



EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF ORPHAN CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES IN PRESENT SITUATION.

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Abstract

Orphan is not a crime and all orphans in this world has full right to get everything like other common people. As we know that orphans are already deprived from many aspects and among all these getting education is most important. In present scenario throughout of the world the number of orphans are increasing and most shocking factor that all orphans are not staying in orphanages. Government, many N.G.Os and some personal initiatives are trying to give them supports physically and mentally. So this investigation is to find out the educational status of orphan children in orphanages in present scenario. The study is qualitative in nature. Descriptive Survey method has been followed. Stratified random sampling procedure has been followed for selecting the sample and self constructed questionnaire is being used to collect data through interview and observation. The main finding of the study that most of the orphans are very much interested to get formal education and they have lots of talent.

Keywords : *Educational Status , Orphan Children , Orphanages*

Introduction:

“EDUCATION IS THE MANIFESTATION OF PERFECTION ALREADY IN MAN”

---- Swami Vivekananda.

Education is the basic requirement of all citizen in our country and it is in concurrent list. Actually ‘EDCATION’ means ‘to nourish’ or to give direction. Basically through education we conserve and transmit our culture, ethics, values to the next generation. So without to some extent bookish knowledge and experiential knowledge we cannot develop our personality and live a prosper life in a society. As previously said that education gives us direction and without it we are directionless. More about that without education we could not make any contribution to our society and country. Though we are always trying to get our conventional education through schools or colleges but actual knowledge that we earn by our experience throughout our life. “Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transform of experience” (Klob,1984,p.38).

To a common man who get secure life from all aspects of basic requirements complete their education and live a happy life in society but what about orphan who lost their parents and live a stressful life. UNESCO defines orphan as children below 18 years of age who have lost one or both of their biological parents. A child who has lost his or her mother is a maternal orphan, while a child who has lost his or her father is a paternal

orphan. A child who has lost both father and mother is a double orphan. And the place where children without parents are cared for and housed is called orphanages. An orphanage is a residential institution, total institution or group home, devoted to the care of orphans and children who for various reason cannot be cared for by their biological families. (WIKI,2022)

An estimated 153 million children worldwide are orphans(UNICEF). Some of the countries with the highest rates of orphans in the world include Russia, Iran, Colombia, Brazil, South Africa and Peru. In India 30 million children are orphans and only 370,000 of them are in child care institutes (Borgen Report). In India 9,589 orphanages are working (The Ministry of Women and Child Development Report2016-17). Out of this 91% are non- governmental which means that only 9% of them receive support from Govt. It is too much vulnerable situation that only few orphans are staying at orphanage but most of them are frequently lived in street or engaged anywhere as a child labour.

The reason in India that increases the number of orphans are:

1. Poverty is one of the most important factor in India that increases the number of orphans. Due to poverty, parents could not be able to pay for caring of their children and after death, the children are sent to orphanages.
2. Disrupted family is an another reason for orphans. Now-a days many divorce cases has been filed and parents are separated. So the child unfortunately has been sent to the orphanages.
3. Death of parents due to diseases like cancer, organ failure makes the child unfortunate.
4. Death of parents due to sudden accident makes a child sudden orphan.
5. In this pandemic situation many children lost their father or mother or both due to Covid-19 which increases the number of orphans not only in India but also in the world.
6. Migration for searching of work of parents also an another cause for increasing the number of orphan. Parents left their children join the work as a child labour and somehow gradually get sheltered in orphanages.
7. Too much nuclear family that means some unfortunate happenings makes a child orphan as he or she has nothing to go anywhere.
8. In this world as we are engaged in fighting with each other for establishing our authority makes a child orphan within a second.
9. Natural hazards like Earthquake, Tsunami, Volcanic Eruption, Flood, Draught, may makes a child orphan.
10. Migration from one country to another due to economic, social, political mishaps may the cause of making orphans.

Now the question arises about the role of Govt. in this huge populated country where the orphans are also citizens by birth. The state or our constitution cannot raise their hand from the head of orphans. According to Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution, the right to equality and the right against discrimination, orphans also have the equal rights as any other children irrespective of their gender. Because of adverse situation in the life of orphans, Article 21 guaranteed their existence and freedom equally with everyone. The orphans have full right to enjoy freedom, to get education, to live in a society equally with everyone. Apart from this Article 45 ensures the right to education to the orphan with all.

Review of Related Literature:

Studies in Abroad:

1.A, Dorothy., L,D, Allison., S,Edwin. , D,Ayuku et.al(2017) has conducted the study on the effect of care environment on educational attainment among orphaned and separated children and adolescents in Western Kenya. The purpose of the study was to compare educational attainment among orphaned and separated children and adolescents living in charitable children institution and family based setting in UasinGishu County, Kenya. The study has been followed the descriptive survey and randomly selected household and institution. The study found that children living institution s were less likely to have completed education than children in family based setting.

2. Sparling,Joseph. , D,Cristian. , R,L,Sharon et.al(2005) has conducted an Educational Intervention improves Developmental Progress of Young Children in a Romania Orphanage. They undertook an experimental and humanitarian effort to try improve the quality of life, mental health and developmental progress in a Romanian orphanage. Experimental research design has been followed. Data has been collected through pre and post- test. The study concluded that educational intervention can improving the institutional care.

Studies in India:

1.As,A (2018) has studied self- esteem depression, academic anxiety and academic achievement of orphan adolescents in Kashmir Valley. The main objective is to study the self- esteem, depression, academic anxiety and academic achievement of adolescent orphan and to find out the relationships with each other. The present study has been concluded through the mixed method of research. For choosing sample, the researcher used purposive sampling technique. The finding of the study is that non-institutionalised orphan adolescents' comparison to institutionalise orphan have positive self-esteem, less depression, less academic anxiety and higher academic achievement.

2. Shahana, A.M(2017) has studied the habits and learning environment in relation to academic achievement of orphan students at secondary level. The main objective of the study is to find out the level and relationship of study habits, learning environment and academic achievement. The normative survey method was adopted for the study. Purposive sampling was done by the researcher to select the sample from the population to fulfil research objectives. The major finding of the study is a significant relationship is found between the dimensions of study habits and academic achievement of orphan students.

Rationale of the Study:

In this world we are very much concern about our day to day problems and more research is done on this. But what about the orphans who has the same human right like others. In our civilization we are gradually moving towards technological world where we are nothing but a machine and run after money by immersing our values, empathy, sympathy which is not acceptable in humanism. We are divided by our religion but we should unite with the wider concept humanism. In this scenario we should take care of all those who are deprived, backward and live in a worst situation which we could not imagine. To become Orphan is not a crime but a challenge to survive in this world. This challenges come from different issues mainly food, shelter, dresses and apart from this education and mental health. It is the very reason to do this study.

Objectives of the study:

The main objectives of the study are

1. To find out the educational status of orphan children lived in orphanages.
2. To find out what are the main hindrances of orphan children to get education.
3. To find out the measures to way out and to do for this deprived children.

Research Question:

1. What is the educational status of orphan children?
2. Who is advanced in relation to their education, male or female orphan?
3. Which orphan children get more opportunity either Govt. or non Govt.?
4. What are the challenges faced by orphan children?
5. What role do orphanages and other associates play for educational development of orphan children?
6. How societal attitude and support system impact the education of orphan children?
7. What strategies and interventions can enhance the educational outcomes of orphan children?

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1. Orphan children (below 18 age)–is a minor bereft through “death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from both parents.
2. Orphanage – a residential institution for the care and education of orphans.
3. Education –the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, knowledge and experience.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The study limited to the selected orphanages and age group of those children are under 14.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

This study is very much important because very few works have been done on this topic. As orphan children have the equal right to get education, so we should ensure their education that they can survive in this world with respect.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology of this study comprises of research method, population and sample, tools, procedure of data collection data analysis.

- **Research Method** –The study will be qualitative in nature. Descriptive Survey Method will be used.
- **Population** – Population will be the all orphan children of different orphanages.
- **Sample** – As the study will be delimited to only a particular age group of different orphanages, so male and female orphans from selected orphanages will be taken as sample.
- **Sample Technique** – Stratified random sampling procedure will be used for selecting the sample.

Tools to be used:

The researcher will use extensive field work method which include observation and interview to collect data. Researcher used a self-constructed questionnaire suggested and validated by experts for assessing the educational status of orphan children.

DATA COLLECTION:

Data was collected by the researcher through direct interview by implementing self-constructed questionnaire, observation and data gathered from educational records.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Thematic analysis was used to identify patterns and themes within the qualitative data. This involved coding the data, identifying significant themes and interpreting these themes to understand the broader context of orphan children’s educational experiences.

FINDINGS:

The main findings of this study are as follow:

1. The orphan children are very much interested to get formal education.
2. To live a respectful life by getting education both male and female orphan are equally concerned.
3. Many orphan children do good result in school examinations continuously.
4. Many orphan children are very much good in sports, drawing, singing, acting and participated different competition and acquire positions.
5. Many orphan children want to go in higher studies and complete University education.
6. Actually most of the orphan children want to get education but they have lack of interest in different subjects specially in science subject.
7. They love to play together and for this their education get hampered.
8. Some orphan children get scared because of their present different circumstances and for that their education get hampered.
9. Some maladjusted behaviour among orphan children has seriously damaged them and their education.
10. Government and Mass Education run orphanages has provided better education than Non-Government or Private run orphanages.
11. Female orphan children are very much scared for their education and other situations ahead.
12. Majority of orphan children are getting demotivated, and so educational intervention program is very much required.
13. The officials or other associates of different orphanages is trying to provide education, tuitions to the children but it is not sufficient.
14. The orphan children need more support, intervention program, sympathy and empathy from us to smoothing their life.
15. Above all the orphan children need a secure life and we should give them some opportunity may be any job or business or any Govt. support to motivate them and not to lost them in darkness.

SUGGESTION:

1. More educational support is required for orphan children.
2. More and continued motivation is necessary as they would not be dropped out.
3. More Govt., Private and N.G.O. initiatives would be needed to secure proper education of orphan children.
4. More research should be done on different aspects of orphan children.

CONCLUSION:

Education is that we conserve and transmit to our next generation and off course the orphan is also our generation. They have the full right to get everything that a common man would get and education is one of that. We should be more sympathetic and empathetic to them and try to provide them all commodities to live their life happily. Many more among this orphan want to get higher education and serve for country. Many of them has negative impression toward society or country as because they are deprived and demotivated. So we would take care of their mental health also and motivate them till they mature. Many orphan children have been lost in the darkness of our society and many more would have lost next. We could not stop by seeing the statistics but we start the journey with a ray of hope and optimism.

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