



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## PREVALENT MODALITIES AND DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN LIVING IN CHILDREN HOME

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### Abstract

Every child is not fortunate to have homely environment as many children are abandoned by their parents, many are run away from their homes, many are trafficked, many are labourers, many are neglected, street children, children who are conflict with law, many are orphans etc, then what about such children, who will take care of such children as every child has right to flourish in healthy and safe environment, right to a family, right to education, right to childhood such children have been categorised into two categories under The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 a. Children in need of care and protection b. Children in conflict with law, And certain provisions have been enacted by the Government for the welfare and well-being of such children like creation of Juvenile Justice Boards for children in conflict with law and Child Welfare Committees for the children who are in need of care and protection. This study focused on the prevalent modalities among children living in children home and their dominant characteristics. Total 50 children living in children home of Lucknow and Varanasi were selected randomly as a sample size. Self-made tool was adopted in the present study. Two-point scale was constructed with two options as 'Yes' and 'No'. Among the eight prevalent modalities (They have both parents, have only mother (father died), have only father (mother died), don't know about their parents, are a missing child, escaped from home, belong to alcoholic parent (mother/father) and other reasons to stay at children home) escape from home (44%) was found to be the major prevalent modality. Among the eight dominant characteristics (negative self-image, negative attitude towards parents, distorted attitude towards others, distrust towards the world, reduction in social intelligence, negative view towards parent-child relationship, very aggressive, involved in certain type of substance abuse) reduction in social intelligence was found to be the maximum ( 52%). Further, the study extends to know and understand the views of one of the psychologist working in Government Children Homes in this regard.

**Key words:** *Prevalent modalities, Dominant characteristics, Children Home*

### Introduction:

In our country basically a joint family system is followed and even children are to be taken care by the elders of the family when the parents are working, ill or away for some work. Parents also feel secure and safe by keeping their kids in safe hands within the family. But gradually the focus shifts from joint to nuclear family system where the kids are taken care of by the maids etc which itself is not so secure concept as many kidnappings and theft, extortion etc come into limelight due to this nuclear family system. So the basic goal is

welfare and safety of children. The concern is regarding the children only as they need a safe environment like family in his or her development years. But every child is not that fortunate to have such homely environment as many children are abandoned by their parents, many are run away from their homes, many are trafficked, many are labourers, many are neglected, street children, children who are conflict with law, many are orphans etc, then what about such children, who will take care of such children as every child has right to flourish in healthy and safe environment, right to a family, right to education, right to childhood such children have been categorised into two categories under The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 a. Children in need of care and protection b. Children in conflict with law, And certain provisions have been enacted by the Government for the welfare and well-being of such children like creation of Juvenile Justice Boards for children in conflict with law and Child Welfare Committees for the children who are in need of care and protection. These Authorities are fully authorised to take decisions for the children for their better future. As per section, the provision for adoption is also there so that children may get a home for them along with all rights which are basic in nature for a child to develop in a friendly homely like environment.

Legal provisions regarding meaning of child in need of care and protection Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

As per Section 2(d) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, “Child in need of care and protection” means a child:

- (i) Who is found without any home or settlement place or abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence?
- (ii) Who resides with a person (whether a guardian of the child or not) and such person:
  - (a) Has threatened to kill or injure the child and there is a reasonable likelihood of the threat being carried out; or
  - (b) Has killed, abused or neglected some other child or children and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person.
- (iii) Who is mentally or physically challenged or ill children or children suffering from terminal diseases or incurable diseases having no one to support or look after;
- (iv) Who has a parent or guardian and such parent or guardian is unfit or incapacitated to exercise control over the child;
- (v) Who does not have parent and no one is willing to take care of or whose parents have abandoned or surrendered him or who is missing and run away child and whose parents cannot be found after reasonable inquiry;
- (vi) Who is being or is likely to be grossly abused, tortured or exploited for the purpose of sexual abuse or illegal acts;
- (vii) Who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking;
- (viii) Who is being or is likely to be abused for unconscionable gains;
- (ix) Who is victim of any armed conflict, civil commotion or natural calamity?

The Child Welfare Committees send the children in need of care and protection to the children’s homes or shelter homes, as the case may be, after thorough inquiry when such children are produced by any police officer or special juvenile police unit or the designated police officer.

### Research questions

- 1) What are the prevalent modalities of children living in children home?
- 2) What are the dominant characteristics of children living in children home?

## Objectives

- 1) To study the prevalent modalities of children living in children home.
- 2) To study the dominant characteristics of children living in children home.

**Methods to be used:** This study adopted a cross-sectional survey design where both quantitative and qualitative paradigms were used.

**Population:** Children living in children home of Uttar Pradesh constitute the population of the present study.

**Sample and sampling technique:** Simple random sampling technique was used to in the present study. Total 50 children living in children home of Lucknow and Varanasi were selected. Detail of sample selection is mentioned below:

**Table 1:** Description of sample selection

S.no.	Place	No. of children selected	Total
1	Lucknow	25	50
2	Varanasi	25	

**Tools to be used:** Self-made tool was adopted in the present study. Two-point scale was constructed with two options as 'Yes' and 'No'.

**Statistical analysis:** Percentage wise score was calculated to analyse the data.

## Findings and Result:

**Objective 1:** To study the prevalent modalities of children living in children home.

**Table 2:** Percentage wise scores of the prevalent modalities of children living in children home

S.no.	Indices of prevalent modalities	Place		Total	%
		Lucknow	Varanasi		
		N	N		
1	They have both parents	7	13	20	40
2	They have only mother (father died)	3	0	3	6
3	They have only father (mother died)	5	6	11	22
4	They don't know about their parents	7	6	13	26
5	They are a missing child	10	9	19	38
6	They escaped from home	6	16	22	44
7	They belong to alcoholic parent (mother/father)	6	14	20	40
8	Other reason to stay at children home	9	1	10	20

Table 2 shows that 44% of the children living in children home escape from their home, 40% have both the parents, 40% belong to alcoholic parents, 38% children living in a children home are a missing child, 26% children don't know about their parents, 22% children have only father, 20% children stay at children due to other reasons and only 6% children staying at children home have only mother. Thus, the prevalent modality of children living at children home of Lucknow and Varanasi is escape from home. So it can be said that, escape from home is the major reason for children to be in children home of Lucknow and Varanasi. One of the psychologist working in Government Children Home quotes:

“.....parents are not able to arrange daily requirements, there are household violence, father use to be a severe drinker, abuse and beat their children badly, sometimes parents engage their children in child labour in place of sending them to school to get rid of these circumstances children use to escape from their home to feel independent and earn their own livelihood can be some of the reasons for the children to escape from their home. Children living in children home mostly are from lower socioeconomic status and their parents are seen to be involved in some kind of substance abuse due to which they are not able to focus on their children and these results in violent behavior shown by the parents and ultimately unhealthy environment in the family. Parents mostly do hard physical work on day-to day basis and the amount they earn are spend on any kind of substance abuse to get relaxation from the daily worries. They are not so much educated to understand how it affects their children and the outcome of such kind of behavior.”

**Objective 2:** To study the dominant characteristics of children living in children home.

**Table 3:** Percentage wise scores of the dominant characteristics of children living in children home

S.n o.	Dominant characteristics	Place		Total	%
		Lucknow	Varanasi		
		N	N		
1	They have negative self-image	8	10	18	36
2	They have negative attitude towards parents	8	7	15	30
3	They have distorted attitude towards others	9	7	16	32
4	They have distrust towards the world	11	9	20	40
5	They have reduction in social intelligence	14	12	26	52
6	They have negative view towards parent-child relationship	5	6	11	22
7	They are very aggressive	11	7	18	36
8	They are involved in certain type of substance abuse	4	7	11	22

Table 3 shows that 52% of children living in children home have reduction in social intelligence, 40% have distrust towards the world, 36% have negative self-image and are very aggressive, 32% have distorted attitude towards others, 30% have negative attitude towards parents, 22% have negative view towards parent-child relationship and are involved in certain type of substance abuse. Thus it can be said that, the most dominant characteristics among the eight mentioned above was found to be reduction in social intelligence.

In this regard the psychologist working in Government Children Home quotes:

“.....since children stay in a restricted environment in children home where they find a small group of people to interact and so are not able to think broadly, they don't get exposure for learning and experience, they are not able to interact with people outside the children home and ultimately get influenced by the people living in the children home can be considered as some of the reasons why children living in children home have reduction in social intelligence. Many times children use to escape from their home to earn their livelihood. In spite of working for long hours they are paid very less and sometimes only they get meals and not money along with the unhealthy environment of their home due to these reasons and harassments children living in children home are not able to trust others and this ultimately creates distrust among them towards the world.”

**Conclusion:**

- 44% of the children living in children home escape from their home.
- 40% have both the parents, 40% belong to alcoholic parents.
- 52% of children living in children home have reduction in social intelligence.
- 40% have distrust towards the world.

**Delimitations:**

- Only children from Lucknow and Varanasi were considered in the present study.
- Children of age group 10 to 18 years were considered in the present study.
- Only boys of Government children home were considered in the present study.

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