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Title of thesis- Moral Judgment, Self-Esteem and Psychological Wellbeing among Street and Normal Children

Abstract- Moral judgment, self-esteem and psychological well-being are those psychological factors which play an imperative role in human life and experiences. If there is any intricacy in these variables, lives of people can take them into negative direction which imbalances their personalities. Street children, an unusual population, live on the streets and tolerate diverse impenetrabilities of that environment. Keeping in view the importance of these psychological aspects in their lives in comparison with normal children, this study was planned and carried out with the objectives to study and compare the moral judgment, self-esteem and psychological well-being among abused, non-abused, abused sheltered street children and normal children and to explore the phenomenal experiences of street children.

A total of 200 children participated in the study, taken from various places of Delhi. Among them were 150 street children- 50 abused street children (ASC), 50 non-abused street children (NASC) and 50 abused sheltered street children (ASHSC) and 50 normal children living with their parents in their home. Their age ranged from 8 to 14 years. To collect relevant data from the participants, Moral Judgement Test by Sinha and Verma (1971), Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965), PGI General Well-Being Measure (Verma and Verma, 1989) and an interview schedule developed by the researcher (only administered to street children) were used.

One-way ANOVA and Scheffe's test were used for data analysis. Abused street children differed significantly from non-abused, abused sheltered street children and normal children on moral judgment at 0.01 level of significance. On self esteem, F-ratio was found to be significant at 0.05 level of significance. Scheffe's test did not show any significant difference between the mean value of any of the two groups. No significant difference was found among the four groups on well-being at 0.05 level of significance.

While summarizing the findings of phenomenal experiences of street children, results revealed that street children mostly left home because of physical abuse and poverty. Staying on street was pathetic for them because they were forced for multiple acts. Most of them were forced for drug abuse & sexual

relation. ASHSC stayed longest on the streets and were sexually harassed the most. All of them felt very fortunate when somebody helped them or showed friendly gestures to them. Their daily routine included mainly begging, abusing drugs, stealing/pick pocketing, collecting garbage, etc. These children earned money by doing menial labor and bulk of their spending was spent on eatables followed by entertainment, drugs and gambling. Almost all the children wanted to go to shelter homes because they knew that almost all facilities of normal life were provide there. Nearly all shelter home children liked the atmosphere there but missed their families especially their mothers. Many of them started studying, learned extra activities, developed good habits, became self dependent and gained self control. They wanted to be professionals and get good jobs in future. Most of them were keen on helping other street children in every possible way. If born again, they yearn for a happier and better life.