific practice, social scientists begin with theory. Theories are attempts to explain and describe the real world, or they help us to explain and grasp the nature of the social environment. Macro theory refers to some social thinkers who focus their attention on society as a whole or on a major portion of it.

⁵ Articles 8 to 28 of the republic's constitution address all essential rights guaranteed to Pakistani people. Citizens' fundamental rights are their basic liberties. According to Pakistan's constitution, all citizens are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection under the law.

⁶ Article 3 of the 1973 Constitution, as revised in 2015, states that the state shall ensure the eradication of all types of exploitation and the eventual fulfillment of the core principle, from each according to his ability, to each according to his effort.

⁷ All citizens possess equal standing before the law and have the same legal protection. Article 25 of the Constitution ensures the equality of all people, without regard to gender. Nonetheless, given the state of women and children in the country, nothing in this article prevents the state from establishing specific provisions for their protection.

According to Earl Babbie, "a theory is formed at understanding the entire picture of institution, whole society, and the connection among the societies is called Macro Theory" (Babbie, 2004). Micro Theory is a theory that deals with concerns of social existence at the level of small groups and individuals. "A theory focused on understanding social life at the close level of individuals and their connections, examining how girls' behavior differs from that of boys, would be an example of Micro Theory" (ibid).

To do research on any subject, researchers must first make some assumptions about the nature of what is being examined. A Perspective is a working set of assumptions; in this way, many viewpoints are utilized in Anthropology, each of which examines society from a distinct perspective. Most anthropologists use each perspective to some extent, and they are all necessary for a complete knowledge of civilization.

The current study is based on the "Functionalist Perspective," also known as "Structural Functionalism." The functionalist perspective focuses on the stability of the system. According to this point of view, a society is viewed as an organized system of cooperating organizations that operates in a fairly orderly manner based on a set of shared values and rules shared by the majority of its members. As the current study focuses on the qualitative examination of abuse among street children, it is discovered that this phenomena has emerged as a result of family system instability; in general, this is the result of "failure of family institution" in the social system. This theory bests at offering a basic framework for working from, based on a society's function. Structural Functionalism is the most useful because it allows the researcher to generate fundamental assumptions and then drive "consequences" and implications from those assumptions.

According to the structural functional analysis, this is the result of some portion of the social system. Earl Babbie (2004) claims that when applying the functionalist model to everyday life, society sometimes makes the mistake of thinking that "functionality" integration and stability are necessarily good or that the functionalist model makes those assumptions; however, when social researchers look for the functions served by racial discrimination, poverty, or

women's oppression, they are not defensible by the above understanding. This implies that the Functionalist Perspective can be discussed on both proper functional aspects of society and non-working parts of the social system.

Even though only a small amount of systematic anthropological study has been conducted in this sector, the topic of street children and abuse presents numerous avenues for exploration. There have been a few studies, and some NGOs working with street children in Pakistan have performed study on the subject. This is undeniably a global phenomenon. However, obstacles, causes, characteristics, and treatments may differ depending on the cultural and socioeconomic conditions of a specific place.

2.5.1 Structural-Functionalism

Radcliffe-Brown developed the structural functionalism theory. This theory is focused on social structures and their consequences on culture, with customs serving as a tool for preserving these social structures. Radcliffe-Brown compared social systems to organisms, in which different components of a live entity do their roles to keep the whole body running. Because social roles, norms, practices, and behavior are employed to support the social system, this biological description works for structural-functionalist theory. The theory of Emile Durkheim, who was concerned with how societies maintain internal stability and endure over time, lies at the heart of structural-functionalism. He searched for ways to explain societal coherence and stability using the concept of solidarity.

Mechanical solidarity, with each person performing comparable chores that held society together. Such communities are typically segmentary, with equal pieces tied together by shared values, symbols, or trading networks. Members of modern complex societies undertake various difficult duties, resulting in a great interdependence among people. Based on the metaphor of an organism, where various parts work together to sustain the whole. In general, the failure of one institution in a society causes instability in other institutions. For example, in the current study, the instability of the family institution produces many difficulties in other sections of society. Street children are the result of a broken family system. This encourages societal abuse.

To summarize, society is a system made up of interconnected elements, according to functionalists. In order for the system to survive, certain basic needs must be addressed. These basic requirements are referred to as functional fundamentals. The function of any portion of society is its contribution to society's preservation; the essential function of social institutions is those that assist in meeting society's functional basics (Harallambos & Martin, 1992). In the current study, family institutions have an important part in bringing their children to the street. To meet their fundamental requirements, they abandon their homes and become street children. Where kids face various types of abuse and are more prone to drug addictions. To eliminate child abuse or street children, we must first reduce poverty in order to stabilize the system; otherwise, the cycle will continue.

2.5.2 Conflict theory

According to the conflict theory, society is about competition rather than solidarity or social agreement. Individuals compete for limited resources such as leisure, money, and a sexual partner in society. Larger social structures and organizations reflect resource rivalry in their fundamental disparities, with certain organizations and persons having more resources, such as power and influence, and using those resources to preserve their positions of power in society. Conflict theory arose to demonstrate the shortcomings of structural-functionalism. According to the structural-functional approach, society moves toward stability. This is in contrast to the conflict theory, which contends that society is constantly at odds for resources.

One of the primary advantages conflict theory has over the structural functional method is that it is well adapted to understanding societal change, which is a major issue in the structural-functional approach. Humans have an innate ability for conflict, which includes vertical relations of domination and resistance as well as horizontal relations of competitiveness. There are significant aspects of dislike in close relationships, such as between mates or between parents and children. However, these conflicts are expressed, ordered, and suppressed in a variety of ways, and models that credit to humans a single drive for dominance, for example, fail to account for the enormous flexibility that defines human adaptation (Greenberg, 1898).

2.6 Application of theories in present study

The structure-functionalism theory was important in understanding abuse among street children. This idea focused on how society structures and institutions work together to maintain stability and order. When researchers applied it to the topic of child abuse among street children, it helped to discover how wider socioeconomic factors, such as a lack of access to school, economic inequality, and insufficient social support, contribute to street children's susceptibility to abuse. Furthermore, by employing this viewpoint, researchers shed some insight on how dysfunctional components of society, such as limited services and resources, lead to negative outcomes for these children. By investigating these structural elements, the researcher has a better information of the root causes of child abuse in the context of the lives of street children.

This theory also helped to revealed that how various societal components interact to influence this issue, for instance, researcher explored how economic inequalities and lack of access to basic resources contribute to children ending up on the streets. This theory also highlights that how the social structure fails to provide equal opportunities and support for all individuals, resulting in marginalized street children being at a disadvantage. Furthermore, by using the lens of structure-functionalism, researcher analyze how social institutions such as family, education and healthcare are dysfunctional for street children. The broken family institution, limited educational opportunities and insufficient healthcare access intensify their exposure to abuse.

Incorporating this theory in present research allows researcher to not only examine the immediate factors contributing to child abuse but also to consider the broader systemic issues that spread these circumstances. It encourages a comprehensive understanding of the issue by exploring how social structures and functions interplay to shape the experiences and outcome of street children in relation to abuse. While this theory provide a valuable insights, but there are some limitation of this theory which is important to acknowledge. The theory tend to focus on stability and ignored power dynamics, changes and conflicts that challenge the status quo. As a result, researchers adopted another viewpoint, conflict theory, to acquire a more comprehensive picture of child abuse among street children.

Conflict theory play a crucial role here's why, this theory emphasizes the power struggles and inequalities within society. In the case of street children, this theory highlighted the unequal distribution of resources, social power and opportunities that contributes to their vulnerability. It helped researcher to understand how economic differences and social hierarchies spread abuse. This theory allowed researcher to do a critical examination of social systems, norms, institutions. When applied to street children, it prompt researcher to question the roles of institutions like law enforcement, child welfare organizations and government agencies. It reveal how these entities reinforce offensive situation through systematic failures. This theory challenges the existing conditions and advocates for change. This critical perspective is essential for understanding the underlying causes of child abuse.

Integrating both theories in the present study enriches the understanding by revealing the complex interactions between social structures, functions and power dynamics that contribute to child abuse among street children. Structure-functionalism provides insight into broader systematic factors that set the stage for abuse, while conflict theory sheds light on the power struggles and inequalities that spread their liability. Together, these theories offer a comprehensive perspective that informs strategies for prevention, intervention and policy change.

Chapter-3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses in detail the methods for a proper knowledge of the study problem, sample size and sampling techniques, and data gathering instrument and techniques.

3.1 Introduction

Every scientific discipline has a distinct set of rules and processes that must be followed in order to perform effective research. Anthropology is a discipline with numerous tools for conducting research. The logical use of these procedures generates accurate data. Fieldwork with emphasis on participant observation is the principle research techniques for qualitative research. An anthropological research methods enables a researcher for planning study in reference to time and topic. The method that distinguishes anthropology from other disciplines is ethnography, defines as the qualitative process of discovering in depth the why and how of behavior, culture and human expression. Anthropologist can discover surprising ideas that are best achieved by studying the subject over time and from various perspectives using the ethnographic method. In this regards, the ethnographic method uses various data collection techniques.

Anthropology has established a range of data collection and management strategies. Tools already exist and we have to use an appropriate method which is known as methodology. Being a student of anthropology, researcher used the main anthropological technique i.e. participant observation as a basis to conduct the research. The main technique was surplus by various other techniques such as rapport building, key informants. For the collection of data researcher used different tools such as sampling, interview guide, census and socio-economic survey, daily dairy and photography.

3.2 Use of various research techniques

3.2.1 Rapport Building

After starting fieldwork, rapport building is the most important task for the researcher. It is basically defined as building strong affinity and relationship with the respondents to get the required information. It helps the researcher in many ways i.e. the researcher can move freely to the respondents; he or she can get the maximum information from the respondents etc.

The time span of my field work was lasted for 5 months, out of which, the beginning were spent on the streets looking for a place where street children are more common. But this process did not prove to be so fruitful, researcher found very few children on the street of Islamabad. But these children were not ready to give me an interview, they threw rotten fruits on me and try to tease me by shouting. Then I decided to leave that place and contact with several NGOs. These NGOs were working for such type of children. First, I visited SPARC street children school. I build a trustworthy atmosphere with children by introducing myself and aims of my study. Then I used to participate in the activities with them every day and make drawings for the children and asked them to color it. The children were very happy and had a lot of fun with me. After building a rapport I started conducting my interviews. Thus the children answered my questions very easily and respected me a lot as their teacher. I started the interview with basic questions i.e. their name, age, family background, favorite food, favorite game etc. then after that I asked questions about child abuse. Similarly, I visited other NGOs schools and build a good rapport with the help of volunteers of that school.

Figure 1: Researcher trying to build a rapport with street children



Source: Researcher

3.2.2 Key informants

Key informant is also another important technique of anthropological research. Here a researcher must choose a person in the start of research who can be and help him out till he leaves the field. Key informants are the people who provide information regarding their cultures and they are selected on the basis of their experience, reputation, knowledge or age. Keeping in view the nature of research, the criterion researcher have made to choose the key informants, were those persons who were well aware with the victims and cases of child abuse, and those professionals who knows the law related information. So, researcher has chosen to take a volunteers and founder of NGOs as key informants in order to get necessary information about the respondents.

My first key informant was Mr. Abdul Rahman Lodhi, Co-founder of Each One Teach One (EOTO) welfare foundation Islamabad, who introduced me to the street children who used to study there in the evening. He helped me a lot in building my rapport, with the help of Mr. Lodhi, I came to know about those

children who are victims of abuse. Had a great time with the street children under the supervision of Mr. Lodhi.

My second key informant was Muhammad Uzair Aslam (Advocate High Court), who introduced me to other lawyers and policemen and line-up interviews with them. He proved to be a very helpful throughout my fieldwork.

Figure 2 Muhammad Uzair Advocate of High Court



Source: Researcher

Figure 3: Mr. Abdul Rehman Lodhi co-founder of EOTO foundation



Source: Researcher

My third key informant Naveeda, who was a teacher in SPRAC Organization. She knew about each child, where he came from and what background he belong to. Naveeda suggested me to mingle with the children and help them in all their activities so that I would build my rapport very well. Hence this act proved to be very effective. After some time, all the children were very attached to me, so it became easier for me to collect information from them.

3.2.3 Sampling

Bernard said that, "Samples are used to estimate the true values or parameters of statistics in a population with a calculable probability of error," (Russel, 1994).

Sampling is a crucial aspect of the research because it allowed researcher to choose a specific number of people from the relevant community. The underlying idea behind sampling was to analyze some of the constituents in a population to provide relevant data about the full population. Researcher used the technique of purposive sampling for this aim. Meanwhile it's very difficult to collect data from a huge number of sufferers, so sampling would be done to make it easier to collect information.

3.2.3.1 Sample Unit

Sample units are population members from whom measurements are taken during sampling. "Sample units are distinct, non-overlapping entities." (Bonham, 1989).

As the relevant people to the topic were only specific age group of a male and female so this method was used. As this is sensitive topic so most of people were not ready to talk about this. Researcher chose people who were willing to give interview and was relevant to the topic. Total sample size was 30 street children, 10 parents, 4 lawyers, 2 policemen and one officer of FIA. Then researcher used another sampling technique for collecting data from the respondents, is snowball sampling.

3.2.3.2 Snowball sampling

"Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling method in which currently enrolled research participants help to introduce other future study subjects."

For example, a researcher looking to explore dysfunctional child abuse laws could ask a lawyer to recommend individuals in their circle who are prominent.

The technique is known as "snowball" because the population being studied takes the shape of a snowball that rolls. Non-probability sampling indicates the sample is chosen by researchers or other participants rather than drawn at random, therefore not everyone in the inhabitants has an equal opportunity of being nominated for the study.

3.3 Research Tools

3.3.1 Interview Schedule

An interview schedule is basically a list of semi-structured questions intended to aid interviewers, researchers, and researchers in gathering information or data on a given topic or topics. To have appropriate data that does not originate from perception and during fieldwork, the researcher must be prepared to cover every crucial aspect of the investigation. This method is extremely necessary and beneficial for data collection. It is the ideal mechanism for institutionalizing particularly relevant information from the group's dispersed members. In anthropology ethnographic research methodology interview schedule is a Semi-structured questionnaire. Researcher had prepared some semi-structured questions for each group of respondents for instance researcher have made question for street children, lawyers, policeman and NGOs persons in order to get relevant information according to the objectives and other questions were asked according to the discussion with the interviewee.

3.3.2 In-depth Interviews

"An in-depth interview is a qualitative research technique in which focused individual interviews are conducted with a small number of participants to

explore their perspectives on a specific idea, situation, or program." (Boyce & Neale, 2006).

In this technique, the researcher goes in kind of discussion with the subject it is unstructured interviews, the questions were asked spontaneously and upon the urge of the researcher. The unstructured questions gave me a qualitative and in-depth view of respondent's opinions. By using this technique I not only collect data but also understand the behavior of the participants and then analyze the data.

This method is time consuming but considered to be very effective in gathering the required information. The average time of my each interview was 30 to 45 minutes. That was a very difficult time to engage street children who were working on a street to collect desire data. For this purpose, I had to pay some money to these children to sit comfortably next to me and answer my questions. Because these kids say that our time is wasted, if you give us money, we will sit down and in thirty minutes we earn a lot of money. Then I had to pay as per their demand to each child who were working on street like balloon seller, pen seller earphone seller etc.

Figure 4: Researcher conducting an interview of pen seller street child



Source: Researcher

3.3.3 Socio-economic census Form

Socio-economic census form gave researcher all the necessary information about the background of the respondents. Researcher can get more data and information in less time through this socio-economic census form. In the current study, a socioeconomic form was used, which included demographic information, educational level, living conditions, parents occupation, street life initiation, and the kinds of abuse they suffered on the streets.

3.3.4 Focus Group Discussions

The researcher has also collected data through focus group discussion between different respondents. I also arranged focus group discussion of the street children and general public, which gave me a bird eye view to look at different perceptions amongst different peer group. Total of two focus group discussions were held, 1 with the victim of abuse and 1 with general public. On average 6 to 8 were invited to FGD. The researcher initiated discussion from normal questions and after building the rapport amongst the children she then came to main questions. The age of respondents were ranging from 10 to 18years. One of the main reason of conducting FGDs was to know those grey areas which were missing in interview guide and by using this tool cross validity checking of biases in respondents opinion also use to come on surface. During interview many children did not tells about their experiences of sexual abuse they just tell about physical and verbal abuse but after focus group discussion many children opened each other's secrets and said that they had been confronted sexual abuse. These children were friends because they were lived in the same place and used to pick garbage together that's why they knew each other's secrets.

3.3.5 Field Notes

While researching, it is necessary to manage data on daily basis. It is impossible to remember each and everything after interview. During field work the researcher has noted down each aspect of events and happenings, which helped during analysis.

3.3.6 Photography

During the field research, researcher employed photography as a nonverbal mechanical aid to gather and record informal data about the individuals and the

area. Researcher take a few images during the interview since they won't let her take pictures because they're scared of that their photos will be utilized for other purposes. Keeping ethics in mind, I never shoot photographs without permission.

3.3.7 Case Studies

Another way for gathering in-depth and detailed data about a specific individual, action, or phenomenon is the case study. As Lobovitz and Hegeden said that “the most important advantage of case study lies in the richness of its descriptive examples that results from deep study of one or few units,”

During the field work the researcher collected 30 case studies from the child abuse survivors in order to do in-depth study. The respondents initially felt reluctant in telling their life stories, but later on they agreed to share their experiences when the researcher cleared to them that she will not mention their identity.

3.4 Ethical Considerations

During the course of my research, researcher observed the following research ethics:

- I obtained permission from the respondent to be questioned; and
- There was no hierarchical relationship between researcher and the respondent. As a result, during the interviews with street kids, researcher dressed casually and tried to communicate in the same manner as they did.
- The responders' names were not revealed.
- Researcher informed them that the information he/she supplied would be kept private and utilized only for my research.
- I made every effort to make this research interactive and participatory.

3.4.1 Gaining Consent

Obtaining and getting the participation and authorization of the respondents for this study is a crucial moral concern. To do this, the researcher explicitly communicated the research objectives to all of the selected participants. All activities involved, as well as the goal of the study, were verbally informed and verbal agreement was obtained. Gaining trust and developing rapport has been

deemed critical throughout the study process. These aided in guaranteeing the participants' willingness and cooperation in providing sufficient and reliable data pertinent to the study. Although all participants were able to resign from the study at any time for any reason, by granting this option, individuals did not feel compelled to participate. Throughout the study, the researcher maintains honesty and transparency to guarantee the participants that their protection and security are of the supreme importance. All of these aspects were presented in the most complete way possible based on their level of comprehension.

3.4.2 Confidentiality

The researcher also stressed the respondent's privacy and the confidentiality of their responses. The names of the participants were kept anonymous, and all study-related facts were only presented once in the thesis.

Chapter-4

AREA PROFILE

The researcher has discussed the elements of the research locality in this chapter, in which geography, demography, and socio-cultural patterns are explained and formulated. It is necessary to explain the area profile in order to learn about the various aspects of life, such as the culture, social, economic, and ecological characteristics of the area where the researcher did the research. For the area profile, the data was extracted from “Census-2017, printed by Bureau of Statistics, planning and development Department of the Government of Pakistan.

The locale of Islamabad comprises both macro and micro perspectives, outlining the city’s broader significance within Pakistan and the subtle characteristics of its neighborhoods.

4.1 Locale at Macro-Level

4.1.1 Islamabad

Pakistan's capital is Islamabad. Its population is growing by the day as a result of increased migration from other cities in Pakistan. Because of the violence, many Afghani individuals have recently relocated from Afghanistan, increasing the number of street children. As a result, it has a high level of variety and is ranked as the ninth largest city in Pakistan in terms of population. According to the census bureau, its population has risen to 2 million. With a population of approximately 4.5 million people, it and its nearby twin city Rawalpindi make up Pakistan's third largest contribution (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan). Islamabad has always been a center of urbanization, attracting a large number of people. People from nearly every culture, including distant cultures are largely seen here.

Figure 5: Master Plan of Islamabad



Source; google map

4.1.2 Historical Background

Islamabad is a capital of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and was established between 1960 and 1970 to change the previous capital, Karachi. Previously it was a little town, widespread with mud huts and old village life. It's a modern looking city, the new capital is settled against the surrounding of the Margalla Hills and gives a very healthy environment. The pollution free climate, excess of water and greenery everywhere, it is a contemporary and well organized city that complete with green belts, expensive homes, magnificent communal structures, and well planned markets and playing areas.

4.1.3 Geographical Position

The capital of Pakistan, Islamabad, located at the 33.43 N and 73.047 E longitude. It is positioned in the northern part of Pakistan. It has a height of 540 meter. The modern capital of Rawalpindi and the old Gakhar city of Rawalpindi are known as the Twin Cities since there is no distinct line among the two cities. Murree Hill Station is located northeastern of the city, while neighboring Haripur District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is located north. To the northwest are

Taxila, WahCantt, and Attock District, to the southeast are Gujar Khan, Rawat, and Mandrah, and to the south and southwest is Rawalpindi city.

Islamabad is 906 square kilometers (350 square miles) in size, and the Identified Area is 2,717 square kilometers (1,049 square miles), with the Margalla Hills to the north and northeast. The southern outskirts of the metropolis are a wavy plain. The Rawal Dam's drainage system is the Kurang River, on which it is built (ibid).

4.1.4 Climate

The winter season from November to February, spring between March and April, summer from May and June, rainy season from July and August, and autumn from September to October are the seasons in Islamabad. Margalla Hills National Park spans two hundred acres (89 hectares) of city property. The 1,087-yard-long (440-hectare) LoiBher jungle is situated next to the Islamabad Highway. According to data, the average annual precipitation is 1143 millimeters (ibid).

4.1.5 Settlement Patterns

Islamabad was Pakistan's first planned city. It is organized into five major sectors, which are denoted by letters ranging from E to I and are further subdivided. Each sub-sector is recognized by an alphabet letter and a numeral, and each sector spans an area of around 2 km 2km.

E-7 to E-17 are the names of the sectors E. This section houses a large number of foreigners and diplomatic staff. Bharia University, Air University, and the National Defence University all have campuses in this sector. Sectors F-5 to F-17 are part of the F series. G-5 through G-17 are the names of the G sectors. This district is home to the Red Mosque, Jinnah Convention Center, the Serena Hotel, and the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, the capital's largest medical complex. Although the construction pattern and architecture are totally updated and urbanized throughout the city, there are pockets of mud huts that appear to be the last remnants of the area's previous residents.

4.1.6 Population

The overall population of the capital was estimated to be 2003,368 in 2017, with a 3.45 percent growth rate per year from 1998 to 2017. Out of which 1052,328 male, 950,760 female and 280 transgender. The Islamabad-Rawalpindi metropolitan area, which includes Islamabad and its neighbor Rawalpindi, has a population of more than 4.5 million people. The majority of the population is between the ages of 15 and 60 (ibid).

4.1.7 Languages

Urdu is the country's primary and initial official language, and it is mostly used within the city because of the ethnic diversity of the population. English is also commonly used and known. Punjabi is the mother language of 68% of the population, Hindko is spoken by 10%, Pashto is spoken by 15%, and other languages are spoken by 7% (ibid).

4.1.8 Economy

Islamabad is a net beneficiary to the Pakistani economy, accounting for 1% of GDP despite constituting only 0.8% of the population. The Islamabad Stock Exchange was founded in 1989. It is country's third largest stock exchange, subsequently the Lahore Stock Exchange and the Karachi Stock Exchange. There are 118 members in the exchange, comprising 104 corporations and 18 individuals. The severe financial circumstances, as well as increasing energy and food costs, lower incomes, and crop and livestock losses as a result of the 2022 floods, have considerably increased poverty. The predicted poverty rate in FY23 was 39.4%, with a total of 12.5 million more Pakistanis living under the Lower-Middle Income Country poverty line than in FY22 (ibid).

4.1.9 Culture

Islamabad is house to many immigrants from all around Pakistan, and it has a long history of ethnic and religious variety. Because of its position on the Potohar Plateau, the region has preserved artifacts of prehistoric cultures and civilizations like as the Aryan, Sasanian, and Indus Valley civilizations. Near Islamabad lies Pharwala Fort, a 15th century Gakhar fort built on what was left of a 10th century Hindu fort.

The city's population is pluralistic as a result of cultural mingling. We can simply locate a member of any ethnic group. However, due to the social milieu of the area, it is quite urbanized and western in design.

4.1.10 Education

Islamabad possesses Pakistan's greatest literacy rate (87%), and it also has the most modern educational institutions (ibid). It includes a variety of institution providing to pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The majority of the educational organizations in the Islamabad are either officially funded or run by private establishments, and almost all have been approved by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission. High schools and colleges are either affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education or with the O/A Levels or IGCSE education boards of UK institutions. The city have prominent universities such as QAU, NUST, COMSAT and Allama Iqbal Open University which is the world's second largest common university by enrollment that is located in Islamabad and provides remote education.

4.1.11 Health Care

Islamabad has the country's lowest premature death rate, with 38 deaths per thousand contrasted to the national average of 78. Islamabad has both private and public medical facilities. The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) hospital is the biggest in Islamabad. In 1985, it was established as a teaching and medical education institute. PIMS is a National Reference Center that provides specialized clinical and therapeutic treatments. Along with this, there are various more public and private sector hospitals, such as Poly Clinic, Children Hospital Islamabad, and Shifa International Hospital, which provide high quality bio medical services and attract patients from rural Pakistan.

4.1.12 Transport

The second scenario involves air travel. Islamabad now features the most recently constructed airport, Islamabad International Airport. The aerodrome was deliberately established outside of the broader metropolitan region to meet the considerable traffic that the area was experiencing as a result of the sharing of one airport, the old Benazir Bhutto International airport.

Islamabad is linked to the rest of the country by two highways: G.T road and KKH. In addition, the city's internal road links are well established; as a result of the development of the metro bus tract, many individuals who previously utilized local transport at exorbitant rates are now using this facility at low rates, which is well appreciated by the public.

4.2 Locale at Micro-Level

At a micro level, Islamabad's neighborhoods and sectors offer unique characteristics and facilities.

Sector of Islamabad are miniatures demonstrating unique socio-economic, cultural and infrastructural features. These sectors ranging from residential to commercial, represent diverse living experiences within the city. To narrow down the locale, different sectors of Islamabad were selected where the number of street children was high or the availability of street children. The most difficult process was to select a place or sector where we got a true representation of street children. For this, the researcher started going to the streets to interview the street children and collect data from them. But this process did not to be as fruitful as very few children were found on street and children found were far below our selected age criteria. And many children were not ready to give an interview. Then researcher selected I-8 markaz, G-9 markaz, Mehar Abadi and Rawal Town as a research locale. The purpose of selecting these diverse locales was that there were street school which was run by different NGOs, where a large number of street children came to study in the evening after their work.

4.2.1 Mehar Abadi

Mehar-Abadi is near the upscale sector G-11 Islamabad, a continuous market with unlawful construction demolitions on the front side. It is home to around millions people, the most of whom are Christian and of Afghan nationality. Although there are well-built residences on the outskirts, there is a constant presence of mud huts and rubbish lands beyond that frontage.

When the Capital Development Authority (CDA) initiated its drive to rid the city of slum regions, its people always refused to give up their land and requested compensation in return. The settlement is filled with ditches, open

defecation, mounds of rubbish here and there, open drains that infiltrate mud buildings and shops, and a constant presence of acute unpleasant scent. The majority of houses have available toilets but no adequate flush system or water supply, and many houses use open gutters for defecating.

The problem is exacerbated by a dearth of hospitals, trained doctors, and medical facilities. The single source of health services is quacks, who frequently administer excessive antibiotic courses, utilize contaminated equipment, and make incorrect diagnoses. Furthermore, Afghan refugees have no access to neighboring medical providers, and the advantages are prohibitively expensive for others.

Because the majority of parents are illiterate and underprivileged, providing an education for their children is made even more difficult. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), illiteracy is the leading cause of inadequate living conditions (World Health Organization). Furthermore, children's bad health reduces their school attendance, and poverty drives children out of school. The majority of schools are located in informal settings that lack fundamental facilities. Teachers are not appropriately educated or trained to teach. The curriculum and instructional resources are out of date and inadequate. Some children go to a school that is run by NGO (SPARC). Free books, copies and colors are given to children in school. This school is made of brick walls with no proper roof. Children

4.2.2 Rawal Town

Rawal Town comes under the authority of the CDA, which is based in Islamabad. Rawal Town is home to more than eight schools and colleges, the most renowned of which being Jinnah Muslim Schools & Colleges and Pak Professional Colleges. As evidenced by the existence of more than three clinics, the neighborhood provides medical services to its citizens. Aside from that, there are a number of food alternatives accessible, ranging from Fast Food to Desi. Rawal Town is 7.8 kilometers from Zero Point, Islamabad, and 39.3 kilometers from the New International Airport, Islamabad (Google map).

Rawal Town is located in the southern section of Islamabad, near the busy districts of Peshawar Road and the Islamabad Expressway. It is advantageously

positioned near key facilities and commercial centers. It is predominantly a residential region, with a variety of housing options ranging from apartments to houses and catering to a wide range of income levels. The industry is well-known for its tranquil and family-friendly atmosphere. Rawal Town is home to a number of educational institutions, including schools and colleges, which provide access to high-quality education.

Clinics and hospitals are nearby, ensuring inhabitants' access to healthcare. Within the sector, there are local markets and commercial zones that provide daily necessities and services. Parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas are accessible for recreational activities and relaxation. Major roads such as the Peshawar Road and the Islamabad Expressway provide easy access to various regions of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. For commuting, public transportation choices such as buses and taxis are easily available. There are reliable utility services such as power, water, and gas.

Rawal Town has a combination of private and state institutions that provide education from kindergarten to secondary school. These schools frequently adhere to a variety of educational systems, including national (such as the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education) and international curricula (such as Cambridge O/A Levels or the International Baccalaureate). Some technical and vocational institutes may be located in or near Rawal Town, providing specialized courses or training programs in subjects like as technology, trades, or skill development. The reason for choosing this place for the collection of data was that EOTO organization provides free education to street children here. They also provide free books, bags and copies to the street children. They encourage children to read and write and make their parents proud. A large number of street children were enrolled there, due to which it became very easy for the researcher to conduct interview from the age of 11 to 17 years old children.

4.2.3 I-8 Markaz

Not long ago, Sector I-8 was a quiet and serene residential region with little commercial activities in the nexus of the twin towns of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. There was this highly populated and prosperous society full of

capable people. It simply lacked a functioning commercial sector where a variety of vendors could sell appropriate things to the residents. This was the one big disadvantage of this place, which kept people's interest minimal. Now that the I-8 Markaz has developed into a highly profitable commercial district, with numerous brands and other local businesses functioning, the sector has piqued the interest of a large number of real estate investors, both in residential and commercial properties. This sector is unique and one of a kind, meticulously planned. Sector I-8 is presently one of the most valued locations in the capital city due to its exceptional qualities. It provides easy access to all of the major attractions in the twin cities.

This sector is at an outstanding location, with direct access to Islamabad Expressway, IJP Road which leads all the way to Mandi Morh and Pirwadhay Bus Stop, and 9th Avenue. Blue Area is about a 10-minute drive away via the Expressway. Take IJP road to the south of the sector to arrive at Mandi Morh Bus Stop, where you may take any interstate bus. If you take the IJP Road in the opposite direction, it will take you to Murree via Bhara Kahu. On the west, 9th Avenue connects the region to Kashmir Highway and Margalla Road.

I-8 is home to a lot of schools and universities, which is one of the most important aspects of a good neighborhood. It is close to Shifa International Hospital, SZABIST, Islamabad, Preston University, and NUML, and is adjacent to Sector H-8. I-8 markaz is a hub for street children, and the surrounding areas of Islamabad are full of filthy slums inhabited by families living in great poverty, and where children are pressurized to work for the family's economic sustainability and survival. This pushes the children to the edge of disappointment hence compelling them to earn livelihood from the streets in order to support their poor parents. Different NGOs are playing a very important role to promote education among children. In I-8 markaz, Karwan-e-Mudabir organization provides free education to all the children of the street. In this school, not only children but also their adults are raised.

4.2 Child Rights Organizations

Regardless of how much attention has been placed on child abuse in recent years, there are some organizations that are focusing on this cause for an

extended period of time and have supplied us with a deeper scientific understanding of child abuse. These NGOs and organizations have broken down obstacles associated with child abuse, specifically sexual abuse, via research, building capacity, and support programs for sufferers and their families.

Numerous groups in Pakistan have used child protection as a platform. Moreover, despite the fact that there are numerous organizations fighting to eradicate child abuse, researchers wanted to highlight the top organizations that have provided us with proven results for child protection and how individuals can seek aid from them in cases of child abuse.

4.2.1 SPARC

SPARC is registered with the Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP) and the USAID Institutional Management Certification Program (IMCP). It is in consultation with ECOSOC and the United Nations Department of Public Information. It got the United Nations Recognition Award in 2003 for its work in highlighting the dilemma and advocating children's rights in Pakistan. Since its inception, it has worked to support child rights in Pakistan, slowly expanding its reach by building offices in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, and Hyderabad; however, the offices in Karachi and Lahore are temporarily closed due to a lack of money. It also presently has development offices in Multan and Haripur. Islamabad E 11/1 is the registered address. SPARC has also been operating five schools for street kids in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Multan, Islamabad, and Hyderabad for several years, where they provide other services and vocational trainings to the street children.

Figure 6: SPARC Street Children school at Mehar-Abadi



Source: Fieldwork

4.2.2 Sahil

Sahil is Pakistan's first organization solely dedicated to preventing sexual assault on children and neglect. Sahil emerged in 1996 as an NGO with the goal of the safety of children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that "State institutions have to protect kids from any sort of sexual assault and sexual exploitation." "No child should be a CSA object," believes Sahil. Sahil's mission is to improve the lives of Pakistan's children through campaigning, child support systems, body protection awareness, and increased legal and psychological treatment for CSA victims. Sahil's work includes research, public awareness, professional support, rescue trainings, crisis management, free legal help for victims, and other similar activities.

4.2.3 EOTO Foundation

EOTO Foundation works to help poor children realize their aspirations of receiving a free and high-quality education. Since the previous six years, the organization has been contributing to the advancement of the country by providing free and high-quality education to over 300 children. The Foundation

currently operates three campuses in different parts of Gujrat and Islamabad, with a fourth under construction in a distant location of Gujranwala.

They gather street kids after their daily waging activities in the evening (4pm-7pm). Children who attend street school are either scavengers who scavenge from garbage dumps or wanderers who sell various products such as flowers, balloons, mask and pen to make a living for their families, or beggars who beg at traffic lights. These children are provided with free and excellent education following their daily work.

Figure 7: EOTO Street School at Rawal Park



Source: Fieldwork

4.2.4 ROZAN

Rozan is an Islamabad-based non-governmental organization that was founded in 1998. The majority of their activity is on increasing awareness, providing psychological support and appointments, training, capacity building, and conducting research. Rozan Counselling Helpline is a free telephone service for people of any age, gender, or ethnicity who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. While the majority of the calls they receive are about bullying, peer

pressure, anxiety, and low self-esteem, they also help those who have experienced sexual violence. They also offer email and in-person support.

4.3 Pakistan's Constitution on Child Rights

The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the legal law of the country, governing both the federal government and the provinces of Pakistan. The 1973 Constitution guarantees residents fundamental rights such as protection from arrest and detention, personal security, restriction of slavery and slave labor, liberty of association, liberty of movement, freedom to express oneself, liberty to freely express beliefs and protections for religious institutions, equality in public places and in service, preservation of languages, code, and tradition, and so on. Policy principles include the Islamic way of life, full participation of women in national life, promotion of local government institutions, safeguarding minority, development of social and economic well-being of the people, increased contacts among the Muslim world, and collaboration.

After the declaration of the 18th Amendment in April 2010, the Constitution granted more power to the Parliament, provincial governments, and Prime Minister. The 18th Amendment changed the Constitution dramatically by removing parallel list, which permitted provinces to establish laws on issues like as social well-being, young people, labor, kids, medical care, schooling, and many others. The 18th Amendment's path has increased the potential for improved delivery of powerful social services provided for the benefit of the community, such as welfare, education, and medical care. (Department of Planning & Development, 2014).

Chapter-5

Life on the streets of Islamabad

The current study attempted to investigate abuse among street children. A research was conducted to learn about the nature and context of abuse among street kids and the categories of abuse they suffered throughout their lives. In this chapter the researcher will discuss the life experiences of children as well as how they began their life on street, types of abuses they faced on a daily basis and factors which become a major source of their to join streets.

5.1 Introduction

Children are the world's representations; they are extremely valuable and delicate, and require special care and treatment. Their lives should develop gradually as they receive new experiences. It is a widely held belief that a nation's economic prosperity and socio-cultural progress are mostly dependent on the right nurturing of its future generation. Civilized, educated, and developed cultures always plan and foresee their future while keeping their children's current state and situation in mind. Childhood is regarded as the best stage in the human life cycle. Nobody can erase their childhood recollections from the page of their thoughts. This is the best entertaining and enjoyable stage of human life, except for those who are caught up in the merciless grips of the order, preventing them from expressing their deepest desires and feelings. Those who strive for it, however, struggle to mean it, especially street children who prefer to flee their homes to discover the horizon of their aspirations and dreams. To some extent, it is true that the globe is facing numerous issues, such as poverty, instability, and suffering. These difficulties have discriminating the most pressing issue, that of "Street Children."

It is every country's primary responsibility to protect the rights of children in their region, but street children are denied their basic human rights. In certain circumstances, they do not find their parents' instruction to be the finest nourished children of society. Their environment forces them to be out on the street. According to the current study, many respondents relate their stories of how they left their homes and the major reasons for their flight. These kids are

abused by their parents, and some of them leave home to escape poverty. Here is information on the children based on the socioeconomic form of the current study. By which we will know the nature of abuse and different experiences of children on street.

5.1.1 Street children in Islamabad

I-8 markaz is a hub for street children, and the surrounding areas of Islamabad are full of filthy slums inhabited by families living in great poverty, and where children are pressurized to work for the family's economic sustainability and survival. This pushes the children to the edge of disappointment hence compelling them to earn livelihood from the streets in order to support their poor parents. Simultaneously, it also forces the families to leave their children at the mercy of unknown forces, active in the streets. It means working and living in places that are not only dangerous for their safety but which also expose them to various types of abuses and exploitation. There are multiple places in Islamabad like G-9 markaz, Rawal town, I-8 markaz, Abpara etc. that provides ample work opportunity for these children while threatening their vulnerability and innocence. Hence, one can find quite large number of young boys roaming around or doing petty work in the grimy areas and immoral hotels. Afghan children are more susceptible to become victims of sexual abuse and lust of the customers primarily due to their fair complexion and attractive looks. Alongside these refugees, children from other cities also arrive in Pirwadhai in search of jobs, their aim was to earn and send some money to their poor families back home. There were numerous reason which compel them to adopt street life.

Street children can be classified based on their gender, age, physical health, and time spent on the street. In order to comprehend this phenomenon in light of the previously given criteria, street children were discovered to be unsupervised, unprotected, spending the most time on the streets, and those for whom the street was a source of income. Once on the streets, young children in Islamabad became not just vulnerable, but also vulnerable to a wide range of threats, from emotional to physical, verbal to sexual abuse. Assaults on them are believed as justified and universal, and have been observed in a variety of settings,

including the home, the workplace, and the streets. However, it was noted that law enforcement organizations, which were supposed to safeguard kids from different illegal immoral acts, appeared to be collaborators in maltreatment of street children.

Street children frequently spend their lives in danger, under stress, and in search of refuge, food, and protection. For this purpose they join work places, drop in centers and affiliate themselves with more powerful street elders thinking that by pleasing these dominant they will be protected from many external threats.

5.1.2 Demographic information of the participants

The street children interviewed during this study were a mixture of Afghan and local children and spoke different languages including Persian, Pashto, Punjabi and Urdu. The majority of these were settled in the Katchi-Abadi like Mehar-Abadi, Rawal Town and in areas in the outside of Rawalpindi.

Table 1: Shows the ethnicity and languages spoken by respondents

No	Ethnicity	Languages spoken by interviewee	Number of respondents	Percentage %
1	Afghani	Pashto	14	47%
		Persian	07	23%
2	Punjabi	Punjabi	06	20%
		Urdu	03	10%

Source: Researcher

Table 1 shows that out of total population there are two ethnicities, Afghani and Punjabis. Afghani children spoke two languages, Pashto and Persian. During interview the researcher faced difficulty to interact with Afghani children because they could not speak Urdu. But there was an 18 year boy who can read, write and speak Urdu who help me a lot during interviews. He translated the conversation of researcher and respondent. But there was a drawback of translation, he misguided us. He wrongly explained my questions to children

and also the response of interviewee. One day I understand his smartness from his gesture which he gave to the child. I asked to the child which was interviewed that what he want to say, he replied that “nothing” by moving his head. Then again I asked him “does he stop you from answering?” he replied “yes” he is telling me to give you the wrong answers. I explained to the child that whatever I am asking it is to help you guys so give me the correct answer. He agreed to this and after that he started explaining to me with gestures. So language was a great barrier during interviews.

Figure 8: Researcher conducting an interview of Afghan child in the presence of an interpreter.



Source: Researcher

Out of 30 respondents 9 were locals and 21 were migrated from Afghanistan and different areas.

Table 2: shows the number of Afghani and locale children

Locals	Migrated
09	21
Total	30

Source: Researcher

Due to the conflict conditions in Afghanistan by Taliban, these children migrated from there to Pakistan because government send these children to warfare, their parents migrated these children to Pakistan. Their relatives and friends were here so it was easy for them to stay here.

Age group of street children

The respondents' ages ranged from 10 to 17years. Because of the sensitivity of the subject, the researcher chose adolescents for the current study.

Table 3: shows the age group of street children

Age (Years)	Number of children	Percentage
10	02	7%
11	04	13%
12	04	13%
13	04	13%
14	06	20%
15	03	10%
16	03	10%
17	04	13%
Total	30	100

Source: Researcher

The table above illustrates the age range of respondents questioned during the current investigation. Children ranging in age from ten to eighteen were discovered in the research region. 20% of the children found in the street were between the ages of 10 and 11 years old. Children aged 12 to 13 made up more than 20% of the entire sample, whereas children aged 14 to 15 made up 30%. According to the data, they were the result of numerous family troubles. Children under the age of 14 typically enter the street to earn money to support their parents; typically, their parents force them to join the street. They began spending more time on the streets and enjoyed an independent life without recognizing the results of that living. And children aged 14 and up opted to

leave their families for a variety of reasons such as a lack of food, family neglect, migration, and so on.

Figure 9: Researcher conducting an interview of 12 year old boy



Source: Researcher

According to the research boys respondents are more than girl respondents because boys can move easily everywhere but girls need a support to roam in the streets because they face many difficulties. Many girl respondents said that they have been physically and verbally abuse by people. One of my respondent who was 14 year old told me that she was physically harassed by a man walking on the street. Her mother sells flowers and she cleans car mirrors. One day she was standing far away from her mother when a man came and started signaling at her wrongly. Sometimes he indicated that girl with his tongue and sometimes with his eyes. The girl tried to ignore him so much and move on the other side but that man used to come and stand in front of her. The girl said that “I was very nervous, then I ran to my mother”. There are many such incidents which restrict the mobility of girls.

Literacy rate

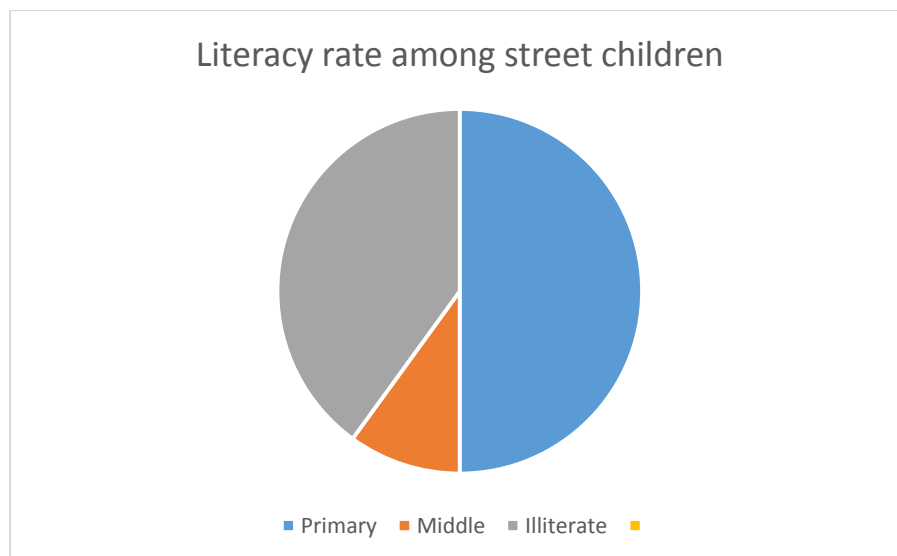
The socio-economic census form states that, majority of the children illiterate and some of them were literate who migrated from Afghanistan. Only 50%

street children had attended school up to primary level, 10% had dropped out of school at middle level and 40% were illiterate out of total population of 30. Some of them were currently enrolled in NGOs street schools.

Table 4: Show the literacy rate of the children

Level of education		Percentage %
Primary	15	50%
Middle	3	10%
Illiterate	12	40%
Total	30	

Source: Researcher



According to the above table we come to know the percentage of the literacy rate of the population under study. During the interviews the researcher found out that many children are literate but due to their economic conditions they leave their schools to feed themselves and their families, they started picking garbage and selling things like balloon, handfree, flowers etc. The pie chart⁸ shows that blue color indicated the primary level of literacy rate among

⁸ Pie Chart is a type of a graph in which a circle is divided into series of segments that each represent a proportion of the whole.

respondent under study, orange color indicate the middle level of literacy and gray color indicate the illiteracy rate.

Various NGOs have started a very good work, they are teaching these children and children are also studying with great interest. During the interview I asked a child what do you want to be, he said “I wish to be a doctor”. So I was very surprised to see that there are so many poor people who are fighting against their circumstances but still want to be a big man and earn well enough to feed their family. There will be many such children whose dreams remain unfulfilled in their eyes as they struggle with their poverty and conditions.

Parents Occupation

The fathers of the street children worked in a variety of occupations, as seen in table 5. Among them 7% were associated with driving profession and 43% employed as unskilled labor. They could not stick to one profession and kept changing according to availability of work and other 20% worked as skilled labor. Remaining 30% were living with no work. None of street child’s father was associated with begging profession, children also tended to adopt almost the same profession. Their mothers were also found working outside the homes to support their families especially those whose husband were deceased and drug addicted.

Table 5: Father Occupation

Father Occupation	Number	Percentage
Unskilled labor	13	43%
Driver	02	7%
Skilled labor	06	20%
No work	09	30%
Total	30	100

Source: Researcher

Mothers started their work early in the morning, some of them were also work with their children as beggar and flower seller. The children who stayed home alone were more likely in danger of abuse in absence of their parents. On the other hand some children who adopted street life to earn reasonable living and share their support with their parents and siblings also remained at risk of exploitation. Responding to the researcher’s question most of the children revealed that they never required permission from their parents when they were outside even at odd times. Moreover they were never inquired by their parents how they spent time outside their homes. Children also exposed that 23% of their mothers were beggars, mother of 6% were house maid, 60% were house wife and 10% mothers did the casual labor like flower seller, garbage pickers etc.

Table 6: Mother Occupation

Mother Occupation	Number	Percentage
Begging	07	23%
House maid	02	07%
House wife	18	60%
Casual Labor	03	10%
Total	30	100%

Source: Researcher

Duration in street

About 20% children were living in streets of study area for few months, 27% for almost one year, 13% for the two years and 40% for above two years. Whereas none was found living in the streets for more than seven years (see table 7). Their street life span ranged from less than or approximately one year to seven years. Later, the length of time spent on the street begins to shorten as most of them leave the area and relocate to a new location where they may earn a living. Another reason of their movement was that they selected the places where they could get food and shelter easily and chances of exploitation were

minimal. To answer the question of researcher many respondents claim that they were moved from other places because in this place they get meal for two times and they feel secure here. At new places they felt opportune at to carry on socially unwanted activities like begging, theft and sexual activities. If they stayed too long at one place people became aware and cautious about their activities and avoided them. The result was that whenever some unpleasant incident took place, people held them responsible and beat them on the spot and sometimes handed them over to the police.

Table 7: shows the duration of street children at streets

Duration at street (years)	Number of Children	Percentage
Below one year	06	20%
One year	08	27%
two years	04	13%
Above two years	12	40%
Total	30	100%

Source: Researcher

Daily income of street children

Data showed that the wages of children ranges from Rs.200 to Rs.1200 a day depending on their working capacity, experiences, age and linkages with people who knew them well. Some of them children earned more than Rs.1200 (see table 8). About 13% of street children disclosed that they were earning Rs.200 to 300 per day (6000 to 9000 per month), 40% were earning 300 to 500 per day (9000 to 15,000 per month), 20% were earning 700 to 1200 (15,000 to 36,000 per month) and those who earned more than 1200 were 7%. According to the data garbage picker earn more money than other children. Sometimes they earn RS.2000-3000 per day according to their garbage. Other children did not get work on daily basis, so their income remained fluctuated and mostly low. It was also important to point out that their daily income was based on their work.

Table 8: shows the daily income of street children per day.

Daily income (Pak Rupees)	Number of children	Percentage
200~300	04	13%
300~500	12	40%
500~700	06	20%
700~1200	06	20%
Above 1200	02	7%
Total	30	100%

Source: Researcher

5.1.3 Beginning of street life

Beginning on the street is a rite of passage⁹ that marks entry and recognition into a street society, as well as participation in its culture and work to live. Due to a number of push and pull influences, people may choose to join the street life alone or as a group. Since it is the start of a new life, when a person joins, he or she will be exposed to the order of sub-group structure, line of command, power, loyalty, role and obligations of the group members. When a person joins a group, he does not face socialization issues with other street societies. He may not endure the harassment experienced by first-day arrivals from other groups or people. Especially if he has one or more seasoned street performers. Especially if he has one or more knowledgeable street child in the group, he will learn how to live on the street, how to look for basic necessities, and how to deal with security difficulties. Such a grouping is fantastic since it can last and protect group members from all types of persecution.

During focus group discussion which was arranged by researcher at I-8 markaz where all the children used to gather in the evening, one of my respondent who was called a leader of this group, said that we all live together and two children go in pair to pick garbage, thus supporting each other. Because there are many

⁹ A rite of passage is a symbolic event that signifies the shift and transformation in individual's life. When a child left their house and enters the life of the street, they quit their previous group to prepare for the fresh stage of life and begin to integrate into their new community at this new level.

people and Punjabis here who beat our children and take money from them. We are family, if any of us face any problem, we encounter it together. One day, in this front plaza our child went to pick garbage and the guard beat him and misbehaved with him then we all got together and beat the guard badly. Now we have hold over the entire I-8 area. Police is also our friend now. Earlier, the police used to catch and keep us in jail for the whole night, then they leave us with a huge amount of money. But now the police catch me, I give them 500 rupees and they let me go. So there are many benefits of being in a group.

The majority of the respondents had lived on the streets in their early years of development. The average age at the start of street life was 5-7 years. Some respondents kept familial connections despite being forced to live on the street owing to financial circumstances.

Case Study No.1

Ali¹⁰, a thirteen year-old stated “I have started labored on the streets when I was just six years old. I have a six brothers and sisters, and our father is not living with us, he is in Afghanistan. My mother forced me to do job in an early age when other children are used to go school, because I have four sisters and one brother who are at home. In the beginning I start working as car mirror washer and earned 150-300 rupees per day. Later, as time passed I start selling pens and other things. During that time I was abused by big boys and policemen several times. Police arrested me beat me and snatched my money and locked me whole night”.

Survival in the streets is challenging, and it is frequently determined by obligations instead of choices. Another participant stated that, “no one wants to be a street child or like this condition; we also want to go to school like other children. I want to be a pilot but I have to quit my work in order to fulfill my dreams. This required a lot of money for books and fees”. There are numerous youngsters that I know who attended school but are currently living on the streets, much like me." Many children experienced financial concern at home which worsened their situation.

¹⁰ Ali is an anonym name which is selected to keep the identity of a child confidential. Similarly, all the names given further are anonymous.

During the focus group discussion, participants stated that if a child joins street culture as a single individual, his fate is in the hands of strangers he meets on the street. People have control over your body and can do whatever they want with it. He has no idea who he is or where he is going to sleep on his first day on the street. For most newcomers, group sex is the norm. If he rejects their proposal, he may be beaten and chased away from that location. As a result, according to our experiences, the first day of street initiation is the most difficult.

Case Study No.2

Hamza, a fifteen-year interviewee, stated that he arrived from Afghanistan at the Faisabad bus station at 7 p.m. I was seeking for a place to stay and something to eat and it was a 9'o clock. He claimed that two of the street guys, both Pashtun, were told to share a sleeping section with them. When I heard this, I was relieved that they had provided me with bread and company. They guided me to their residence and provided me with food. They took me to the place where they are living and gave me something to eat. Just after an hours, we organize our beds and try to sleep, one boy who is beside me try to touch his private part with me. I thought that was mistakenly happen but again he did the same act, I immediately wake up and asked him what he is trying to do, he grab my hand and said you have to compromise if you want to live here. I denied his offer and leave that place.

Living on the street alone is really difficult and problematic. Every single kid has a unique tale to tell. Their motivations for joining the street differ from country to country, city to city, and person to person. Many street-connected children face everyday maltreatment from adults, including police and government officials, other youngsters, and even their own guardians.

5.1.4 More Mouth to Feed and More Hand to Work

Due to several socio-cultural hurdles, Pakistan has poor family planning strategies. People were of the view that having many kids indicates a successful life, despite the fact that raising them becomes more challenging. Our respondents report that they have 7 to 8 siblings in their family. Some of them come from large families. During the current study, one of our respondents'

father was also a street balloon seller alongside his children. "*Baji sadhey kol ehi kul asasa hain, jitney bachy horn gein itny zyada paisy kmaein gein*" our complete assets are children, the more we have, the more money we will earn. Peter Thomas Bauer once said, "For every new mouth to feed, there are two hands to produce" (Bauer). If a new family member is to be fed, someone will have to work for him, according to this saying. He also stated that well-off people prefer money, but poor people prefers many kids." People forced their children to drop out of school and labor on the streets due to the rapid increase in the cost of basic goods and unemployment. The following case study will provide a detailed picture of the scenario.

Case Study No.3

Hassan, a fifteen year-old Afghani boy, who was migrated from Afghanistan two months ago. He was enrolled in school but his father asked him to drop the school and join his work. His father was a taxi driver and earns 1000-1200 per day. His father has two marriages out of which he had eight brothers and five sisters. He came to Pakistan because there were no jobs in Afghanistan due to the hostilities. After coming to Pakistan, he faced many difficulties because he did not have ID card due to which he could not get a good job. After that, a friend of his who was in touch with him, who used to pick garbage near I-8 markaz, contacted him and invited him to his place where there were already many Afghani children. He also started the same job along with them. He earn 800-1000 rupees per day. He was happy with his job because he said "*sister hum apni marzi sy jata hai aur marzi ka kamata hai*" we go to work according to our will and earn what we want.

5.1.5 Push/ Pull Factors into the street life

Childhood is a time when children are completely reliant on their relatives for fundamental necessities and guidance. Children require adequate support, care, protection, and guiding services in order to grow and develop normally. Nowadays, in the modern world, thousands of youngsters are left alone and join the street, where they face the challenges of street life due to a variety of pushing and pulling pressures. Participants in the current study indicated the complexity of push and pull elements that generate a danger of fleeing into the

street. Pushing factors are any factors that cause kids to leave their homes and wander the streets. Poverty, child abuse, separation of parents, family mortality, economic inadequacy, migration, war, neglect, school dropout, and family size were listed as the top causing reasons of fleeing into the street by a number of discussants.

Case study No.4

Ahmad, a fifteen year-old boy, living in a Mehar-Abadi with his parents. His father is a fruit seller and mother is a housewife. He has 4 brother and 5 sisters. His father hardly earn 300-400 rupees per day, due to low income and huge family size he left his school and join street to work and earn money to fulfill family basic needs. In the beginning, he faced many challenges to find a job because he is illiterate and unskilled. After some time, he fined a job at a furniture shop where he get only 50 rupees per week. He saves money and at the end of month he gives all money to his mother. On Friday he save money for himself and then spend with his friends. Due to poverty he left his school and become a part of street where he faced multiple abuse i.e. verbal abuse, physical abuse and psychological abuse.

Pulling factors are those that induce children to escape from their homes. Participants noted that the lure of freedom, financial independence, peer influence, and traditional values, such as city glory and adventure, drew youth into the street. Because of the aforementioned circumstances, millions of children have been forced to leave their homes and become victims of child abuse.

Twelve year old respondent told that he escape from home due to his friends. He migrated from Afghanistan along his friends, according to him, his father forced him to join Taliban but he don't want that life. That's why he left home and migrated to Pakistan. Now he lives in I-8 markaz with his friends and a scavenger. He wants a freedom from his family and traditional values which expose him to the street.

5.2 Nature of Abuse faced by street children

While it is commonly acknowledged that Pakistan has the second biggest population of children who are not in school, the issues encountered by children

on the streets are far less well-known. An estimated 22.8 million children aged 5 to 16 were out of school worldwide in 2014, with 1.5 million children living on the streets in Pakistan (Nazir & Hameed, 2019).

According to current study, the most recent figures on street children in Pakistan are six years old, indicating the priority placed on social risk. There is evidence to assume that the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the poor trend in Pakistan's macroeconomic indices such as growing unemployment and an enormous increase in the cost of goods and utility services, may have driven this figure significantly higher.

Furthermore, because there is so little public interest in street children, many falsehoods surround them. Children on the street, street children, children of the street, children living/working on the street, runaway children, and homeless children are among the many terms used to describe street children. These terminology emphasize the reality that street children face a wide range of life circumstances.

Contrary to popular opinion, street children are not a homogeneous group. They differ in age, race, gender, indigenous identity, nationality, sexual orientation, handicap, and gender identity. This diversity implies a range of experiences, requirements, and risks. The kind and extent of relationships with family, classmates, community members, civil society, and governmental authorities, as well as the nature and duration of physical time spent on the street, differ greatly from child to child.

Work, shelter, sleeping, cooking, washing, relaxation, socialization, and indulging in substance misuse or sexual behavior are all activities that homeless children engage in public places. These youngsters may participate in such activities voluntarily, as a result of a lack of viable alternatives, or as a result of coercion by other children or adults. These behaviors can be carried out by children alone or in the company of family members, gang members, friends, exploitative peers, older children, and adults. During these activities, youngsters were subjected to numerous abuses on the streets. According to our findings, verbal and physical abuse are prevalent among homeless children. According to the current study's socioeconomic census form, 76% of children encountered

physical abuse, 87% faced verbal abuse, 26% faced sexual assault, and 33% faced psychological abuse on the street.

Table 9: shows the types and percentage of abuses faced by street children.

Types of Abuse	Number of children reported by type	Percentage of abuse %
Physical Abuse	23	76%
Verbal Abuse	26	87%
Sexual Abuse	08	26%
Psychological Abuse	10	33%

Source: Researcher

5.2.1 Physical abuse

The accused had several concerns about life on the streets. According to the research, 76% of youth working/living on the streets had experienced physical violence. The main reason for the physical assault was the respondents' exposed age, which exposed them. Table 5 shows that the incidence of physical abuse among children working on the street is extremely high. The police and other children on the streets were the primary perpetrators of physical abuse in Islamabad. Employers were the second most common source of physical abuse for youngsters working on the streets in Islamabad.

The majority of the children in the whole sample reported being physically assaulted. According to the data gathered, criticizing was the most common tactic employed by dads towards their children, followed by slapping, beating, verbally abusing, and kicking. Similarly, women were more involved in criticizing their children, which was followed by twisting ears or hands, slapping, cursing, and beating. Fathers, not mothers, isolate their children, punish, suffocate, and threaten them with weapons. As previously said, physical

exploitation is normal in our society, according to Schmitt. Corporal punishment that creates bruises or injuries that necessitate medical attention falls outside the scope of normal punishment. Marks denote hitting without restriction. Even if there is no proof of injury, slapping the child with a closed fist or kicking the youngster constitutes physical abuse.

According to Mitra and Deb's research, there are four basic types of abuse perpetrated by parents on street children: physical torture, exploitation of the child's innocence and dependency, purposeful neglect, and the pressure to accept a humiliating existence. (Deb & Mitra, 2002).

Case Study No.5

Wasif, a thirteen year-old boy, who was a pen seller at G-9 Markaz. He was migrated from Afghanistan along with his mother, four sisters and one brother at the request of his grandmother. His father did not live with him. He lived in Afghanistan. He was working on street when he was six year old. During the initiation of street, he is used to clean mirror of cars at different places in Islamabad and earn 150-200 per day. Now he is working at G-9 markaz and earn 200-500 per day. He starts his work at one o'clock and finishes at nine o'clock. He sells pen and some people buy pen and give him a good amount of money and some of them even did not buy, yet they are paid. He studied up to class one and then dropped out of school forcefully by his mother. When I called the child to interview him, he initially refused me and said that I have to earn money otherwise my mother will beat me. I am the eldest brother among my siblings and I have to earn for them. If I give you an interview, I will be wasting my time and I will not be able to earn money. Then he told me that if I give him some money, he will give an interview. I gave him money according to his wish. When I asked him why do you do this, why do not you study? You don't like to study?

He replied "baji mgy bohat shok hai parhny ka lykin mgy mri ami zabrdasti kam k lea behjti hain. Agar mai sham to un ki marzi k mutabiq paisy nai ley k jata tu phr wo mgy marti hain".

He replied that I am very fond of reading but my mother forcefully sends me for this work and if I do not earn according to her in the evening, she beats me.

*“Mery abu b hamary sath nai hain aur na hi wo paisy behjty hain
Afghanistan sy”*

My father is also not with us nor does he send any money from Afghanistan. His mother lives with his grandmother on a rent of 6000 in which she is given a room. His aunt and uncle also live together. He added that “mry mamu mgy marta hai aur mj sy paisy mangta hai” my uncle beats me and ask for money.

According to him he is caught and beaten up by police many times while selling pen. One day police beat me so much that bruise were on my back. I do not beg, I earn by my hard work.

As above mentioned case study shows us that how parents become a primary source of physical abuse of children. Street children suffer so much on street for survival and for earning. They face multiple problems and challenges. Physical abuse is most common type of abuse among street children. They face this type of abuse on daily basis by his parents, by peers, by police and other people. These children face another type of abuse commonly, that is emotional abuse and we can also say that verbal abuse.

5.2.2 Verbal/Emotional Abuse

Most people associate abuse with sexual or physical abuse when they hear the word. We rarely consider or discuss verbal or emotional abuse, a type of abuse that occurs on a daily basis in many people's lives. Verbal abuse, according to Becker, is one of severe sort of psychological ill-treatment that harms one's emotional, intellectual, and social development. Making fun of, demeaning, and calling people names are all forms of verbal abuse that can have a negative impact on a person (Becker, 2018).

The current study demonstrates that street children are subjected to maltreatment and are neglected by their parents on a daily basis. Parents and others were reported to employ verbal and emotional abuse as the most common form of punishment. Improving the quality of life for street children is a difficult and complex endeavor because they live a transient existence. However, many researchers believe that addressing the underlying reasons of street children's problems is essential to resolving their issues.

According to the findings, the children were exposed to oral abuse if they were experienced shouted or yelled at, threatened with corporal harm, use foul language or cursed at, suffered incorrect or ugly, aggressive and disrespectful actions, or suffered malicious rumors, marginalization, or humiliation. Table 5 shows the number and percentage of street children who have been subjected to verbal abuse. Verbal abuse was reported by 87 percent of the sample (30). Children laboring on the streets who also breathed thinners and glue were the most prevalent source of verbal abuse. Almost all kids who had been verbally abused said shopkeepers were the next most common source of abuse. These children were also verbally abused by police, security officers, gangs, and other working children.

Case Study No.6

Gul khan, a fifteen year old boy who was migrated from Afghanistan along his four brothers. His father is diseased and mother is alive. He has six brothers and five sisters. Two of his sisters are married in Afghanistan. To meet basic needs he leave his school and migrated to Pakistan with his brothers. Two of his brothers are driver and earn 1000-2000 rupees per day. He and his other two brother are scavenger. They roam on the streets of I-8 markaz and pick plenty of material. He earn 500-600 rupees per day, he start his work in the early morning, from 6am to 6pm. Meanwhile, he rests for an hour and sleeps on the green belt of the road where his others fellows are also sleeping. He eats only two meals a day, for morning breakfast he eats tea and paratha from the hotel and in the evening he eats from langar.

During interview he share that when he came to Pakistan, he has slept on the road three times at night. Now he sleeps in the storage area where they kept garbage with others. He further said that the police caught him twice put him in the **dala** (police van)¹¹ and took him to the police station. There police verbally abused him a lot and even beat him. He said “*baji police ney humko maa baap ki gali di pher mji moun pa thapar mara, mujy kehny lagey k tum chor ho. Mai ny unko bola hum izzat ki rozi kamata hai hum chori nai karta. Leykin police waley ney mri aik na suni mujy band kr dea. Pher mery malik ko call ki aur wo*

¹¹ Street children call the police van as Dala, in which police kept these children. This police van patrols the streets of Islamabad all the time.

aya tu us sy 10 hazar ley k mgy chora”. The police officer accused my mother and father and then slapped me on the face. He said you are a thief, then he called my owner. He came to rescue me, one of the police officer asked him for money. He gave him 10 thousands to rescue me.

Baji! maa baap ki gali bardash nai hoti. Mgy bohat ghussa aya jab unho ny mry waldain ko gali di lykin hum kya krein kuch bol b nai saktey hum ghareeb hain aur wo barey log hain wo kuch b kar saktey hain. Humy kuch b bolein hum bardash kr lein gein lykin maa baap tak na jaya krein.

He further added that sister! I will never tolerate that someone abuses my parents. I got very angry when they abused my parents but what can we do, we can't even say anything because we are poor and they are in power they can do anything. Whatever they say to us, we tolerate it but do not go to parents. This verbal abuse makes me mentally disturb. I try not to come in front of him as soon as I see their van I run away.

According to him, when he go to pick garbage from outside a shop and hotels, he was verbally abused by shopkeepers and other boys too. People think that picking garbage is bad. But it is a source of our hard work. We do not supinate our hands in front of people rather, we earn by our hard work.

From above case study, we find that verbal abuse is a type of abuse which children faced at any level. We can reduce this type of abuse in such a way that we should be gentle with these street children. They are also human beings.

5.2.3 Sexual Abuse

In order to live, street children were heavily involved in dangerous sexual practices. They were exposed to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS as a result of their situations. According to the findings of this study, street children are subjected to sexual exploitation, this can result in a variety of health issues. The environment does not provide protection from such exposure for homeless youngsters. According to the Sahil's six-month Cruel Number report 2022, there were 2211 reports of child abuse in the country in the first six months of 2022. In comparison to the previous year's report, 12 minors were subjected to sexual abuse on average every day in this study (Yasin, 2022). According to the report, child sexual abuse (CSA), missing children, abduction,

and child marriages were the top criminal categories addressed and 567 boys were victimized by crimes such as sodomy, homicide, pornography, and kidnapping in the first six months of this year.

This study also indicated that new arrivals on the streets, particularly boys, are utilized as sex objects by older boys and shopkeepers at night. In general, such sexual partnerships were formed to safeguard immigrants. If the immigrants denied such sexual approaches, they were assaulted and expelled out of the area.

Case Study No.7

Suleman, a fourteen year-boy, who was lived currently in Soan Garden near Islamabad. He was migrated from Afghanistan along his father, mother, five brothers and two sisters eight months before. He pick garbage and earn 200-300 rupees per day. His father is also a scavenger. There are four person in his family who earned for the fulfillment of basic needs. In the beginning, when he migrated from Afghanistan and came to Pakistan, he did not know about the areas or the people. Because of this, people and other older children teased him a lot and many times his garbage and money were also taken from him. But with time he learned to live among these people. During interview he revealed that he was arrested by police many times. The first time he was arrested by police because he had stolen ice-cream and bottle from a shop. The shopkeeper called the police and handed him over to them. They took him to the police station and beat him there. When I asked him how you were treated there, he said *“baji bohat mara aur kaam b karwaya. Humara abu jab humy leny aya tu police afsar ny mery abu sy paisa manga. Hum ghareb kidar sy itna paisa laey phir mry abu ny 6000 dea aur mjy ghr ley k gea”*.

Sister police beat me a lot and also made me work. When my father came to pick me up, the officer asked him for money. Where did we poor people get so much money? Then my father gave 6000 rupees to him and took me home.

Police caught me many times, beat me and also did a lot of dirty thigs to me. I used to forbid them not to do this to me, they used to force me and then I would get rid of them and run away. During FGD, one of his close friend who goes with him to pick garbage told me that few days before one shemale harassed him because he is very handsome. That shemale touched his private part and

said come with me. He slapped her on the face and run away. He tried to chase him but he went too far. That kid refused, nothing like this happened to me, then his friend scolded him (**ghandu**)¹² and said why are you laying? After answering few questions, the child also admitted that this had happened to him and that it had happened many times.

In the presence of other children, these children were nervous and did not respond, so the next day I called these two children separately and then asked them questions. By this time both the kids were very familiar with me so they were answering my questions easily. Both children were smokers and drug user. They used flavored cigarettes. His friend said that he is so addicted to drugs that he begs the watchman in the building opposite and that watchman misbehaves with him in return. Both fulfill their desires. Not only he has been sexually exploited, but he has witnessed sexual abuse being carried out during search of trash which also intensify his libido desires.

There are a lot more adolescents on the streets like this one who willingly and violently endured sexual assault. Some children are sexually assaulted, and these same children eventually use other children to vent their rage. They stated that if they do not participate in such activities, living on the street will become miserable. They point out that no one is present to give them with basic necessities such as food and clothing rather than starving them. He went on to say, "We sell bodies for the sake of survival on the street."

Being exposed to drugs was directly related to living on the street. Respondents stated that "life on the street is miserable and you feel hopeless; your current and future lives are bleak." We scream for aid, but from where? We have no one on our side. We experience loneliness, anxiety, lack of sleep, isolation, and mood depressions at times. We use a number of narcotics to survive, including as hashish, cannabis, khat, and local alcoholic beverages.

Street children faced different types of abuses and exploitation but there are certain factors which leads abuse among them. Now we will discuss some of possible determinants which causes abuse.

¹² A boy kept for homosexual practices. This is a slang word which is common among street children. They call each other by the same word in both cases of fun or anger.

5.3 Socio-Economic determinants of Abuse

There are as many causes for street children to exist as there are in the universe. Every child has a unique tale; we cannot say that all children experience the same challenges while surviving on the streets. The causes for their involvement with the streets will differ from child to child, country to country, and city to city. These characteristics will also change throughout time.

There are various factors that contributed to the abuse of street children. During the interview, participants mentioned that there are various causes to practicing street life. Respondents emphasized the death of a family member, poverty, and peer influences. Following the loss of one of their parents, they flee to the streets in search of everyday necessities. All of these factors contribute to an increase in the number of street children in the given area. Many interviewees reported that the majority of the time they flee to urban cities. Poverty, which is rampant among them, was another factor that drove them to embrace the street life. Few participants stated that when their family faces poverty and is unable to educate and clothe their children, the children depart from home and seek work in nearby towns to feed their families. They eventually move to new developed and urbanized cities.

5.3.1 Broken Families

Family plays a vital part in the socialization of children, but this is not the case in homes with problems. The children's dispositions have altered, and the family is unable to control the children's tendencies toward misbehaving and leaving home. This may operate as a driving factor for children to end up on the streets. Harmful practices influence children in all settings in Islamabad, most notably in families, where they manifest as neglect, physical abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, and killing.

The majority of the children reported that domestic violence results in parent separation, and these children were cared for by grandparents and mothers. In this condition, children live without any close guidance, and they develop the habit of leaving home in the morning and returning at night, and they sometimes sleep on the street, becoming targets of street maltreatment. One of our respondent told that “*mera abu nasha krta hai wo har waqt mri ami say larta hai aur ghar ata hi nai. Meri ami humy akely palti hai*”. My father is drug

addicted, he always fights with my mother all the time and does not come home. My mother brings us up alone. It suggests that one of the main factors contributing to street children is likely to be household structure.

5.3.2 Poverty

During the process of data collection it was revealed that most of the children faced poverty that's why they move from their home and from their country. One of the respondent tell researcher that *“muji parhny ka bohat shok tha lykin ghurbaat ki waja sy muji school chorna parha aur phr mai yahn aw gea.kash mery abu k pass itny paisa hota k wo humy parha sakti”*

“I used to go to school, I was fond of reading, but due to extreme poverty, I had to leave school and come to this place”. He further said that “I wish my father had enough money to teach us”.

Evans (2004) reported that poverty greatly restraints family's ability to provide a healthy living for their children. This forces children to flee to the streets in order to improve family income and maximize present income purchasing power by reducing family size (Conticini & Hulmes, 2007). Another interviewee reveal that *“mry ghar wlay Afghanistan mai rehty hain, wo bohat ghareeb hain. Jab main ny char class parh li tu muji mery bahi k sath yahn Pakistan mai behj dea gea ta k mai kama k laoun. Lykin mji parhna tha school jana tha apny doston k sath”* my family lived in Afghanistan and is very deprived. When I completed standard four, I was sent to Pakistan with my brother to work. But I had to study and attend school with my classmates.

Street children often come from underprivileged families and are forced to live on street due to lack of resources. They are more exposed to abuse because they lack protection and resources to meet their basic needs. The following case study will support the current idea that how poverty is a factor in child maltreatment among street children.

Case Study No.8

Zahid, a twelve-year-old boy who resembled a seven- to eight-year-old boy on the threshold of his middle years. He was thin and smaller in height, but he had a sharp face. His parents live in Waziristan, but he chose to move to Islamabad in order to provide for their basic requirements. He feels attached to the mother

after the death of his father. He revealed to the investigator that his father has two marriages out of which he has four brother and two sisters. His father was a rickshaw puller who hardly earn 400-600 rupees per day but he was the only bread winner of the house. After his death he decided to financially support his family. After coming to Islamabad, he did not find any work then he started picking garbage. He roams the streets, collecting up trash papers, glass, iron, plastic, and other scrap stuff. At the end of the day he sale his garbage to the owner of godown (warehouse) where he is living. He earn 400-500 rupees per day. He save all his money and sends home to his mother. He eats two times a day. In the morning he eat from the hotel near his place then in the evening he eats from the langar.

When children should go to school and dream of a career, he learned to feed his family at an early age. Because of his poverty, he had to abandon all of his dreams. He is literate enough to read and write but refuses to learn. He is ill and has injuries throughout his body. He was unable to receive cure. The researcher noticed that he had a wound that was open in his leg, and he explained that when gathering scarp, he cut his foot with a broken glass. He has not been treated and claims that "khud hi thek hojaey ga (sad smile on his face)" the wound would heal on its own.

Mixed facts emerge by analyzing the life of that twelve year old street child. Physically not healthy yet considering himself strong and healthy. Due to insufficiency of resources and poverty he become a street child and face multiple abuse from policeman, shopkeepers, old boys and other people.

5.3.3 Migration

Apart from poverty, many additional factors contribute to the presence of street children and abuse. Migration is another factor that contributes to misuse. Migration, both international and local, has greater than before noticeably in recent years. Greater approach to information about faraway areas, easier travel, peers who have moved and potentials to expand living criteria have all pushed individuals and families to migrate. Furthermore, within-country migration contributes to social change in both official and informal sectors. Many people

cross borders to move from one rural area to another. For example, Afghan migration is increasing by the day.

For street children, migration always brings both chances and hardships. Although economic factors are key drivers, it modifies the structure of families. During the interviews, it was revealed that children are affected by migration in various ways; some of the respondents said that they confront multiple challenges while migrating. First and foremost, they had nothing to stay. They stayed on streets, at the bus stop, and at times with other boys. They are physically, verbally, and sexually assaulted during this time. Discrimination and marginalization in the country of development, as well as obstacles to accessing social services and forming an identity. On the other hand, economic and social instability may harm some children, leading to abuse and neglect. Participants of the research under study are mostly migrants from Afghanistan. Some of them were literate but they migrated due to the political condition in their country. Here these poor children are obliged to pick garbage. Some of them were very decent but they also face exploitation from many people. During FGD one respondent told that “*mai das (10) class parha hun* (to explain his point he raised his fingers that I have studied 10 classes) *lykin mjy koi kaam nai dea gea kun k mai Afghanistan sy ayah un*” I have studied 10 classes but I was not given any job because I came from Afghanistan.

He further said that “*phir main ny kabarrh jama krna shuru kar dea lykin yahn par b dusry bachy mjy asi nazar sy dykhty thy jesy mai ny un ka kabarrh chori kea ho*” then I started picking garbage but even here other kids used to look at me as if I stole their garbage.

According to the Agreement on the Rights of the Child, it is the government’s accountability to make sure that all children, irrespective of migration status, have access to their rights. But in Islamabad according to the collected data, migrated children did not get their right as they deserve. They did not get any job because they are migrants and did not have identity proof. They were under the age of 18. Even they are unable to buy any motorcycle and car for their comfort. Every single person exploits them, one of my respondents added that “*shuru mai jab mai yahn aya tha barey larkey muj sy mara sara maal ley jata tha aur dukan wala mjy marta tha*”

In the beginning, when I came here, the older boys used to take my entire garbage and money from me. Shopkeeper always humiliated me.

5.3.4 Neglect

Other factors which lead to abuse are lack of parental care; various street children have little or no parental care, either due to death, rejection or neglect. This lack puts them at risk of physical, emotional and sexual exploitation. When children faced abuse anyone of them they also expose to drugs and alcohol. Street children habitually turn to drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with their difficult living conditions and traumas. This also exposes them to additional risks, including sexual and physical abuse and addiction. “Fourteen year Afghani boy who admitted that he is addicted of **charas (hashish)**. He revealed that *“mera abu mgy marta tha, mri ami fot hogei thi. Abu juwa kheilta tha humy khane ko kuch nai dyta tha phir main ny kaam krna shuru kea, abu mery paisy b cheen leta tha. Abu ki marr sy bachny k lea mai ghr sy bagh gea aur yahn aw k mgy nashey ki adat hogei hai. bohat bar mgy wo samny security guard ny offer kea k humary sath tum ghalt kaam kro tu mai tumhy free chars dun ga lykin main ny mana kea. Lykin aik waqt asa aya jab mgy kehi sy charas na mili tu main ny uska offer qabool kea ab mgy dono ka nasha hai.”*

My father used to beat me a lot, my mother died due to severe illness. My father used to gamble, he did not give us anything to eat, and then I started working. My father take my all money and beat me. I ran away from home to escape my father’s beating and came here and got addicted to hashish. Many times security guard offered me free charas to engage in sexual activities with him but I refused. There was a time when I could not find charas anywhere so I accepted and I’m addicted of both.

5.3.5 Lack of Education

Lack of education is another factor which increases vulnerability to exploitation. Many street children lack access to school, which can lead to a lack of opportunities and continue the cycle of poverty. This also increases their liability to exploitation and abuse. When children are illiterate, poor and unhealthy then people socially stigmatize them as untouchable. People marginalize them and treat badly which can lead to harassment, discrimination

and abuse. During interview a twelve year old boy said that *“saadhey kol inney paisy na sey k school wanjan, mai aprren dada dadi kol renda sa. Oh mery school di uniform, kitaban aur kapiyan na khared skdey sein tey isi waja tun mai school nai wanjia”* we did not have enough money so I lived with my grandparents they cannot afford my uniform, books and copies so that’s why I could not go to school.

Unfortunately, in Pakistan there are multiple Articles, laws, agendas and convention regarding Child Rights but these are dysfunctional. Our law is unable to provide legal protection to such children. Street children are mostly not protected by the law, and can be subject to illogical detention, abuse by authorities and lack of access to legal services.

5.3.6 Media

Viewers, particularly children, are exposed to various perspectives on intense behaviors through the media. The use of violence to argue for justice is a frequent topic of discussion in programs that many children watch. This form of violence is tolerated by society because it appears to be on the good side of the problem. However, research have shown that the intense behaviors presented in the media frequently influence vulnerable teens aged eight to twelve. For example, films depicting violent activities motivate viewers, and the aggressive effect can subsequently be adapted to daily life, encouraging children to engage in violent physical activity on the streets. During FGD one participant reveal that *“yeh main ny tv sy seekha k kesy khud ko bachana hai, mujy aik stunt b ata hai. Mery sath koi panga kery tu uska moun torr dunga mai”* I learned from TV how to protect myself. I also know a stunt, if someone messes with me I will break his mouth.

Some of these children have their own mobiles in which they play different games like Takken 3, Pubg and watch movies. From social media they learned different kind of behavior whether positive or negative both are involved. A desire to gain expected freedom and independence or because they had been attracted by images of the city in popular media such as television and cinema. Pressure from peer group also seemed to be a factor, especially for those who were not attending school for one reason or another.

5.3.7 Influence of peer

Peer groups offer an atmosphere of security for children and teenagers. Peer groups are necessary for developing an identity and preparing for life in the real world. Though, contrasting to adult groups, peer groups provide fairness and the same opportunities to advance one's status within the system. Lawbreaker peer groups can provide a substitute family for a child who lacks that element. Furthermore, a criminal group can considerably provide a sense of protection to children acting as an attraction aspect for children to the streets. Another key factor is peer pressure, which is especially prevalent in males with alternative sexual identities. Many street children reported that their peers helped them build their ability to cope with street life in terms of shelter, food, amusement, earning money, and protection, particularly during their initial days on the street.

During the FGD many respondents revealed that they join street due to the influence of their friends. One of our respondent told that *“mai Afghanistan sy sirf apny dost k lea aya hun, wahn reh k kya karta wahn halaat bohat kharab thy isi lea mai is k sath agea. Hum sath rehty hain koi masla nai idr humy”*. I came here from Afghanistan only for my friend. What would I do if I stayed there? The conditions there were very bad. That’s why I came with him. We live together, there is no problem here.

Another boy said that *“muji mery dost yahn laya hai us ny bola that bohat paisa milta hai aur mazy ki zindgi hai wo yahn pa pehly sey tha”* I was brought here by my friend, he said that there is a lot of money and a fun life because he was already here.

Street life expose children to a diversity of experiences, sometimes it may be positive and sometime may be negative. It is important to highlight these determinants so that to prevent abuse among street children and provide protection and support for these vulnerable children. This includes fulfilling basic necessities, providing health care, education, and legal protection, as well as aiming to reduce poverty and social humiliation.

Chapter-6

Social and Legal Insight of street children

Islamabad being the capital of an Islamic state has a society which is Islamic in nature and performs religious activities commonly. The norms, values and the living standards of the locale under study are strictly according to the teachings of Islam. Many different kind of social taboo are present in this society. Talking about the sex and sexual activities in open is considered taboo among them. Act of molestation is also considered as social taboo¹³. The issue of molestation cannot be studied alone but with this other things or elements such as religion, being women, pornography and such other social taboos. In this chapter the researcher will explain how society perceives an act of molestation as a taboo subject and the legal status of street children in Islamabad.

6.1 Local perception about child abuse

It is very important for a society to maintain social equilibrium and for this the members of the society should have a healthy mind and healthy body. Anything which can be a cause is making the society or people living in the society unstable are rejected or are considered as immoral. Child abuse is also considered as an immoral act because when a child physically or sexually abuse it effects their minds and personality badly. Such a victim fails to play a role of a healthy citizen. Doing something which is immoral is a social taboo. Society clearly forbids sexual relationship before marriage of child. It is believed that people usually do not talk about things which are taboo in a society. Because of this very little talk occurs about child abuse in our society. When asked why people don't talk about child abuse, respondents said, most of them were of the view that it is because it is how their society is. Following table shows the response of the respondents on this question.

¹³ Social taboo is the prohibition related to societal norms and expectations. This taboo originate from the values and belief system of a society. what they consider important in life dictates what they prohibit for example in current study talk about sexual activity in open is a social taboo that's why number of child molestation is increasing day by day.

Table 10; Reasons for not talking about Sexual Abuse in the society

Responses	Number	Percentage%
Socially immoral	27	67.5%
For keeping the honor	09	22.5%
No answer	04	10%
Total	40	100%

Source: Researcher

67.5% of respondents indirectly indicate that child abuse, particularly child abuse, is a social taboo subject, and we do not like talking freely about things that are socially and ethically forbidden in our culture. As a result, incidences of child abuse have gone unreported, and the number of cases is on the rise.

Taboos are social codes of conduct that have a direct connection to human actions and are regarded as such. Religious ideas and moral judgment underpin these forbidden and sacred human actions. Anybody who attempts to break this is labeled a rebel or an opponent by society. Each culture has specific taboo habits, such as food, body function, clothes, and dating. These taboos are based on religious beliefs; for example, eating pork is forbidden in Muslim societies. However, some anthropologists feel that some actions, such as cannibalism, incest, and the murdering of parents, are generally forbidden.

Numerous taboos have grown embedded in Pakistani society since its establishment. When people discuss sex and sexual behaviors in public or in open, it is considered a social taboo in Pakistani society. If someone talks about this material to someone older than him/her, it turns out to be even more unethical and prohibited by society. This social taboo is making things more difficult for child abuse victims and their families. According to the study, many abuse-related disorders occur as a result of this social taboo. Thousands of incidences of sexual abuse go unreported because it is considered impolite to speak out about such matters. Rape cases are buried in our society to protect the

girl's face rather than put the culprit to prison. There is also the terrible fact that the victim is the cause of the sexual attack because she is dressed in such a little or tight dress that provokes the offender. Every year, many things occur, yet due to this so-called taboo, many remain silent. As a result, street children are among the most susceptible to abuse. Because people believe they are homeless, there is no one to protect them or advocate for their rights, so they exploit them. Because of taboos, these criminals remain outside.

The inhabitants of the selected locale i.e. Islamabad are mostly educated people. According to a survey by Pakistan Bureau of statistics 2017 the literacy rate of Islamabad is 85%. On asking the general public of Islamabad that why people hesitate to talk about the harassment or sexual assault, they were of the view that our cultural norms did not allow people to talk about such topics but with the passage of time as people become aware of these sensitive issues now they talk openly. When the researcher question about that how culture become a barrier to talk about abuse, one of our respondent said that *“Beta g hum Muslim hain hmarey baron sy hum ny yehi seekha hai k is terhn ki batein sb k samny nai krni chahiya. Lykin hamri isi ghalti nay hawas k maron ko sheeh di hai. Hum agr aik b bachi ya bachy k le awaz uthatey tu aj humy yeh sb dykhny ko nai milta. Zainab k walid ny bohat acha qadam uthaya asy hi har maa baap ko nadhar ho k in wehshion ko phanssi tak ponchana chahiya”*.

Beta G! We are Muslim, we have learned this from our elders that such things should not be said in front of everyone. But this mistake of ours has encourages the luster. If we raised our voices for even one girl or boy, we would not have seen all this today. Zainab’s father has taken a very good step. Every parents should be fearless and execute these culprits.

It is found that children after experiencing the instances of child abuse can face difficulty in social interaction with relatives and people, and feel socially withdrawn due to safety measures, embarrassment, shame, difficulty in trusting, and uncomfortable vibes, which leads toward the social alienation. Some of the children leave all the activities like attending the schools, social gathering and interacting with people after the incident happening. In our society behavior of parents, relatives, friends and other people towards the victim is very important. If people blame target instead of abuser it will negatively affect their

psychological health which leads many crimes in society. The following case study will through some light on such circumstances.

Case Study No.9

Nouman was a forty-nine year old man, who was a government employee. He was a married and had five kids, three daughters and two sons. His two daughters were enrolled in G-10 school. His wife is housewife. He visited G-9 markaz with his family where the researcher requested him to give his time. He was of the view that our forefathers are very religious and cultural. They did not talk about any personal issue openly. We also grow-up with the same mentality but after knowing about the increasing numbers of abuse we change our mind and rise voice against abuse. But if we raise voice against the culprit, then everyone will know that the child has been abused. It was observed that all the victims were treated badly by the society. Relatives and neighbors blamed the child for their condition, they humiliate the victim in every possible way. He further added a story of a 10 year boy which roam near his street every day. He was a garbage picker, one day he was forcefully abused by a man. When this news spread, everyone started looking at him with strange eyes. Because of this he went in deep depression and started taking drugs to overcome his depression. Then he became addicted of substances, to get the drugs he started committing various crimes.

Humiliation was a reason that child loses his confidence. After any kind of abuse a child needs support and encouragement so that he can live the rest of his life in peace but things are other way round. The societies' lack of reassurance results making the life of the victim more miserable. It was commonly reported perception the victim provoke the assault, this lead to secondary unfair treatment of the survivor at the hand of society. Another important point was highlighted by an interviewee that "our society did not consider physical, verbal, and psychological abuses as an abuse. They think that only sexual assault is abuse. Because they also humiliate, exploit and discriminate street children verbally, physically and emotionally".

Above mentioned quotes shed some light on the local perception of a people of Islamabad which lets us know how people behave and think about street

children. Now researcher will discuss the role of society toward street children. How they can improve their lives, how they can protect them from abuse.

6.2 Self-Concept/Self-Esteem of Street children

A sense of self-concept is critical, particularly when dealing with the self and others with whom we must interact and integrate the exposed behaviors and roles provided by society or the world. Humans and the rest of the world are interconnected. They cannot work in isolation because when individuals get together to construct society, the specific environment of society places duty on individuals to regulate them through cultural norms, values, traditions, and state laws. In its reaction, the state accepts responsibility for working for the welfare of individuals by creating an environment that ensures an equal chance for their progress, prosperity, and development.

The formation of a child's personality is dependent on his or her self-concept. Even as a child, an individual's self-concept must be recognized. Street children reflect unbalanced, immature, and maladaptive behavior as a result of external and internal problems. When it came to children, society was more demanding than providing. It was believed that street children should remain healthy, educated, and able to adapt, as these are seen as essential components of a child's personality. If the system supported street children but they failed to become valuable members of society because of to their temperament and maladaptive conduct, they must be punished for their failure. Conversely, if the system failed to provide people with what they desired, the system should be adjusted or improved, or it would suffer a setback.

Street children could be found all over the place especially at *Chowks* (cross roads), shrine, markets and railway stations. They would not hesitate to do anything wrong and their behavior would be very aggressive. They wandered around as garbage pickers, beggars, hawkers, daily wagers etc. who were in general comparatively more aggressive than, car washers, hotel boys and shoe shiners etc. People saw them as rebellious and societal disruptors. Contrary to this, street children saw other people as violent, foolish, and hostile. People, according to kids, got upset as soon as they saw them and misbehaved even when they (children) behaved with them politely. People usually use abusive words towards them to express their dissatisfaction and aggression. "All of us

are also human beings, and our destiny is not in our hands, it wasn't our choice to be like that, we also wish to become acceptable and successful members of society, but our poverty and circumstances are the main obstacles that stand in our way of getting education, good manners, and appropriate grooming, which are essential for normal human beings," the children said. Neither our good fortune nor the authorities are on our side in terms of providing us with opportunity to live a nice or comfortable life. Whatever we do, good or terrible, is for our survival; why don't people understand this, why do they dislike us when most of us are not on the streets willingly? We, too, must support our family; we don't have houses or families; we are rejected, abused, and this is forced on us; we have no choice but to survive on the street."

6.3 Role of the general public towards victimized children

A child's contact is not only within the family but a child has to move in the society as well. For street children, these society or area where they are living, are their home, the major source of interaction for a homeless child with the outer world. So a society also has a special part to play in the lives of young children.

The experiences of children that rising in a society influence the future of any state. Following that, it is everyone's job to protect kids. In the following section, the researcher will briefly discuss laws protecting children in Pakistan. In addition to the legislative agencies, it is the moral and religious duty of civil society, which includes households, professional associations, trades, social movements, and community unions, to take voluntary action in order to ensure the protection of children from abuse strictly limited in the books of law. Because civil society administrations are frequently referred to as the "third sector" in terms of their impact on the political life of states, after the government and the business community. The most significant social campaigns in the United States have been begun by civil society, such as campaigns for human rights, the environment, consumer protection, and women's rights (Salamon, 1994). The internet and other communication resources and information technology have supplied resources to change advocates and opened up new platforms for civil society to promote children's rights applications. Social networking platforms can be utilized as a means for

young people to exchange views, ideas, and information on promoting the rights of street children and homeless children and informing one another about risks related to children's rights.

During the interviews government officials suggested that to accomplish the aim in a more insightful manner, our society must undertake community-based child protection. It can be accomplished by assembling a group of people, often volunteers, who want to support the welfare and comfort of kids in a village, other community, or urban area. They should focus on preventing abuse and mistreatment among street children by raising awareness and activating communities around children's rights, care issues, and child protection.

- Acting as a monitoring and supervising body for child protection.
- Identify vulnerable children.
- Assist members of the larger family network and caregivers in implementing healthy parenting practices.
- Assisting children with their daily lives, education, and protection.

Study reveal that many general public were of the view that as responsible citizens, we can all identify areas or boundaries where children are at greater danger of abuse. Report the incident to the nearest police station and provide personalized care to street children who have been exploited through mediation, counseling, informal education, and other practical efforts. Other tasks for society as a whole include preventing child abuse among street children and helping such victims.

6.3.1 Free Educational Institutions

Other than home a child spends most of his day in educational institutions. But street children roam all the day on streets that's why they are the most vulnerable subject of abuse. To prevent abuse, society must provide a safe atmosphere for children where they are free from all worries. A special school to educate the children working and begging on the streets. Provide incentives to join school. Free uniform, books and stationary should be given to these students along with quality education and offers an encouraging learning environment to these children who never dreamt of going to a school. In Pakistan there are multiple organizations who are providing free education to

these unprivileged children which is state's responsibility. One organization named as EOTO foundation, which is working for poor and needy children of Pakistan. The journey of love, peace and happiness to uplift this deprived community. They provide them free education, books, clothes and food. They arrange multiple functions where their students get chance to enhance their skills and extraordinary talent. They make a favorable environment for these poor souls whom this society ignores and could not accept. They also educate them about abuse, how they can refuse such activities and how they can protect themselves. This organization empowered children to get promoted in private schools. Similarly, there are several organization which also provide protection and care to these children. Their special emphasis is laid on building their characters and boosting their morals.

6.3.2 Religious Institutions

It should be the duty of society to provide its children right education about religion. They will be little busy with religious education. It will prevent their sinful thoughts. If a child is the subject of sexual assault, religious education will prevent him from committing further violence. Many parents recommended that in the evening, these children should be given Islamic education, in which they should be told how they can live calm according to the principles of Islam because it soothes the heart.

6.3.3 Supporting Environment and Building Trust

The term environment refers to what a child confronts outside of himself every day. It refers to the child's life from a political, legal, legislative, economic, social, and cultural standpoint, including possibilities for education and earning a living, as well as the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with others. This larger context influences behavioral decisions. The goal of providing a supportive and safe environment for street children is to encourage positive conduct. The results of the current study revealed that people can foster a positive environment by doing the following:

- Connecting them with families or forming family-like groupings to meet the needs of children

- Using the media to raise the level of acceptance of publicly discussing sexual assault.
- Creating neighborhood youth centers and drop-in centers where kids can get help, counseling, and assistance.
- Promoting accessible and responsive health-care services.
- Collaborating with the local education system to allow street children to re-enter or participate in part-time school.

By doing all these steps which are motioned above, the child get supportive environment and it also develops trust in it.

6.3.4 Vocational trainings

People who live in poverty frequently depend on their children for contributing to the family's wages. However, such a duty might make it difficult for them to attend school. Home is not a physical location, but rather a collection of circumstances into which one is born. However, for nearly millions of street children in Pakistan, their only home is violent, concrete, and congested. The situation they are in is a natural result of years of ineffective management, structural failure, and poverty, and the only way to halt this trend in the long run is through macro-level protective initiatives. In order to escape poverty, vocational training institutes (VTIs) should be established.

Street children's daily lives are likely to be filled with risks, anxieties, and needs. To cope with such situations and fit in with the street culture, children frequently turn to substance abuse and other risky habits. There is an urgent need to develop better, more constructive coping strategies. Vocational schools are required to develop skills that will impact the chance of a street child. The method of supporting learning through a set of structural tasks is known as skill building. It is designed to teach a street child new or improved coping methods for dealing with daily life on the street as well as specific scenarios that they are likely to encounter. As the technical education and vocational training administration has begun a transformative project in Peshawar by providing free technical and vocational courses appropriate to the development of street children

6.4 Judicial System

Street youngsters confront a numerous likely and tangible threats to their protection and health in a variety of circumstances in Pakistan. Bodily exploitation of a kid by a mature caregiver, mental abuse, sexual abuse, negligence, destructive traditional practices unpleasant to children, and economic and structural causes are examples of these situations. Though, the acknowledgement of child security issues such as separate field of national policy and regulation is a relatively new phenomena. In fact, neither the development nor any one rules directly addresses the subject of child safety. Although in Pakistan the first child protection plan was drafted in 2009, it has still to be employed.

6.4.1 Special Laws for dealing with street children in Islamabad

The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act of 2018 was introduced to safeguard and care for children in Islamabad from any kind of mental and physical violence, neglect, injury, maltreatment, exploitation, abuse, and other related issues. The Act recognizes street children as children in need of care, and Section 5 (b) protects their right to be protected: "A child in need of care and protection shall include a child who is the victim of an offense, who is unattended, a child domestic and such other workers, who is found begging, who is imprisoned with the mother, or who lives in an immoral setting." On March 13, 2021, the rules for implementing the ICT Act 2018 were announced. The researcher conducted interviews with government officials to learn about the participation of the Pakistani government in child protection. The following case study will support the factors that are earlier discussed.

Case Study No.10

Syed Farhat Hussain Kazmi is working as Former AIG Operations and SSP Investigation of Capital Police. His work is what he is best known for. He had served in Islamabad Capital Police with dedication and commitment. He also make ICT police as an ideal force. He joined ICT police as a Probation ASI and served various posts including Deputy Superintendent of police and Superintendent of police. After getting promotion to the post of SP, he was assigned responsibilities as Zonal SP and recently working as AIG operations.

He received so much honor and respect from people. He conducted multiple operations to save children from beggary. His motive was zero beggar in the Capital Territory, for this he did very hard work to reduce such mafia from Islamabad. During interview he shed light on many laws and policies which protect children from violence. According to him "In Islamabad we formed a special force which deals with beggars, we don't say anything to children who are scavengers. We only catch begging children and women because there is a mafia behind them. Beggars are supported by beggar mafias, which instruct a particular number of individuals to beg. These beggars' circles maintain a proper hierarchical structure, with the head (thekydar)¹⁴ at the top, followed by middlemen who monitor and supervise beggars in case they flee the group or attempt to disclose their identities. This middleman not only selects certain begging locations for beggars, but also arranges for their transportation to various Chowks (squares) and keeps them under strict observation. Some of them were involved in drug distribution, murder, robbery and plunder, and other crimes.

Regarding law of Pakistan, beggary is illegal since West Pakistan Vagrancy Ordinance, 1958. According to the law, families whose children beg can be arrested and imprisoned for three years; parents who beg can be imprisoned for three years. As per Act, if a child is used for begging and any other work forcefully then it is also child abuse or violence. In 2021, we started many campaigns against safety and protection of street children. And we ensure this to be zero beggary and child abuse among street children". When the researcher asked him about migrated children. He added that "we treat all children equally", our special police team collects all the street children in their van and after that they are brought to the police station where after inquiry their parents are called. During custody, all belongings are taken from the children, whether they have money, a garbage bag or anything they are selling.

With the help of Child Protection Bureau, we created a child protection cell where we can provide protection and care to 24 children. Due to the limited funds and current government economic condition we are limited to 24 children.

¹⁴ Thekydar is one who contracts, in case of street children thekydar is a person who has a hold over all the children. It leaves the begging children at their specific location and also conducts their surveillance.

Rest of the children send to other Non-governmental organizations such as Edhi trust.

As previously said, Mr. Kazmi's work with the ICT police is excellent. Despite these legislation, due to the institutional lack of attention and funding, no long-term steps could be taken, nor did these laws prove beneficial. If the ICT police step in, these beggars are either silenced by middleman or released on bail after a few weeks. During the data collection process, several respondents stated that when they were captured by the police and locked up at the police station, their parents and care givers (theykydar) were contacted, and the police released them on bail with a large fine.

Figure 10; Farhat Hussain Kazmi, Former AIG Operation and SSP investigation of ICT police.



Source: Fieldwork

6.5 Refugee children and Discrimination

Pakistan has suffered multiple waves of refugees over the past decades as a result of ongoing dispute in Afghanistan, in addition regular inner movement induced by complicated crises in the country. Despite efforts to make it easier return, it has housed for the world's biggest immigrant populations, over 4 million people. Pakistan still hosts approximately 1.4 million registered refugees (Ansari, 2019).

Even though relief agencies built "refugee villages" to house a huge number of refugees, many of them decided to survive in cities. Since the 1980s, the Islamabad has witnessed different migrant groups arrive and go. In June 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recognized 33,286 Afghan refugees in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Even so, it is broadly acknowledged that the number of not reported immigrants and internally displaced persons is significantly bigger. Drawing on my own work with homeless children, the present study tells incidents about the difficulty of integration for individuals without proper legal status, particularly in terms of education. Here are some stories about refugee street children.

Case Study No.11

Seventeen year old boy, who migrated from Afghanistan few months before along his brother. His father is a policeman in Afghanistan. His mother is a housewife. He has five brother and four sisters. He is a Persian speaker. He has studied 9 classes in Afghanistan. His father send him Pakistan due to war condition in his country. His father wanted to protect him from the Taliban. After coming to Pakistan, he tried to find many jobs but he has not found any work, people do not even trust him. He has spent some nights on the footpath. Then he found some Afghani boys which were his neighbors, with whom he started living and working. There are 300 other Afghani migrants lived with him. All these are garbage pickers. They work in a team, where two boys go together to pick garbage. He earn 600-900 rupees per day. He shared his story of initiation of street life. He said that "when I came from Afghanistan, I used to speak Persian language. I could neither speak nor understand Urdu. I found it very difficult to talk to people and explain myself to them. And I did not understand what they were saying, then those with whom I lived, they has been here for quite some time that's why they can speak and understand Urdu, they used to explain things to me. And I communicate in such a way. It was very difficult for me to learn the culture and their language. Even still I do not know how to speak but I understand a little bit. He further added that, "I want to keep going with my studies here, but I can't because I don't know the language." Like that boy there are many other refugees who face difficulties to absorb other cultures and languages. People refuses them and look at them with suspicious

eyes. Nobody gives work to these people, for the survival, some of them become scavenger, some become balloon seller and some become beggars. They face discrimination at every stage of life.

There are a few factors to keep in mind in order to create systemic rather than surface change. The term "street child" does not refer to a single identity, but rather to the difficulties that children in urban poverty face. The International Day of Street Children (12th April) honors a diverse group of young people living on the fringes of cities, including migrants, refugees, street vendors, domestic workers, and child beggars. Many of these identities may collide, making policy and program design more complicated than initially believed. There is a significant policy divide between children on the street and children of the street. Even when street children have family to return to, they suffer uncertainties that undermine their development. Some kids may be overwhelmed by discrimination and marginalization in the country of habitation, challenges to citizenship rights, barriers to accessing social services, parents' economic difficulties, and socio-cultural dislocation. Most migrant children contribute positively and grow in their new groups, and strategies and plans can be established to support and safeguard those children who may be at risk.

6.6 Child Trafficking

Human trafficking is a terrible offense with international consequences. Globally criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling and narcotics trafficking frequently control human trafficking as well. Trafficking is an immoral process that begins with the hiring and transfer of people and continues with their sale and forced labor in many forms. This is another form of abuse that is widespread in our country. Trafficking is an offense that violates the victims' fundamental human rights, and there are a number of effects for the countries involved, including dangers to national and international security. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, around three million children under the age of 14 and 18% of children between the ages of 10 and 15 work. Pakistan's Bureau of Statistics estimated the number of child laborers at 3.5 million. Another type of commercial abuse is the trading of children.

Human Rights and Legal Aid lawyers estimate that at least 360 youngsters were transported into Arab countries in 2003 for use as camel jockeys. According to some stories, the kids are not provided food or water prior to the race in order to keep their weight down, and some children are abused for refusing to saddle a camel. According to a recent provincial police study, 32,022 trafficking victims would be identified in 2020, up from 19,954 in 2019. There were 9,581 men, 15,255 women, 6,937 children, and 249 transgender victims among them (Sadrudin, 2008). The Pakistani government indicated that some law enforcement, social service, and immigration staff had SOPs in place to identify trafficking victims, but it was unclear how widely these SOPs had been circulated and used.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is the government's primary source of information and coordination on human trafficking. The agency concentrated on global offenses, whereas provincial police typically investigated cases of internal human trafficking. They are working to protect street children from smuggling. Because these children are the most defenseless entity of our country. People of mafia sell these children out by giving them the pretense of a good life. This mafia also smuggled the different organs of children for good process.

A great number of adolescents can be observed begging or selling small products such as toys, flowers, newspapers, or cleaning or washing cars on Pakistani streets. These children are the result of societal poverty. They are poor, orphans, or neglected kids. Certain areas of society believe that children guarantee their parents' future survival. Many families have a significant number of children that they are unable to raise, educate, or care for. Such minors, without a doubt, function as an accommodation for illegal child trafficking. Due to widespread poverty, Pakistan provides a good field for purchasing children to work as camel jockeys in the Gulf States. The trafficking of children from Pakistan has increased dramatically in recent years. There have been claims of adolescent children being sent to Arab countries for camel riding with or without their parents' approval. Many of the parents and children had been misled regarding the nature of the work and the location. Such unethical acts are carried out by organized groups and other corrupt individuals for the

sake of profit. An FIA official has highlighted this issue very well during interview.

Case Study No.12

The FIA's AD Legal mentioned a few issues about street minors. His identity is being kept private at his desire. He also highlighted camel jockeying, which is a form of maltreatment. He claims that they caught a few persons who were selling kids to Gulf States' camel jockeys. In-game jockeys are frequently sexually and physically tortured, and the majority are mentally and physically stunted and purposely starved to avoid weight gain. This is a high level of abuse that occurs on a daily basis. The majority of children trafficked for slavery as camel jockeys are very young. They are in serious danger. Every year, several people are severely injured and some are killed by stampeding camels. This is a kind of modern-day slavery and abuse in which victims are forced, tricked, or compelled to work or engage in sexual exploitation.

Moreover, he added that there are cultural barriers which prevent parents to report FIR against the culprits. People don't register report for the fear of stigmatization. Our cultural norms suppress the voices of victims. There are many cases that I have personally handled where the parents do not testify against the accused out of fear, or fearing the stigma that if their child's name comes out in front of everyone, his life will be ruined. Some parents remain silent because they don't believe in the system, there are some people in our institutions who are appointed to protect the people, but the people need protection from them. He further shared with us the story of a girl, a girl contacted our organization for her protection. A boy was blackmailing this girl, they having an affair. She had shared her personal pictures with him, due to which he was blackmailing her. The girl report against him on our online website. Our team then contacted her and reassuring her that her privacy would be taken care of, she shared all her information with us. But this girl was afraid that her family would not know. We assured her that no one would go to her house, all information will be get on mobile. Then she shared her personal information with our investigation team but there were two people in this team who started using her pictures against her and started blackmailing her.

So the point of telling this story here is that sometimes the people that you try to ask for help or the institutions you trust to help you, are the ones who humiliate you. That's why people do not trust on their system. According to the Section 21, there is a five years of punishment for the exploitation of child and according to the Section 22 there is seven years of punishment for child pornography and five million fine for the one who will do this. But there is lack of speedy justice. In our country, despite of law and heavy fine, still the accused is not punished so quickly. As a result, the number of incidents of abuse is increasing on a daily basis. And especially street children are the most exposed to child trafficking because neither their parents nor anybody else is looking after them, thus the organized group attracts the children with money and a luxurious lifestyle. He added that illegitimate children¹⁵ are more susceptible to trafficking because their parents and family are unknown. These children can easily trapped by the criminal gangs, they shows them dream of good life. The number of illegitimate children is increasing day by day in Pakistan, we hear news from somewhere that a child has been found in the garbage.

After the interview, the AD legal officer suggests various solutions for preventing child abuse among street children, such as;

- Economic advancement at national level
- Reduce poverty by providing opportunities
- Conducive environment for psychological development of child
- Family institution should be strong
- Effective legislation
- Effective implementation of law
- Supportive shelter house for street children
- Vocational trainings

These are the solution through which we can improve the life of street children. To elevate all type of abuse or streetism first of all we need to reduce poverty. We can positively use social media for the awareness and for the help of needy children. We should create animated content about everyday life of street children, through this it will be known how children live and what difficulties they face in their daily life, then people will try to make children friendly

¹⁵ Illegitimate children, are those whose parents were not married when they were born.

environment where these homeless and helpless children are free to raise their voice and access their basic rights.

6.7 Drug Addiction among street children

Every year on June 26th, the United Nations International Day against Drug addiction and Illegal Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is observed to promote public awareness about drug addiction and the promotion of drug-free society by reducing both demand and supply of illegal narcotics. Pakistan is a country where drug usage is common, and youth, particularly children, are the most vulnerable group, becoming victims of this risk. Drug misuse frequently resulted in the deaths of children and their involvement in other terrible offences and abuse. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

Street children are individuals that spend much of their time on urban streets working to support themselves or their family through various occupations. Nobody is looking after or caring for such children because they are in conflict with their parents and their families have forced them to join the streets. The majority of street children engage in begging, rubbish collection, car washing, and street sales, among other activities. Most street children are drug addicts who engage in criminal activities such as quarreling, begging, sodomy, stealing, drug dealing, and pick pocketing.

All forms of narcotics were widely available in hidden places in the study area of the current research, Islamabad, but one had to be a part of the setting to get accessibility. They added, "baji Pakistan mai sb kuch mil jata hai" (Everything is available in Pakistan). If you were interested in drugs, you could get them through a variety of channels, but if you weren't, you couldn't. These addicts were found in number in Islamabad's slums, under bridges over polluted streams, in public restrooms, near solid waste disposal sites, and in the sheltered corners of graveyards. Through various techniques, street children were usually involved in glue sniffing, sharaab (alcohol), and chars (marijuana) addiction.

According to the research, more than 70% of street children took various substances without knowing the dangers of those substances. The most common substances among street children in Islamabad were cigarettes (37%),

followed by alcohol (16%). These medicines were easy to obtain because they were available in specific shops in Islamabad.

Types of Substances	Number of children	Percentage
Glue Sniffing	02	7%
Chars	03	10%
Sharaab	05	16%
Cigarette	11	37%
Naswar	03	10%
None	06	20%
Total	30	100%

Source: Researcher

These children had been arrested numerous times by police and taken to rehabilitation centers for treatment, but once out on the street, they were addicted to life ruining substances and found it difficult to get rid of them. Some of the children were not only consuming drugs but also making money by selling them to others. Because they were disliked and distrusted by the community, street children who grew addicted to drugs were more defenseless and lived in difficult and dangerous situations in Islamabad. They were also targets for criminals who utilized them for wrong doings.

6.8 Role of NGOs in conveying education

In any society the role of education is not something that can be ignored in social and economic development of that society. In Pakistan due to the uncertainty of political and socio economic conditions, government taking very serious measurements in conveying education to all levels, the efforts are not up to level required. Private education system is very expensive and can't be afforded by all, and government sector is also unable to provide the needs sufficiently, so many NGOs are energetically active in imparting education to those who are under privileged and can't meet the expense of joining regular

schools. Some NGOs' inherent strengths include their willingness to work in remote areas among the poor, their ability to set up participatory processes in identifying needs, designing and implementing programs based on their needs, their readiness to mobilize and use local means, cost-effective service delivery, and their freedom to innovate.

In this section we aim to discuss the role of NGOs particularly three selected NGOs for this study, in passing education to street children. NGOs are a voluntary organization that is seen to be driven by compassion, making it an appropriate facilitator for encouraging sustainable policy implementation and attaining positive effects. They've evolved as major players in a variety of social development initiatives. They have been very helpful in promoting and supporting educational delivery. NGOs are typically ready to work in rural locations among vulnerable groups and for the needy, designing and implementing programs to increase literacy, non-formal education, and teacher training, among other things. They work at the grassroots level. People's engagement is the key pillar of the NGO method, and they are viewed as alternative groups in creating awareness, bringing development, and change to society.

They aim to reduce poverty and promote sustainable and unbiased development in areas where the state does not provide such services. They contribute to the promotion and support of education, literacy, healthcare, and poverty reduction through sustainable development, women and child care, rehabilitation, and human development, and so on (Urooj & Bhaur, 2022). For this research purpose Mr. Abdual Rehman Lodhi, Co-founder of EOTO foundation was interviewed to know the main reasons for out of school children to not study during data collection process. He explained that “Poverty is the key issue, they do not afford the basic necessities of life, but other issues like their own inspiration of learning, their own motivation of changing their life style are the main reasons. They just want to earn money for today and don't think about tomorrow. They can't wait for so long to eat the fruits of education that's why are not studying”.

This above mention account has many different narratives. He discusses that not only poverty is the main cause of not joining school but they themselves are not

encouraged enough to learning and coping the world. They do not want to change their circumstances by saying that “this is our fate”. What is going around in the world and how technology and education changes the world, is none of their concern. Poor parents forced their children to earn money to feed their family instead of school. We can reduce child labor by eliminating poverty. According to Jensen and Nielson, increased levels of poverty can drive families to put their children to work, preventing the youngsters from taking part in the human capital produced by their attendance at school (Jensen & Nielsen, 1997). Pakistani government and different NGOs are working really hard to empower all children with education by offering diverse incentives in different forms like (free books and education till matriculation etc. from government), in spite of all these efforts children work and child labor is common and observable either working at homes as helpers, or as waste pickers, or as tea seller and workshop workers.

In this study when the NGO co-founder was asked to outline the role of parents in motivating their children to study, he came up with the following opinion. He explained, “It was difficult convincing them to send their children to school for free. They don’t have positive attitude and thinking towards education and in their life style too”. According to Mr. Lodhi they arrange a street parents teaching meeting once in a month. In which they encourage them and tell about the importance of education. In the beginning, they were not convinced and argued about the daily wages. Then we told them that we will only teach the children for two hours in the evening. Children will do their work from morning till evening and then study for two hours. We will teach them for free and give them free books and bags, all you have to do is send them, not stop them from education. Mothers are more excited and willing of sending their kids to study. They listen to us and want to send their children to school for betterment. Mostly fathers remain out of scene. Moreover they go to work or take no interest in their studies. It was revealed from the interviews that fathers usually don’t play their fatherly role and mother remain concerned. Interviews from NGOs person in Islamabad also revealed that low socio-economic factors force families to get their children employed simply because they cannot afford the

basic necessities for them. In some cases children work simply for the reason they are told to, some do voluntary and some against their will.

During interview when asked about the role of government and NGOs to encourage these children to study, Mr Lodhi asserted that;

“Government role is narrow as its curriculum and teachers’ training and educational methods are not much up to date with modern world. They are not fulfilling the needs of children who are out of school thoroughly” he further added **EOTO** foundation is not only active in providing education to street children but also give them skills so that they can earn too, even if they don’t complete education”. There are trained staff, all staff are given one month training. They have written curriculum, all the members together make this curriculum. Every teacher gives his class report daily. What I like best is that there children are not beated, there is reward system than punishment. That’s why children study there very happily and fresher want to come there. With this educational system, this NGO has promoted twelve children to private school We, as an NGO, are doing everything we can to educate these youngsters. We not only teach children, but we also work hard on other elements such as their understanding of their rights, sense of hygiene, moral well-being, and so on. We are preparing students to deal with basic reading and writing obstacles in order to make them more productive. Furthermore, they are not performing well academically in comparison to our expectations, but we are encouraged to notice changes in their behavior, conduct, and adaptability to new circumstances.

We demonstrate that selected NGO is trying to make street children literate and skilled in order to deal with their poor economic conditions. Similarly, Pakistani Government is trying very hard to make Pakistan illiteracy free State by innovating different policies but a few studies are accompanied on the role of NGOs who are energetically plating their role in suppression of poverty and making Pakistan illiteracy free republic.

According to the co-founder of EOTO, there are three independent donor which help them a lot in providing free books, bags, clothes and free lunch.

1. Bake and Sale

2. Charity lunch and dinner
3. Charity tours and tournaments

Through bake and sale they visit multiple universities, schools and parks, where they arrange 15-20 stalls of food which prepared by volunteers. They sale food and collect money for street children, with this money they buy multiple things for the children. Another independent donor is charity lunch and dinner, many people are invited in this charity lunch and they are told about these children and their education. People donate a lot of money, apart from giving money they express their desire to become volunteers there. The third one is charity tours and tournaments, in which the team of street school children is held in a tournament with the team of other schools and universities. During this time, gifts are distributed among the children and people are also given charity to these children. Similarly, tours are arranged in which people pay more than per person. In this way, people enjoy different places and make charity for children. These are independent donors which are arranged by founder and co-founder of EOTO foundation. He also highlight about child abuse in different conferences. He added “In future we will plane for special programs about the awareness of child abuse and we will also arrange parents’ teacher meeting to guide parents of street children. So they also take good care of their children”.

During this study, it was discovered that street children experience numerous challenges while working at a young age. Hence, I conclude that despite less recognition, NGOs are playing key role in providing education to street children and homeless children. A large proportion of children are forced to labor against their will in order to provide the basic necessities. Many of them are willing to work too because they want to run from the family issues and want to be independent. These children like to earn money but also want to join school. Many parents are careless and irresponsible towards their children particularly fathers. Their economic conditions are really bad without any backup systems and they have to work hard for everything important for their survival.

Chapter-7

Summary and Conclusion

This chapter includes a summary and a conclusion. In the summary, there is a concise and detailed review that presents the major elements of the research. It also covers the findings of the research.

8.1 Summary

The phenomenon of "street children" is a global concern in which many young people all around the world live and labor on the streets. The key causes of the rise in the number of street kids and their maltreatment include unprecedented global industrialization, poverty, urbanization, and socioeconomic pressure. Children are on the streets for a variety of causes, including marital violence, parental landlessness, unemployment, rural/urban migration, natural disasters, and peer pressure, among others. According to the current study, there are two categories of children: those who work on the street and return home at the end of the day, and those who work and live on the street. Using the above-mentioned classification, we can quickly identify the most vulnerable children and better support them. Based on a review of the research, we may conclude that only parents, if they are capable, can provide the most suitable care. Furthermore, excellent housing has an active role in protecting children from numerous societal injustices.

The available literature has been thoroughly reviewed in order to gain a clear grasp of the aims of the current study on child abuse among street children. The current study is based on the "functionalist perspective," often known as structural functionalism. As the current study focuses on the qualitative examination of abuse among street children, it is discovered that this phenomena has emerged as a result of family system instability; in general, we can say that in the social system, this is the result of family institution failure. Various investigations were undertaken by various researchers to discover the reasons of street life. Each of them made significant contributions to the protection of street children. What I have tried to do is to pick up the relevant

elements from different authors and organize them in such a manner so as to suite my specific research problem.

This study's sample size was 30 street children, 10 parents, 4 lawyers, 2 police officers, and one FIA officer. Purposive sampling is one of the data collection techniques employed. Data collection from a large population is quite tough. Snowball sampling is another technique utilized. Street youngsters were interviewed with the assistance of various NGOs and schools. The age range of those interviewed spanned from 10 to 18 years. Because of the sensitivity of the subject, the researcher chose adolescent children. Some of the questions were highly personal, and the researcher did not want to offend any of the children.

Following the completion of the objectives and study area, the following stage was the selection of a research site. The Pakistani capital region of Islamabad was chosen as the research location for an anthropological investigation of the subject. Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, has a population of about 2 million people. It is regarded as the nation's symbolic center and a modernist city in contrast to other cities in Pakistan. Islamabad is thought to be the only really Pakistani city because it was established after independence and was not inherited like the other cities. The physical infrastructure of Islamabad contrasts with uneven roads and congested buildings on the Rawalpindi side. Street children can be easily spotted in F-10, I-8 and G-9 markaz, premises near the Prime Minister House and Secretariat, or Islamabad slums such as Mehar Abadi, and their numbers are growing. According to the study, just 5 of the respondents were female, while the remaining 25 were male, owing to the fact that boys can go anywhere at any time. In line with the previous debate, the majority of respondents (70%) had fled Afghanistan due to conflict, while 30% were discovered to be locals.

This study also revealed that the majority of the kids were illiterate, however some were literate. Only 50% of street children had completed elementary school, 10% had dropped out at the intermediate level, and 40% were illiterate out of a total population of 30. Some of them were enrolled in street schools run by non-governmental organizations in Rawal Town, I-8 Markaz, and Mehar Abadi. This research also indicated that the many of street children did not have access to sufficient housing, with most respondents living in or sharing rental

dwellings and tents, while orphans were also discovered among the respondents. The study looks at their parents' occupations and discovers that the majority of them were beggars, garbage pickers, and laborers.

According to the findings, a substantial number of children were confronting hunger and poverty as a result of displacement and migration, either with their families or alone and with their friends. While others were runaways who fled their homes due to abuse, poverty, unsatisfactory relationships with family members, or a desire for freedom. The majority of them were involved in scavenging, begging, working as a helper, and selling small items; however, one cannot ignore the fact of sexual, physical, and emotional/psychological exploitation associated with street life, as the study shows that 76% of children experienced physical abuse, 87% experienced verbal abuse, 26% experienced sexual assault, and 33% experienced emotional/psychological abuse. These sorts of child abuse are plainly harmful to children's physical and mental well-being. Although these categories differ from child to child, when abuse occurs, it reflects a community's failure to safeguard its children.

This study provides an opportunity to examine the form of abuse, entry into street life, factors, and way of surviving, and social and legal perspectives of street children in Islamabad. Street children are frequently from low-income homes and are forced to live on the streets owing to a lack of resources. They are particularly vulnerable to abuse because they lack basic protection and resources. Some of the NGOs of Islamabad play a vital role to improve the development of street children. Few of them working on providing education to these vulnerable children, some of them were raising their voices for their rights and protection. These organizations are voluntary, which is perceived to be motivated by compassion, promoting sustainable implementing its policies and achieving positive results. They have emerged as key players in various social development programs. They provide free books, uniform, bags, education and incentives to attract these children towards education. Their parents forced them to earn money to feed their family instead of education so it is necessary to first educate and give awareness to parents about the importance of education. Many parents are careless and irresponsible towards their children particularly fathers.

Their economic conditions are really bad without any backup system and they have to work for everything for their survival.

Study reveals that street children encounter more abuse due to the perception about themselves. Making sex and child sexual abuse a social taboo is also another reason that makes the life of victims difficult. Social taboos are acts or things which are sinful and immoral. Religion play a very significant part in it. In the society under study, talking about sex and sexual activities are taboo. Respondents reported that talking child abuse and especially sexual abuse is a taboo subject we do not like talking openly about things which are socially and morally prohibited in our culture. Due to which cases of child abuse were not reported and number of cases are increasing day by day. That is why street children become most exposed group who faced abuse commonly. Because people are of the view that they are homeless, there is nobody who will protect them and talk about their rights so that's why exploit them.

Because of the taboo, these perpetrators remain outside. Islamabad has an 85% literacy rate, however many people keep their mouths shut and do not denounce the perpetrators. However, as a result of many awareness programs and the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act 2020, people are now in support of harshly penalizing the culprits. Because street children spend the majority of their time on the streets, it is the obligation of society to create a child-friendly environment. It could be accomplished by bringing together people from many sectors to focus on child abuse and exploitation and to safeguard street children from such violations by awareness raising and community mobilization on children's rights, care issues, child protection, and pushing for national and local government.

This study also discloses the laws related to child protection in Islamabad. This study reveals that the issue of street children has been mostly ignored in Pakistan in recent years. ICT police conduct many operations to reduce child beggars and create a special force who rescue children from beggary mafia. In 2021, a campaign was started against safety and protection of street children by the SSP investigation of capital police, they worked on beggars and ignore the other aspects of streetism like abuse. Study also shows that the significant

number of street children were sold to the Gulf States for camel jockeys which is illegal.

Many children reported that police extracting money from them and allowed them to continue begging. Study also exposes that victims of abuse had not informed anyone about it, they said that protector also exploited us that's why we do not have believe on it. These children also reported that police officers snatched money and their belongings from them, lock them up for a whole night without any crime. Then drop them at Edhi home. This exercise is by no means a measure for the elimination and control of beggary/child labor. It is not fruitful practice because the Edhi home does not have a mandate to keep children, therefore they just keeps them for few hours, give them food and releases them by the end of the day. There is need of proper shelter home for street children which provides them food, shelter and security. As initiated in Peshawar, the project is initiated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led government known as "Zamang kor" means our homes. Its aim to collect all the homeless children under one roof where they can live, study, play and feel free from the burdens of begging and street life. Unfortunately in Islamabad there is no such shelter.

8.2 Conclusion

The right of a children to safety is clearly violated by street life. However, there is still a gap between agreement acceptance and observance of laws and regulations. This study investigates the nature of abuse as well as the determinants of street children's presence, which are poverty, shattered families, migration, and abuse. The study's main focus was the type of abuse which street children faced every single time on street, some of the types are unknown to the general public which is important to know, and its determinants, as well as social and legal insight into street children.

According to the findings of the study, children are pressured by their guardians to work in their early age. Aside from their work, they were involved in a variety of other hidden activities and some children are forced to do these activities. Many of the children disliked working on the streets because they were subjected to various forms of abuse and hatred and felt like the most

despised members of society. However, poverty is the primary source of stress for children. As a result of their bad economic circumstances, they have no alternative but to seek for themselves on the street, where they face verbal, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse on a daily basis. Some of them were satisfied with their jobs since they earned a lot of money per day.

The present study also reveal that, street children are uninformed of their rights and are disadvantaged by the programs. For decades, Pakistan has taken in millions of Afghan refugees. Because of the fighting and political unrest in Afghanistan, a considerable number of Afghans have escaped to Pakistan. Afghan teenagers have no access to conventional schooling, and they begin picking garbage at an early age. This research revealed that that a large number of street children surviving on the streets of Islamabad, including both "on the street" and "of the street" children. Among these children, there is another type of children which revealed during the interviews, that "illegitimate child". These youngsters faced more challenges than other street children regarding their identity and social status.

However, children do not understand that by fleeing danger, they have placed themselves in a worse situation, making them even more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Physical and verbal abuse are widespread among street children, and they are not safe from those who are supposed to protect them. The street is where these children learn many crimes such as stealing, prostitution, and drug use. Drug addiction drove them to commit serious crimes, and children who are addicted to intoxicants are unaware of the consequences. Child trafficking is another form of abuse which is widespread in our country, street children are more exposed to this form of abuse because neither their parents nor anybody else is looking after them. These tiny beings are tremendously gifted, but they are underappreciated and lack a platform to show their inherent abilities. The ICT police play a vital role in reducing beggary, just as Islamabad police and federal investigation agency has played a very important role, other institution also do a better job to reduce poverty and street related problems such abuse, exploitation and maltreatment.

These findings reveal the miserable conditions of street children. Because of poverty, a lack of opportunities, a lack of education, and migration, the number

of street children in Islamabad is fast increasing. To address these difficulties, states must firmly implement strategies that are grounded in the realities of street children. To safeguard children from neglect, abuse, and exploitation, a healthy atmosphere should be provided in which the child can live the life fearlessly.

Pictures captured during fieldwork

These picture have been added at the very request of the respondents.

Figure 11: Two Afghani children trying to explain each other's point of view



Source: Researcher

Figure 12: Karwan-eMudabir Street School at I-8 Markaz

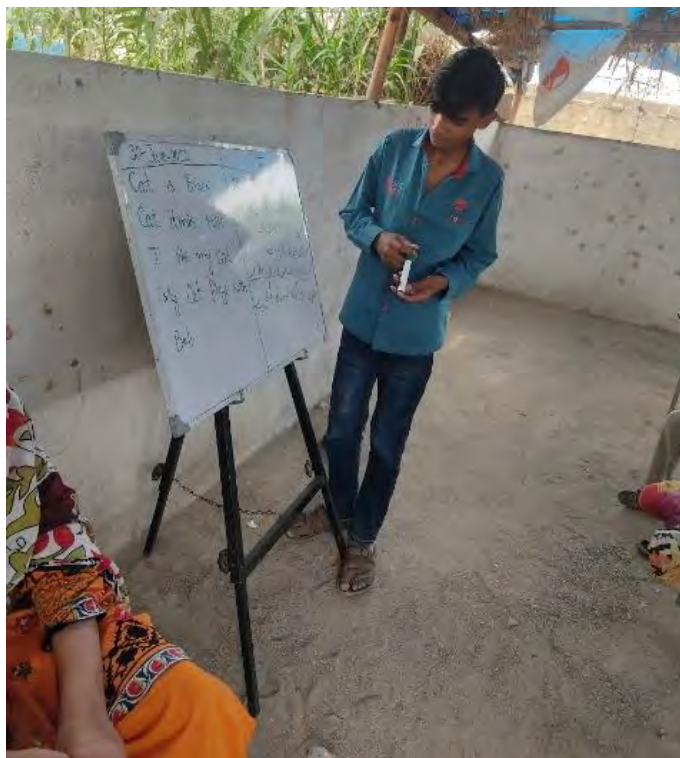


Source: Researcher

Figure 13: Ballon seller street children



Figure 14: Child trying to teach other students at SPARC Street School



Source: Researcher

Glossary

Bachy	Children
Bardash	Tolerance
Charas	Hashish
Chowks	Cross-roads
Dala	Police van
Ghareeb	Poor
Ghandu	Gay (someone who take passive role in anal sex)
Katchi-Abadi	Slum
Marzi	Desire
Naswar	Dipping Tobacco (traditionally referred to as moist snuff)
Paisy	Money
Sharab	Alcohol
Thekydar	Head
Thapar	Slap
Taliban	Fundamentalist religious group that held power over most of Afghanistan
Zabardasti	Forcefully

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Title: Experiences of abuse among street children: nature, context and practices

Sample unit: Adolescents boys/girls

Interview Guide

- What is your age, gender, religion, cultural background?
- What was the place of your birth?
- What is the current place of living?
- Do you live alone or with someone?
- Since when you have been living or working on the street?
- What are your likes and dislikes either living or working on the street?
- Which spot of the city you have been living before living on this spot?
- Where do your parents live?
- How many members are in your house?
- Who take cares of the household chores?
- Who is the financial supporter in the family?
- Is their income enough to fulfill your basic needs?
- Does the child feel insecure, sad, lonely or unhappy? Why or why not?
- Do you have any contact with your family?
- How often does you contact your family?
- Who is most important to the child in the family? Do you remember the happy moments with your family?
- Reasons for leaving home?
- What do you miss about your family? Would you like to visit your family or go back and live with them? Would your family welcome you back?
- Can you read and write?
- What is your years of schooling?

- Are you enjoyed your school life?
- How many friends you made during school?
- Does your friends are well settled or belongs from the same class as you belongs?
- Is it difficult to make new friends when you move into a new area?
- What were the reasons for leaving school?
- Have you ever made any efforts for reenrollment?
- Why you choose to work on street instead of school?
- Do you like living on the street?
- What makes it easier to fit in with a new group of street children?
- Where do you commonly sleep?
- Where do you get your clothes? Are they warm or comfortable?
- What about when it rains heavily? Do you ever get cold? Where and how do you clean your clothes?
- Do you play any sports? Would you like to play sports?
- Do you work? Type of work? Timings of work?
- Have you attended any job-related training?
- When? Where and by whom?
- What is the mode of traveling within the city or outside the city?
- Has anything happened to you in your life that has been very difficult?
- Have you ever been in a circumstances where you feared losing your life or being brutally harmed?
- Have you ever experienced a natural disaster, such as flood, an earthquake, and fire?
- Do you think children who are homeless face any kind of abuse?
- What do you think about the reasons of abuse?
- What do you think which factors provoke the abuser?
- How any abuse effect their mental and physical health?
- What do you think if child face any kind of abuse how they survive?
- Have you ever face beatings?
- By whom? How often?

- Did you remember that ever you get harassed by the police or someone else? How often?
- Do you ever been arrested by the police? If yes why? Details of what happened after his/her arrest?
- How you escape from the eye of police?
- What do you think why police arrest them?
- Do you know the children around you who get involved in fights?
- Do children carry knives, blade or stick etc. to protect them?
- What kind of crimes the children are involved in?
- Does the victim of an abuse ever become an abuser? If yes then what was the reason behind doing that?
- What do you think which gender is more prone to abuse?
- How the parental denial effect the mental health of child victim?
- Does the immigrants are more in danger?
- How refugees get their rights?
- Does police cooperate with immigrants for their rights?
- Do you have any health problems?
- Does the child recovered from any illness or injury in recent times?
- Do you ever seek any medical aid?
- How do you care when you are sick
- Is there someone who cared about you?
- Whom do you trust?
- Whom do you admire?
- Does anyone of the children have any disability?
- Are you vaccinated?
- Where do you go to wash or clean yourself? How often?
- What is your present occupation?
- What do you do previously?
- How much do you make in a day?
- How do you spend money which you earn?

- Did you ever send any money to your parents or siblings?
- Where do you get food from?
- What do you usually eat? Do you think that this is a good nutrition? How could it be improved?
- How do you manage to get food on a daily basis?
- How much you spends on food, clothing, traveling and health etc?
- Do you save money?
- Where you keeps the money?
- Was the saved money ever lost or snatched?
- Are the children around this area involved in any kind of addiction?
- What are the substances they use?
- How long the child is using drugs?
- Are the drugs easily available in the street?
- Which age group is more exposed towards drugs?
- Which factors effects more the act of molestation/ abuse?
- Does religion play any role to address child rights? If yes then why people don't make environment healthy for children?
- Why people feel hesitation to talk about abuse?
- Does parents report case against the abuser?
- Which cultural norms stop them to talk about their child's abuse?
- Do you think parents support their children to report against molester?
- What do you think that the communication gap effect the relationship of child and parents?
- Why is it so difficult for a child victim to talk about what he/she has lived through?
- Why child abuse should not be treated as a taboo anymore?
- Do you think child abuse is related to any caste, religion and sect?
- Do you think non-Muslim children faced more abuse?
- Is there any non-Muslim children who live with you?
- How you treat them?
- How society treat them?
- Which type of abuse they faced?

Question only for adolescent girls:

- What do you think being a girl it is easy to work on a streets?
- Have you ever faced any kind of harassment working on streets?
- Does any person trying to snatch your money or beat you?
- Have you ever feel someone is trying to touch you?
- Do you ever feel any person trying to harass you with their facial expressions?
- Have you ever been scared of being harmed?
- Do you roam on streets alone or with your family members?
- If you come with your family than how many members come with you?
- Did you just pick garbage or do anything else on streets?
- Do you ever spend night on street? How often?
- Did you know any of the girl who become pregnant?
- Did she undergo abortion? If yes, details about the service provider, costs involved, and quality of service etc.
- Do their mothers support them to do this act?
- Which type of problems they faced during this period of abortion?
- What is the number of girls who are abused on streets?
- Which type of abuse they faced?
- What are the stimulus which provoke the culprits to do that act?
- Detail of services provided by the institution such as health services, counseling services, legal aid, psychosocial support, food, vocational training, recreational activities, informal · education, life skills training and shelter etc.?
- Do you want to go to school?
- Do you want to enjoy your life with your parents?
- What do you think how we can protect children from abuse?
- What are your plans for future?
- Do you need more education? And what kind of education you want?

Questions for the members of NGO

- Number of staff, their education, experience and training, their knowledge about and level of sensitivity to child rights?
- Who receives the child?
- Who conducts the initial interview with the child?
- What is the level of education, training, and experience of this person?
- Details about the physical infrastructure, equipment and physical abilities: Size and condition of the building, water supply and toilets facilities, residential facilities, recreational equipment and facilities such as indoor and outdoor games, TV, video etc.
- Does the institution follow any standards of service and care? If yes, what are these? Are these documented and accessible?
- Are children still in contact with their families?
- Have any of the street children been reunited with their families during last one year? If yes, how many?
- Does the institution keep track of children reunited with their families through regular follow up?
- Is any guidance/counseling provided to parents/guardians of these children?
- What is the percentage of reunite among these children?
- What are the key reasons for reunite?
- Number of children contacted/ served during the last three months?
- Is there any reporting or record keeping system in place in the organization?
- What are their major challenges and constraints in offering quality services to children?
- What are the training needs of your staff?
- What technical and financial support does the organization need?
- Since how long the organization is working for street children?
- What services does the organization provide? Health services, counseling services, legal aid, psychosocial support, police or shelter?
- What programs are being implemented for street children?

- What is the number of recipients?
- Any life skills, educational or vocational training programs initiated for street children? What is the geographical outreach?
- Any linkages developed with government line departments and other child protection institutions?
- How many street children are arrested in a month on average?

Questions for police officials

- What crimes they usually commit?
- Are the arrested children punished by police? If yes, how and when? Are they beaten by the police? If yes, why?
- How long are they kept in the lock up?
- Who handles them, when come in conflict with law?
- What is the age and gender profiles of children who are usually arrested?
- Are girls also arrested? If yes, for what type of crimes? Where are the girls kept during custody?
- Are girls handled exclusively by female staff? If not, why not? Are children kept in the lock up with adults? If yes, why?
- What are the standard operating procedures for handling street children? Is the police staff familiar with these SOPs? Do they obey with these SOPs? If not, why not?
- Is there any transfer mechanism being used by police? If yes, in what conditions, the children are referred? Where are the children referred to?
- What are the difficulties in handling street children? What needs to be done for improvement?

Questions from law makers

- What are the legal rights of children under the law of Pakistan?
- Does these rights are fulfilled by the law makers?
- How these rights are assigned?
- Does the problem of child abuse among the street children is highlighted by the policy makers in front of people who are in power?
- Types of punishments for culprit?
- Does anyone of the offender is punished according to the law?
- Does Islamic Republic of Pakistan punished abusers according to Islamic law?
- Does there any consistent policy and operational framework in place to deal with the issue of street children at a national level?
- What are the key policy issues of street children in Pakistan?
- What can we do to protect children from abuse, and to encourage them to come forth if they are victims of abuse?
- What important measures should parents do to keep their children safe from perpetrators?

A qualitative exploration of abuse among street children; Nature, Practices and Dysfunctional Laws

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