

ABSTRACT

STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA: A VEXATIOUS REALITY

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Children have been since time immemorial classified as a vulnerable group and undoubtedly, they are one of the most exploited vulnerable group in India and everywhere else. From Abuse to poverty, child labour to homelessness, and health issues to gender discrimination, children witness it all. Many schemes and laws have been brought up by the governments from time to time in order to curb this menace however there is a serious cause of concern looming over the country of which everyone is aware of, that is the children living on streets. Most of them don't have families and those who have families, it still doesn't make any difference. Life for these children revolves around a few things: begging, stealing, drugs and death. Despite so many laws and regulations, it looks like the street children have been left out of the same. With negligible education, deteriorated places of residence, highly spoiled and inedible food, vulnerability to child abuse, sex trafficking, child labour and many other inhumane conditions, the street children are more often than not left unattended and as a result of these conditions under which they live, they either become the victims or become a menace to the society. This problem won't be affecting only them but will be detrimental to whole of the society also. Although there are several NGOs which are trying to help but I believe, there is still a lot to be done. The rate at which population of street children is increasing, this will result in crime and drug abuse rates getting only higher. Thus, rather than lamenting later, it is necessary to take material steps now and help this vulnerable group.

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