

A Study on Subjective –Wellbeing of Children in Reception Home

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Abstract: Today's children are the future inheritors of this universe. They are ever growing population and important asserts of the nation for healthy nation and sound adults. Each child is unique and their characters are being shaped by parents and environment. In the modern era, children in difficult circumstance and abuse on them have steadily increase day by day. It is the parents and society that provide all the basic care and protection for the children physically, emotionally, intellectually and morally for their growth that will safeguard them from difficult circumstance. But due to insecurity in the environment, growth of industrialization and migration the care and support from the parents and environment deteriorates and hence there is sudden growth of children in difficult circumstance and admission of more children in reception home happens. Reception home provide the children with basic necessities, care and with little psychological support. Hence the children in reception home may develop poor subjective well – being due to reception home environment. With this view, in this study quantitative technique will be used to gather and interpret data. The researcher will adopt subjective well-being standardized scale with 40 statements through three point rating measurement among 30 children in reception home in Madurai. Census method will be used for collecting the data. The data will analyze through thematic analysis and the study will attempt to find the feelings of well – being or ill being as experienced by an individual in various day to day activities among reception home children. The findings of the study will be projected in the full length paper.

Key variables: Reception home children, Reception home, Subjective well-being

I. Introduction

Children are young human beings and they are supremely important assert of our nation. Children are continuously thrust to vulnerable section in our society as well the Child population in India has decreased in last 10 years according to 2011 census both in rural and urban in India. There are many social issues that affect children who belong to care and protection circumstances, such as dysfunctional families, child labour, hunger, poverty, school dropouts, and destitute child. From such a scenario the children are rescued and are made to stay in reception homes for temporarily. The reception home is run under JJact it was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to children in need of care and protection(JJ Act 2000). Reception homes provides children proper care, protection, counseling and teenage guidance by adopting a child friendly approach in adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of and for their ultimate rehabilitation.

Subjective well-being refers to how individual experience by his/her quality of life and it includes both emotional and cognitive pattern. Psychologists defines subjective well-being as happiness is a combination of life satisfaction and its relate to both positive and negative affect of one's own life. Therefore here subjective well being encompasses moods and emotions as well as evaluations of one's satisfaction with general and specific areas of one's life or particular environment. Moreover it is strongly related to personality traits also. With that view point children in reception home need care and protection they may be an orphan, abandoned child, child labour, Abused children, Children who are victims of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Child, Children in conflict and disaster situations, Children in families 'at-risk', Differently-abled children, Mentally ill children, HIV / AIDS-affected/infected children whose level of subjective well being may differ and their emotional and health aspects may also affect.

Though there are several theories related to subjective well being of children, in this study the researcher want to emphasis few of theories which is relevant to child emotional and physical components. "Set point" theory implies individual happy and unhappy situation that determine their subjective well being and its consequences based on hereditary characteristics by predetermined at birth(1906,William Henry young). "Dynamic equilibrium model" says that subjective well being of individual is baseline of his/her personality that provide for emotional responses of person live their environmental context and sometime people they may deviant from this subjective well being baseline due to external events(1937,David class).

II. Review of Literature

Reviews of literature is important part of research to identify the research gap from previous studies and know the actual findings of studies.(Diener, 2012) in his study attempted to find out the inter-relation of cognitive and other affective components of children through their subjective well being aspects. The study revealed that there is a inter connection between the individual subjective well being and believe in achievement and desirability of their life. Another study its focused on the contexts in which children are embedded influence on their well being and material goods (housing, structure, clothes, school environment) and cultural objects (books, newspaper) to which they have access, those things also relationship with subjective well being of children who stay in institution settings (Montserrat, Casas, Malo&Bertran, 2011). (dell'aglio and sigeria,2010) in their study found that there is a significant difference between children life satisfaction at reception homeand children who stay with their families. The result of this study shows that children had higher average score of stressful life events and social support those who stay in reception home than who stay with families.

III. Methodology

Aim and objectives

- To measure the level of subjective well being of children in reception home
- To know the subjective well being inter dimension relationship among reception home children

Significant of the study

Subjective well being is important and it should be considerable part of children those who staying in reception home because the day to day activities of reception home has direct impact on children well being not only physical level but also the cognitive and conation level. There are children who have easily come out from home due to petty issues and finally they are in unsafe situation in our society and long for care and protection. Such kind of children are rescued and are made to stay in reception homes for temporary days until they are sent to the concern family members or appropriate home. Therefore the study will emphasis the subjective well being of reception home children and it's inter dimension relationships and it will be eye opener for the future studies.

Hypotheses

- There is significant relationship between various socio demographic factors and Subjective Well-being of reception home children.

Materials and methods

Since it has been a thematic research study the researcher has adopted descriptive research design for describe the phenomena. Universe of the study consist of children in one of the Reception home in Tamil Nadu. At present 30 children are staying with various difficult circumstance background and census sampling technique was used for collecting primary data from all the respondents. The researcher used standardized subjective well being inventory scale to measure the feelings of well being or ill being as experienced by individual in various day to day life concern in reception home. The subjective well being inventory (SWBI) consist of 40 items on a three point rating scale. The instrument measures subjective well being in eleven areas that is general well being positive affect, expectation, achievement and congruence, confidence in coping, transcendence, family group support, social support, primary group concern, inadequate mental mastery, perceived ill-health, deficiencies in social contacts and general wellbeing negative affect. The dimensions can be scored by attributing the value 3,2,1 to positive categories and 1,2,3, to the negative response and higher the score indicate more the subjective well being.

IV. Findings And Discussions

From this study findings, its reveled that more than half (55.3%) of the children belongs age group of below – 13 years because during this age children were having stressful, dilemma, and sudden decision happen which may cause majority (60%) of them from run way from their homes and may not know whether its right or wrong. And majority (70%) of the children are girls in reception home due to infatuation that happens in teenage. (96.2%) were from Hindu religion that it because naturally more Indian peoplebelongs to Hindu religion. More than half (56.7%) of them studied higher secondary level, majority (76.7%) studied in government school and majority (73.3%) belongs rural background which relate to educational systems and poor interest on academic of children. In addition (33.3%) of the children reported that their parents were separated during their childhood and before they came to reception home (63.3%) of them lived with their relatives home that is chief cause for them to be found on railway platforms, bus stops, pavements, traffic lights and religious places to make a living and resort to begging, rag picking, shoe shining, working etc. those

children are being force to become difficult circumstances and these reasons increases more children in reception home.

Table no:1 Demographic Details of the Reception Home Children

S.No	Demographic Details	N	%
1.	Age		
	Below-13 years	16	55.3
	14 – 15 years	10	33.3
	Above – 15 years	4	13.3
2.	Gender		
	Boys	9	30.0
	Girls	21	70.0
3.	Religion		
	Hindu	29	96.2
	Muslim	1	3.3
4.	Community		
	ST	2	6.7
	SC	5	16.7
	BC	17	56.7
	MBC	6	20.0
5.	Education Qualification		
	Primary school	1	3.3
	Middle school	2	6.7
	High school	10	33.3
	Higher secondary	17	56.7
6.	Birth Order		
	First child	12	40.0
	Second child	13	43.3
	Third child	5	16.7
7.	Type of school		
	Government	26	76.7
	Private	4	13.3
8.	Domicile		
	Rural	22	73.3
	Urban	8	26.7
9.	Type of house		
	Owned	19	63.3
	Rented	11	36.7
10.	Type of family		
	Joint family	9	30.0
	Nuclear family	21	70.0
11.	Status of parents		
	Both alive	15	50.0
	Father died	7	23.3
	Mother died	5	16.7
	Separate	3	10.0
12.	Economical condition		
	BPL	13	43.3
	Poor	4	13.3
	Middle class	13	43.3
13.	Reason for coming to RH		
	Runaway from home	20	66.7
	Child labour	6	20.0
	School dropout	4	13.3
14.	Duration of staying in RH		
	1-3 months	26	86.7
	3-6 months	2	6.7
	6-10 months	2	6.7
15.	Before to coming to RH (stayed with)		
	Friends and relative	16	53.4
	Parents	9	30.0
	Working place	5	16.7
16.	Faced Life Experience		

Parents died	4	13.3
Parents divorced or separate	10	33.3
Sexual abuse	6	20.0
Love affaire	10	23.3

Source – primary data

The study covered a total of 30 children among them boys accounted for 9 and girls accounted for 21, indicating more proportion are girls among the respondents.

- More than half (55.3%) of the children belongs to the age group below – 13 years, while 33.3% of them belongs to 14 – 15 years of age and remaining 13.3% of them above 15 years.
- A majority (70%) of the respondents were girls and remaining 30% of them were boys
- A vast majority (96.2%) of the respondents were belongs to Hindu religion, while 3.3% respondents belongs to Muslim religion
- More than half (56.7%) of the respondents belongs to BC community, while nearly quarter of them belongs to MBC and remaining 16.7% and 6.7% of them belongs to ST and SC community.
- A more than half (56.7%) of the respondents studied higher secondary level, while 33.3% of them studied high school level and remaining very few studied primary and middle school.
- More than quarter (43.3%) of the respondent were second child of family, where 40% of them first child of the family and less number of them third child of the family
- A majority (76.7%) of the respondents were studied in government school, while 13.3% of them were studied private school.
- A majority (73.3%) of the respondents belongs to rural background whereas 26.7% of them were belongs to urban background
- A majority (63.3%) of the respondents lived in own house, whereas 36.7% respondents were lived rented house.
- A majority (70%) of the respondents belongs to nuclear family, whereas 30% of them belongs joint family
- Half (50%) of the respondents live with parents, while 23.3% of them lost their father and 16.7% of them lost their mother and remaining 10% of their parents were separated.
- Nearly half (43.3%) of the respondents are Below poverty line and Middle class level respectively, while 13.3% of them belongs to Poor state.
- A majority (60%) of the respondents reason to come to Reception Home was due to run away from home, while 20% of them due to child labour and rest of them due to school dropout respectively.
- A vast majority (86.7%) of the respondents stay in reception home between 1 – 3 months, while 2.6% of them are between 3 – 6 months and 6 – 10 months respectively.
- More than half (53.4%) of the respondents stayed with relatives or friends before coming to the reception homes, while 30% of them stayed with parents and rest of them stayed work place.
- One third (33.3%) of the respondents faced parents were separated in their life , while 20 % of them faced sexual abuse and love afire and rest of their parents died respectively.

Table no.2: chi square test for relationship between independent variables and study variable

S.No	Factors	N	%	Df	X ² value	Statistical Result
1.	Age	30	100	4	2.354	p>0.05 Sig.
2.	Education	30	100	6	2.138	p>0.05 Sig.
3.	Domicile	30	100	2	1.388	p>0.05 Sig.
4.	Religion	30	100	2	2.288	p>0.05 Sig.
5.	Community	30	100	8	1.218	p>0.05 Sig.
6.	Status of parents	30	100	8	1.226	p>0.05 Sig.
7.	Problem faced	30	100	16	3.236	p>0.05 Sig.

Source – primary data, x² – chi square value, df – degree of freedom

The above table present the results of Chi-Square analysis carried out to see whether there is a statistically significant association between various socio-demographic variables namely age, education, domicile, religion, community, status of parents, problem faced and level of **subjective well being test core** of respondents. It is observed that there is strong and significant association between various Socio demographic variables such as **age, education, domicile, religion , community, status of parents, problems faced** and the level of **subjective well being test core** among respondents. This observed association is satisfactorily significant, since the Chi-Square value is significant at 0.05 level.

V. Social Work Intervention

Every problem has solution. With this statement, Children with difficult circumstances are in increase day by day and they need social work intervention also. Children long for care and protection due to personal problems, dysfunctional family condition, school environment and society pressure. In reception home more children are longing for love and care because of their difficult situation. So the reception home social work can give caring words through his counseling to substitute parental care and enable them to reveal their psychological problems and facilitate the such children in therapeutic activities in home. Child line or children organization can be address the children problems to their respective operational areas and educate the children families to children relate psychological and emotional issues through psycho-education to community people. The government must take over the key responsibility to protect and prevent the children from their all exploitation stages.

VI. Conclusion

Children are the concrete asset in our society and they should be treated in child rights perspective. In reception home authorities should ensure their utmost care and protection to children. And the main cause for children to run away from their home may be either due to academic pressure or over control from parents that can be prevent from re-entering work situations. Hence more clarity in roles, responsibility and accountability amongst all stakeholders to be understood.

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