

AANCHAL

Study Report of the children living without parental care

Report by

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Note- Below mentioned data is based on survey conducted by various organizations & individuals. So Bhoomika Vihar is not responsible for any problems or consequences arising from this report.

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Preface

Children are most riskily affected part of the society. Children/girl's, the future hope of the earth are now mostly neglected in our society. It's a fundamental necessity of every child in the society to have effective health care, free and qualitative compulsory education. Childhood is the delicate stage of life when one needs the care and love of parents the most. But unfortunately the children lacking the care of parents present a miserable story. Are the cases of children living without parental care not disturbed us or forced us to think over it very seriously. These kinds of children are very big issue to be discussed or focused because their life is full of disregard, dishonest, hurt. Impoverished and without parents to educate and protect them, children face an increased risk of abuse. In the greed of good life, children have become the victim of trafficking.

Can you just imagine the childhood without parental care, where there is neither an affection of mother nor a love of father?

The aim of the concern analysis to highlight the situation of that kind of children, so that issue could be think over because children are today & tomorrow. Protected today is the mirror image of Protected tomorrow. Many of the children find themselves in the dark alleys of crime in search of easy life once they move on the path of crime, there is no way back.

The study on the concern issue has started by Bhoomika Vihar from December 2012 and concluded in May 2013. We are very thankful to all local level community members and gram panchayat who gave their cordial support to make the survey possible in right direction and supported us to pointed out the children in need. As a next phase of survey report, we have identified 60 children for multi- dimensional support whose situation is very alarming and unconditional

Bhoomika Vihar

Situational Analysis

The number of children who are without the protection of their parents is increasing all over the world. India is no exception to this. Compared to rest of the world the number of such children is largest in Asia. The number of these children is around 87 million in Asia. According to one estimate there were around 25 million orphan and discarded children around 12 million and destitute children around 44 million. Despite this only 5 thousand children (0.04%) are adopted every year. Around 40 thousand children are looked after in foster care centers. Rests of the children are not so lucky. In worst case either they don't get any care or they are reared at the house of some relatives or some particular individual.

But since last few decades have witnessed the decline in the tradition of care by the relatives. India had the tradition of joint family system. But the joint family system is taking its last breaths in the present modern era. We generally come across only nuclear families all around us and the nuclear families generally shy away from the responsibilities of orphan children. Under such circumstances the care and maintenance of these children is increasingly becoming difficult. This is quiet a difficult situation, because childhood is the delicate stage of life when one needs the care and love of parents the most. But unfortunately the children lacking the care of parents present a miserable story. They have their own distinctive problems.

As a matter of fact, problems like poverty, violence, natural or manmade disaster and diseases etc are underlying factors behind the increasing number of children without parental care. On the whole the factors responsible for the children without parental care which come to our minds are varied viz, the children may have become orphan due to the disease, imprisonment or demise of their parents, their parents might have migrated abroad in search of jobs, or they might have separated from the families during some natural calamities like flood, earthquakes etc. besides these, some other factors like poverty, education, domestic strife, poverty or stigmatized children might have been responsible for this unfortunate situation.

We have seen many of these children being reared under institutional care or individual care. We very often come across the news of these children being reared amidst inadequate care falling victims to violence, exploitation and sexual abuse. Due to it, the futures of these children are in darkness.

In 2009, in order to rescue the children from these unfortunate situations UNO had decided about the directions regarding the alternative care of children. The directive had explicitly stated that suppose it is difficult for children to stay with their families, under such circumstances it becomes the responsibility of government to take responsibility. The arrangement apart from this should be

made in the most serious condition and wherever children are being cared, the family like arrangements should be ensured there so that the children should not fall victims to any kind of sexual exploitation.

The purpose of this survey of Bhoomika Vihar is to make depth analyses into the lives of such children, to identify their problems and the reasons behind the situation and to zero in on the adverse implications of these problems. Only after knowing all these details the environment favorable for the children can be created.

Forms of Care & Protection for Children without parental Care

Institutional Care	Non- Institutional Care or Alternative Family care
Home	Foster Care
	Kinship Care
	Independent Living

90% children living without parental care think that if they ran away any where or became the victim of any incident or got accident, then they have no anybody to look after & wouldn't take interest that what happened with him.....

Situation of such children are really at high risk enough to create vulnerable ground for becoming either the victim of trafficking or any illegal activities.

Survey Design:

Intervention Area

Random survey had been carried out in six districts – Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Khagaria, Supaul and Muzaffarpur – between December 2012 and May 2013

covering 5,700 households in two panchayats in one block of each district to understand the status of the children/girls who are living their own or without parental care. Though there have been many surveys on juveniles and child labourers in the state, anything hardly was done on the condition of the children living without parental care and protection. We discuss about the increasing number of child labourers and juvenile crimes in the state but tend to ignore the reason behind it. Such children are more prone to crime later in their life than children having parents, the survey has found. They often take the wrong path in the absence of a proper guidance.

After parent's death if there is a boy child then his nourishment is done by the grandparents of father's side and if there is a girl child then situation is opposite they have been send to their grandparents of mother's side for looking after.

Targeted Districts and Panchayats

<i>Name of the Districts</i>	<i>Name of the Panchayats</i>
<i>Supaul</i>	<i>Malhani & Karnpur</i>
<i>Araria</i>	<i>Kushiyar Gaaon & Rampur</i>
<i>Khagaria</i>	<i>Mathurapur & Bhadas</i>
<i>Purnea</i>	<i>Mishri Nagar & Dagarua</i>
<i>Muzaffarpur</i>	<i>Mani Fulkahan & Godai Fulkahan</i>
<i>Katihar</i>	<i>Baharkhal & Bhatwara</i>

Why these Districts

We have done survey in flood prone area which is at high risk of being trafficked, distressed migration, early marriage, child labor etc.

Methodology

- Involving of local grass root volunteers
- Training of Surveyor
- Meetings with community.
- Primary data collection by survey format
- Involvement of PRI members
- Discussion and Observation.
- Case Study and tabulating.
- Secondary data
- Data analyses and Report.
- Selection of 60 Children on the basis of preference.

- Individual Care Plan
- Reference from CWC members

Points of Survey

- Children/Girls- Orphans/Without Parental Care/single Parental Care/Step parents.
- Present eliminators/guardians.
- Vulnerability.
- Present situation and problems.
- Socio-economic backgrounds.
- Social responsibilities -role of community.
- Child /Girls Protection mechanisms for such type of children/girls.
- Threat.
- Challenges.
- Action required.

Which Children Targeted

- Children below 18 years
- Living without parental care
- Under kinship care
- Individual living
- Foster Care

What Data Says

<i>District</i>	<i>Reach out- Number of children</i>
<i>Katihar</i>	117
<i>Araria</i>	19
<i>Purnea</i>	39
<i>Supaul</i>	35
<i>Muzaffarpur</i>	26
<i>Khagaria</i>	29
TOTAL	265

- Total Number of Children identified- 265
 - Girls- 125
 - Boys- 153
- Age group of such children
 - 0-5 years- 42
 - 6- 10 years- 128
 - 10- 18 years- 108
- Covered Households- 5700
- Background-

- Scheduled Caste- 16.60%
- Scheduled Tribe- 36.98%
- OBC- 28.30%
- Muslim- 16.98%
- Other- 1.13%

➤ Circumstances under which Children were living

Forms	Number
Kinship Care	258
Foster Care	4
Independent Living	3

➤ With whom children are living-

Identification	Total number of children	Boys	Girls
Grand Parents {Nana- Nani}	78	38	40
Grand Parents { Dada- Dadi}	93	57	36
Uncle- Aunt { Chacha- Chachi}	47	24	23
{ Mama- Mami}	15	7	8
Elder married sister	15	10	5
Step mother	14	9	5
{ Mausaa- Mausii}	7	4	3
Local Villagers	6	5	1

➤ Years from when the children are living-

- From Birth – 27.92%
- From few months or years- 63.39%

➤ Reason behind living without Parental Care-

- After Sudden Demise of parents- 66.79%
- After 2nd marriage of both of parents- 2.26%
- Father becomes traceless after death of mother- 3.01%
- After the death of mother, father got 2nd marriage- 17.35%
- After the death of father, mother got 2nd marriage- 12.45%
- After the death of father, mother becomes mentally disturbed- 3.01%

➤ Survey revealed that such children are hugely exploited and tend to become juvenile criminals.

- The findings of the survey were shocking as 100 per cent of the children surveyed said they face discrimination at homes of their relatives. They complained that they are not treated well by their guardians and are often served leftover food.
- 99.9% children without parental care & protection are the victim of depression. Result is that they are not very open & have no one to get interacted.
- In a family, two kinds of children are living. One have their own parents and other have not means they are living with their relatives. Those kinds of

children are feeling uncomfortable to talk with anybody. The children lacking the care of parents. They have their own distinctive problems.

- As a result of hesitation, they being become a silent viewer and not easily communicate with anybody.
- We have seen that maximum children are the victim of fear & hesitation. They think that in a single fault, they will be get punished.
- 90% children said that in their single fault, whether they did it or not, they will not get one time meal by their care taker
- 90% children think that if they ran away any where or became the victim of any incident or got accident, then they have no anybody to look after & wouldn't take interest that what happened with him.
- Out of 265 children of without parental care, only 2% children go to school.
- Out of 265 children, 99.9% children think that after doing better they don't expect of appreciation from anybody but in a single fault they will get punished in an unexpected way. Under this situation, positive feeling of those children is being negligible and they feel their self negotiable by their family.
- Out of 265 children, 90% children's (especially granddaughter's) grandparents think that anyhow their marriage would be held, so that they could be free from their grandchildren's responsibility.
- After discussing with society, it has been seen that people treat these children with kindness but with negative approach that children without parental care have no moral values.
- Those children whose father died and mother did second marriage has negative aspects about relatives/close relations. These kinds of children think that when mother is not assisting & caring then on whom we can trust.
- In survey, we identified that children being growing old has suspicious mindset and they don't trust over even their relatives or any other.
- Out of 265 children, in 100% children we identified that children felt uncomfortable by getting love, affection & emotion.
- Survey says that these children can easily be trapped by anyone whether their purpose is right or wrong. 99% children want change in their life anyhow by any person; these children can easily be trafficked or can be the victim of child labour etc.
- After raising question that who wants change in their life? Every child replied that yes it's me who wants change in their life, hardly anyone said - No.
- Around 80 per cent of the children said they were often forced by their guardians to work on fields or at construction sites. Some of them are even forced into rag-picking to earn money.
- The survey also stated that around 85.7 per cent of the children said they have not received new clothes from their guardians. The children surveyed were either abandoned or lost their parents.
- After husband's death if she had a son then her fostering is done by their in laws and if she had a daughter then the woman along with their girl child has been send to their maike (mother's family).
- Some cases also came in front where after husband's death & due to weak economic conditions woman entangled with another person. If she had a son

then she took him with her but if she had a daughter then she left her on responsibility of other's.

Some of the Peculiar Case Studies

- *In Katihar district of Sameli Block, there lives a girl below 18 years old; she has no more their parents. Somehow, she got feed their self by working on the field of others. Local touts are taking away the girl by alluring them in the name of fake marriage where she would lead a comfortable life. The girls are taken away by local traffickers and sold off to outer touts that exploited them. After few days, she somehow ran away from the clutches of traffickers on the hope of better life. She has returned to their hometown, but the biggest challenge was the rehabilitation of that girl as she is illiterate & got mentally disturbed due to unethical situation which she faced, she was totally dependent on villagers. During survey, Bhoomika Vihar got the information of that girl, it took much time to get her counseled but as a result of that she showed their interest for goat rearing and also wants to continue their study.*
- *A 16 year old girl, Sanju kumari who belongs to Katihar district of Sameli block. The amount of grass sawed by her is what determines the quantity of food that will be put on her plate.*
- *A 6 year old girl whose name is Sonam kumari. She remembered her mother's face in a very hazy way. After the death of Sonam's father, her mother got married again with another person and left her on the responsibility of grandparents of mother's side. Her grandparents are also getting older; they are 60-65 years old now. Somehow they are surviving by doing labor on the field of others.*
- *A 7 year old boy whose name is Ravi Kumar. His parents died earlier at the time of their birth. He is suffering from malnourishment and eye disease also. He is doing labor on the fields of others with their grandparent's of mother side.*
- *A 6 year old girl, Rekha is living with her aunt who is widow and has three children. Rekha couldn't continue their study due to her poor economical condition. At the very early age when children need extra care and protection, in that age she works in others house as a maid for feeding their self along with their aunt's family.*

Need Assessment

First, issues of child rights need to be more politicized for them to receive appropriate policy attention. This has happened in some fields, as example, with child labor, food security for children and mostly children without parental care and so on. But such efforts need to be encouraged for a whole range of neglected areas affecting children's lives. Second, the State must recognize the multi-dimensional nature of human poverty and initiate interventions that simultaneously address the many concerns of the poor including livelihoods, health, basic education, food security and children's nutrition.

Bhoomika Vihar to address problems related to social problems had initiated a rights based intervention in several districts of Bihar. It has been working for a long years on the protection & promotion of children/girls/women's rights. In this concern we have started a program to ensure access for children/girls living on their own or without parental care to essential multi disciplinary services for children's/girls rights to survival, protection and development. During the survey it has been found that most of the children are living with their Grand Parents (Father & mother side as well). Every individual in society should feel that he/she is an important and useful member, that he/she have full opportunities to develop his/her facilities.

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