

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION

Violence Against Children: Physical Exploitation Faced by Child Scavengers in Rural Islamabad-Pakistan

Dr. Nasim Khan Mahsud ^{1*}, Dr. Nudrat Mushtaq ², Shabana Muhammad Anwar ³

¹ Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology-Allama Iqbal Open University-AIOU, Islamabad, Pakistan

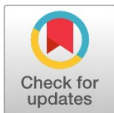
² Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology-Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University-Quetta, Pakistan

³ Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University Quetta, Pakistan

Abstract— Street child is the challenging social phenomenon confronted by many nations across the globe. The phenomenon of child violence specifically among street children who are working like child scavengers exists in almost all big cities of Pakistan. The under-age children sent to work often face physical, emotional, and sexual violence as the working environment is unsupportive of child rights. This study is an explorative study to unfold the awareness level among study respondents about the phenomena of violence against children and various forms of physical violence they face at work. This explorative study was conducted in the rural Islamabad. By using the non-probability sampling procedure, purposive sampling technique was opted for the current research. The sample size was 110 from which 91 male respondents aging from 12 years to under 18 were interviewed. The analysis was done in the form of percentages and frequency distribution cross tabs and chi square test was run by using SPSS. Findings of this explorative study reveals that these child scavengers are in more miserable conditions than any other group of children in the country. They become victims of physical violence on streets from their peer group, at their workplace from community people and also from their family members at homes with a very frequent intensity. Current study suggests serious interventions for child protection from violence as well as from hazardous work environment from government and other stakeholders i.e., local communities, NGOs, families so can provide a safe and healthy environment to our children which in return ensures sustainability of the productive society.

Index Terms— Child scavengers, Child labor, Violence, Neglect, Street children, Physical violence

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Introduction

Child abuse is a global challenge pervaded in every culture and socio-economic strata (WHO, 2016). Violence against children involves every form of violence against individuals under the age of 18 years, whether committed by parents, guardians or other caregivers, compeer, romantic partners, or strangers. According to estimation, on a global level nearly 1 billion children aged between 2 to 17 years had faced physical, sexual, or emotional violence and/or neglect last year. Target 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of, children”. However on the basis of evidence around the globe, World Health Organization suggested that violence against children can be nipped in the bud (WHO, 2020).

Street child is the challenging social phenomenon confronted by many nations across the globe. Classifying a group of individuals with said differing situations is a difficult task however the definition of street children cited by the United Nations is “Any boy or girl...for

*Email: nasim.khan@aiou.edu.pk

whom the street, in the widest sense of the word...has become his or her habitual abode or source of livelihood, and who is improperly protected, supervised or bound for by responsible adults" (UN, 2008). There are quite a lot of cultural motives and the leading and primary feature of sending a child to work is poverty (Skeffington & Rea, 2017).

There are quite a lot of cultural drivers but poverty remains the leading or principal reason for a child indulging into work (Skeffington & Rea, 2017). There could be a number of contributing factors in poverty and family misfortune including loss of a parent, parent's unemployment or inability to earn or other economic shocks. Children under minimum working age confirmed that their families' poor financial status was cause of them working (Kenworthy & Marx, 2018; Sial, Iqbal, & Naz, 2021).

Propelling their children into work instead of sending them to school may be seen as part of a 'Faustian bargain' that poor parents make for immediate financial advantage and profit (World Bank, 2019).

Approximating to several developing countries, in Pakistan too children from deprived families enter into workforce at an early age leaving with a lowest literacy rate in addition to experiencing other social disadvantages.

According to the International Labor Organization (2008) estimates of Child Labor Survey of Pakistan 1996, 3.3 million (8.3 percent of the total children) out of 40 million children (in the 5-14 years of age group) are economically active and working on full time basis in plenty of different occupations of formal and informal sectors in Pakistan. Several NGOs working in Pakistan have reported physical and sexual abuse against street children and their exploitation in the form of beating, anguish, rape, sodomy and even murder (Hyder, 2007). Findings of the study conducted by Mehnaz (2018), reveals that the number of children less than five years of age dying due to CAN is far more than children dying from accidents. Common types of CAN include Physical Neglect (64.1%), Physical Abuse (16%), Sexual Abuse (8.8%) and Emotional Neglect (6.6%). Nearly 80% of abusers were parents (Mehnaz, 2018).

Research gap

Although the world agreed upon the severity of negative consequences of child labor and urge to stop hazardous child labor across the nations. But still, there is a research gap found in linking violence faced by children working in different types of workplaces i.e., child scavengers who are part of the informal labor sector. Specifically, there is a lack of research on the life experiences of Afghan refugees who are living in Pakistan. The current study is emphasizing one aspect of those Afghan refugees' children who are working as scavengers and are vulnerable to different types of violence. While conducting research studies on child abuse and neglect their ethnic identity is an important aspect that needs to be considered specifically when the focus is on developing world children's issues. There is very fewer research found on this issues faced by Afghan refugees' children in Pakistan so in this scenario the current study will be an addition to the knowledge base about Afghan scavengers working in Islamabad and facing multiple issues.

Problem statement

Children working in different places specifically scavengers have multiple abuse and neglect issues in Pakistan which in turn affect their physical, mental, and social wellbeing. This research is an explorative study about the physical violence and its forms faced by Afghan child scavengers at their workplace. This study will be an addition to research knowledge about the bleak life experiences of Afghan refugees' children living in Pakistan.

Significance of the study

On the globe, Pakistan hosts around 2.8 million Afghan refugees, the second biggest refugee population after Syrians in Turkey. Most of these refugees are accommodated in FATA and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa regions. However, they are facing multiple issues including the nonavailability of basic human rights of education, employment, housing, etc. along with vulnerability with reference to their ethnicity which makes them prone to different types of abuses. (South Asia Monitor, 2021)

Child scavenging has become an increasingly observable fact of urban informal settlements and one of the foremost manipulative, abusive, and vulnerable practices of child labor in Pakistan. Child labor is an existing phenomenon in Pakistan, and about 12 million children do labor for their survival (UNICEF, 2013). Over 1 billion children across the globe are vulnerable to violence annually (Mater-nowska & Fry, 2018). The children involved in financial activities frequently suffer from verbal, psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse as the working environment they work in is disoblising of child rights. Although no working activity for children is exempted from risk of exploitation, abuse and violence yet the rates go high in informal sector where rules and regulations are not applied.

Findings of the UNHCR (2018) report reveals that 68% of Afghan refugees are living scattered in different urban cities of Pakistan for their livelihood. This study discusses violence against a certain group existent in our society known as "child scavengers". Sustainable Development Policy Institute (2003) revealed in their study that approximately 89,500- 106,500 children were captivated across five major cities of Pakistan including Islamabad. The majority of the children are of Afghan origin, whose parents migrated to Pakistan during the Afghan-Russia war (Suleri, 2004). Ames et al. (2018) study findings reveal that violence against children data was fragmented,

dispersed, anecdotal, and largely under-analyzed in Peru, however, the same is the situation in Pakistan too for Afghan refugees. This study highlights and explores the types of physical violence they face both at the family level and at the workplace along with the assessment of the awareness level of these children about the abuse they face on daily basis in their lives.

Objectives of the study

- To know the awareness level of the respondents about violence
- To explore the types of physical violence.
- To suggest suitable measures to bring improvement in the current situation of physical violence they face.

Literature Review

Pakistan has signed numerous national and international conventions or treaties for promoting child rights and hold fast to guard children against all forms of violence but The Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000 is not actively implemented resulting in the unavailability of an effective child protection system in the country generally (Mahmood, 2014).

The occurrence of violence against working children continues to be unsympathetically great and a tenaciously difficult part of their everyday life amongst other related problems. Working children are liable to a multiple forms of violence, inclusive of: (i) verbal and mental, (ii) corporeal and sexual, (iii) mistreatment, neglect and deprivation, and (iv) financial exploitation (Ahmad, 2004; Carpenter, 2006; NIJ, 2016; WHO, 2020).

According to Susan et al., (2017) every year more than one billion children – half of all children in the world – face violence around the globe. The Ending violence in childhood report cited the recent proofs of the causes and consequences of violence in childhood in addition to offering suggestions on controlling and preventing such violence (Global Report, 2017; Sriskandarajah, 2015; Clarke et al., 2017).

Notwithstanding the difficulties involved in addressing violence against children, as well as the challenges in achieving agreement amid people and organizations on framing and governance, a number of contemporary affirmative developments can assist enhanced worldwide prioritizing the problem (Global status report on preventing violence against children, 2020).

The extent and occurrence of violence against children is challenging to measure mainly due to underreporting (WHO, 2016), on a national level there is lack of mechanism or contrivance essential to manage record and maintain database of cases related to violence against children. As a matter of fact there is a lack of sufficient nationally representative and authentic studies on the mentioned subject and the studies available are mostly conducted by the independent researchers primarily focusing on the theoretical aspects of the problem. There are examples of few individual researchers and organizations in this regard who mobilized personal resources in order to appraise the occurrence and extent of violence against children in Pakistan (SPARCPK, 2014). Further, findings of a report revealed that nearly 40 million children living below the poverty line in Pakistan direly needed protection (Irshad, 2018).

The social factors related to health, education, economy and social policies nationwide contributing in creating an atmosphere of encouraging, promoting and sustaining violence against children. Hyder & Malik (2007) mentioned that reported literature from South Asian countries demonstrated low awareness of health, little understanding of what constitutes violence and exactly how to seek out medical care in the relevant country.

Currently, Physical violence against children and teenagers (PVCT) is acknowledged as one of the significant and dynamic public health issues. Likewise, the social and human rights implications of it are too eminent across geological, societal, economical, and cultural boundaries (Colucci & Hassan, 2014; Wirtz et al., 2016; Ugboke, 2017). Usually, children experience violence by those they trust much (UNICEF,2020). Ospina and Roser (2019), reported in their study that children's rights are commonly violated across the globe. Yet there are variations across nations and in many countries numerous forms of violence have been declined indicating that making progress and protecting children from violence is not impossible (Ain, Vaia, DeLone,& Waheed, 2019; Ospina & Roser, 2019).

Children in the street work all day long intended to increase their families' incomes and usually don't return to their homes before nighttime. Majority of these children is in the category of the 'children at risk'. These are the children of the urban poor, and they form the reservoir from which street children emerge (UNESCO 2009; UNICEF 2009; Ali 2004; Baybuga and Celik 2004). Literature shows that children living and working on the streets frequently experience violence in the hands of common public, adolescent peers, employers, 'customers', pimps and police (Devries et al. 2018; Farooq, Akhtar, Hijazi, & Khan, 2010). Majority of the children endure physical violence at times brutal enough to seek medical attention: almost same proportion goes through psychological abuse, about 74% (over two-third) in Uganda faced sexual violence (The African report on violence against children 2014). Physical violence (PV) against children by the hands of parents is a universal public health concern (Wang et al. 2021).

Hypothesis

Ho: There is no relationship between physical violence and ethnicity.

Materials and Methods

The researcher has adopted case study approach for the current study. In this research the researcher used quantitative approach for analysis keeping in view the population under study.

Area of the study/universe

The phenomenon of child scavengers is common in almost all urban centers of Pakistan, but the number of child scavengers is very high in the mega cities like Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Peshawar. This shows that this phenomenon is the result of massive migration towards urban centers because of poverty, and also the presents of Afghan refugees due to Afghan conflict, and migration of internally displaced people of KPK (FATA) due to operations their which is a fall out of Afghan war. As it was an academic study, so due to limitation of time and financial constraints, the present study was limited to only rural areas of Islamabad. Rural Islamabad was the universe of the study; (Islamabad capital territory includes Islamabad urban and rural areas. The Islamabad rural consists of 23 Union councils, comprising 133 villages now with massive urbanization some of these union councils are also developed as urban centers.

Population

The population of the study is all scavenging male children (Afghan refugees) of the dump sites of rural Islamabad. The population of the study is unstructured and unevenly distributed. Child scavengers are generally found near the dump sites of commercial areas, markets, and Bazars.

Sampling procedure/technique/tool of data collection

As the population of this research is unstructured so the non probability sampling method was used. The population of this research has assigned special criteria to them as they are scavenging children with Afghan refugee identity, so the study implied purposive sampling technique for collecting the required data for the research. The structured interview schedule was used as tool of data collection; the interview schedule consisted close-ended questions. As the respondents were child scavengers and there is not any specific place for such population, so they were tried to approach at different places by roaming around the dump sites of commercial areas and markets. The child scavengers were interviewed by the researcher, it was tried to conduct these interviews in a friendly atmosphere where they did not feel any pressure.

Sample size

Due to limitation of time and financial constraints as it was an academic study the sample size was 110 male child scavengers. From which 91 child scavengers agreed to be interviewed. So, the researcher interviewed them.

Data Analysis

Tables used for data analyzing. Also, percentages, frequency, cross tab, and chi square test used for data analyzing through the use of SPSS software.

Field observations

One of the major aspects of present research was researcher's personal observations in the field and it is based on the qualitative aspects, related to the phenomenon of child scavenging and violence against these child scavengers. During data collection researcher regularly noted observations and certain points which were coming during the probing and not covered in the tool.

Field notes

Vast majority of the child scavengers were Afghan refugees with some of them were from KPK and former FATA region, this study was conducted in rural Islamabad, the elders of these majority respondents were migrated from Afghanistan to refugees camps early on due to Afghan war, while later on due to joblessness they migrated again to big cities like Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where they mainly lives in slum areas and working mainly like scavenging and some of them are farming sheep while some working in construction field on the daily wages.

These child scavengers were facing more ethnic biasness from society and even from law-and-order agencies like police, according to a respondent they face a very common sentence in society and police as well “Sary Afghani chore hain/all of you are thieves” they face emotional/verbal violence and physical violence in society very commonly, as people looking at them suspiciously because of their socio-demographic status.

They were collecting the recyclables from garbage and selling it to scrap dealer shops called “kanda”. According to these child scavengers they are victim of sexual violence in society as well during an interview with a group of child scavengers researcher noted that very often they are victim of physical and sexual violence and emotional violence very often mainly because of their socio-demographic conditions, according to a couple of respondents “ once upon they were told fake by two men that there is scrap you can collect from , when we gone their they started compelling us to have sex with them but we ran away and escaped.”

Results and Discussion

Following paras are based on detail of study findings and discussion.

The awareness level of the respondents

Respondents were asked about their awareness level of violence they faced regularly, following table illustrates their responses and analysis on 4point likert scale.

Table I
Distribution of the respondents of their awareness level

Sr. No.	Questions	To Some Extend f (%)	To Great f (%)	Not at all f (%)	Don't Know f (%)	Total f (%)
1	Do you know about violence?	9(9.9)	1(1.1)	3(3.3)	78(85.7)	91(100)
2	Do you understand Physical punishment as act of violence?	42(46.2)	8(8.8)	33(36.3)	8(8.8)	91(100)
3	Do you understand emotional violence as act of violence?	9(9.9)	1(1.1)	10(11.0)	71(78.0)	91(100)
4	Do you understand neglect as act of violence?	7(7.7)	0(0.0)	12(13.2)	72(79.1)	91(100)
5	Do you understand sexual harassment as act of violence?	9(9.9)	82(90.1)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	91(100)
6	Have you ever experienced any act of violence?	22(24.2)	68(74.7)	1(1.1)	0(0.0)	91(100)
7	Have you informed anybody about violence you experienced?	12(13.2)	0(0.0)	79(86.8)	0(0.0)	91(100)
8	Do you understand physical punishment from your family member as act of violence?	15(16.5)	1(1.1)	74(81.3)	1(1.1)	91(100)

The data in table I shows that a vast majority 85.7% of respondents did not knew about violence, while only 1.1% knew to great extent about violence. The finding shows that huge percentage of the respondents did not knew about violence as their demographic profile showed them illiterate, so the impact of illiteracy reflects on awareness level as well. Responses on 2nd question revealed that 46.2% of respondents understood the physical punishment to some extents as violence, however the rest of the children it is not an act of violence as they didn't know about their rights. The finding also shows that the children of this community face fighting and quarrel in their daily life very frequently, they become habitual to this so that's why it was normative to them. The data in the table also shows for 3rd question that 78% of the respondents did not knew about emotional violence at all, while only 1.1% of the respondents understood emotional violence as act of violence to great extent. The finding shows the impact of illiteracy on these children as very huge percentage did not knew about emotional violence at all.

The data for 4th question illustrate that 79.1% of the respondents did not knew about neglect at all, while 13.2% of the respondents did not understood neglect as act of violence. Results show that these children face negligence from their parents as part of their life. Parents and responsible authorities in society did not take interest in their personal life. They are only tool to earn and bear the responsibilities of helping the family financially. Further, findings of the study for 5th question reveals that 90.1% of the respondents understood the sexual violence as act of violence to great extent. The finding shows that all respondents understood sexual violence as act of violence in comparison to other forms of violence with some variation in intensity. It supports the social values of Pakistani society, as we understand sex as shame and sin because of religious thoughts.

Table I further shows results for 6th question that 98.9% of the respondents personally experienced violence from some to great extent, while only 1.1% of respondents did not experienced violence at all. The finding shows that almost all of the respondents somehow experienced violence in one form or another. As all of these respondents belong to poor families so the violence does not anticipate strong reaction from them in society, so it is one of the reasons they face violence very frequently, and also their family culture was full of violence, so they were facing it frequently. It shows that at such a young age they are exposed to a hazardous job of scavenging where they

are exposed to violence too. Findings of the current study for 7th question reveals that 86.8% of the respondents did not inform anybody about violence they experienced. So, the finding shows that the vast majority of the respondents did not know about their basic human and legal rights, as majority of them never went to school so it is one of the reasons that they did not inform anybody because of lack of awareness of their rights, and also it supports the social structure of our society where elders have the right to punish the children so called for their betterment.

Study findings for last question of the table I shows that 81.3% of the respondents did not understand physical punishment from their family members as act of violence at all. The finding supports the social structural system of our society where the elders of family have the authority to punish the children so called for their betterment and it does not count as violence, and also the children does not have the required awareness in this regard so far. The finding also shows how much parental awareness and education is important to be aware of the basic human rights of their children.

Types & intensity of physical violence-PV

In the table below there is detail of study findings and discussion about the types and intensity of physical violence-PV that respondents faced from family, peer group, and community members.

Table II
Distribution of the Respondents according to types and Intensity of physical violence

Sr No	Types of Physical Violence	To Some Extent f(%)	To Great Extent f(%)	Not at all f(%)	Total f(%)
Minor Assault					
1	Slapped your bottom	13(14.3)	62(68.1)	16(17.6)	91(100)
2	Hit your bottom with a hard object i.e. a belt, a stick	15(16.5)	69(75.8)	7(7.7)	91(100)
3	Slapped your hand, arm, or leg	18(19.8)	71(78.0)	2(2.2)	91(100)
4	Pulled hair, pinched or twisted the ear	25(27.5)	57(62.6)	9(9.9)	91(100)
Severe Physical Assault					
5	Slapped you on the face or head or ears	21(23.1)	68(74.7)	2(2.2)	91(100)
6	Hit any other body part of yours other than the bottom with hard object	25(27.5)	62(68.1)	4(4.4)	91(100)
7	Tossed or knocked you down	17(18.7)	63(69.2)	11(12.1)	91(100)
8	Punched you or kicked hard	16(17.6)	72(79.1)	3(3.3)	91(100)
Very Severe Assault					
9	choked the child by grabbing the neck	11(12.1)	37(40.7)	43(47.3)	91(100)
10	Intentionally burned or injured the child	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	91(100)	91(100)
11	Used knife or gun to threatened the child	12(13.2)	29(31.9)	50(54.9)	91(100)
12	Tried to cut the child with a sharp object	3(3.3)	4(4.4)	84(92.3)	91(100)

In the table II the types and intensity level of physical violence are classified into three main categories, minor assault, severe physical assault, and very severe assault. Each type of physical assault had four different questions.

The data in the table II illustrates that 68.1% of the respondents were spanked on the bottom with hand to a great extent. The findings shows that total 82.4% of the respondents were spanked on the bottom with hand either to some or great extend the finding supports that for children found addressing about the workplace setting, very challenging. Next, data shows that 75.8% of the respondents were hit on the bottom with some hard object to great extent, and for another statement majority of the respondents 78% agreed that they were slapped on different body parts i.e. the hand, arm, or leg, to a great extent. The finding shows that almost 98% of the respondents were victims of such type of assault. Further, findings show that 62.6% of the respondents were confronted to the pulled hair or twisted the ear to a great extent. It shows that vast majority of more than 90% children were confronted pulled hair or twisted ear either at workplace or at home.

The data in the table II also shows that 74.7% of the respondents were slapped on face, head, or ear to great extend which comes under severe physical assault. It means that a vast majority of 97.8% of the respondents faced physical assault in form of getting slapped on the face, head, or ear very frequently either at workplace, home or in community. However, 68.1% of the respondents were hit on some other parts of the body beside bottom with hard object to a great extent; it means that a total of 95.6% of the respondents were hit on other parts of the body beside bottom. Further, data reveals that 69.2% of the respondents were threw or knocked down to a great extent, and 79.1% of the respondents were often got punched or kicked hard.

Study findings further reveals that a great number of respondents 40.7% of the respondents were chocked by grabbing from the neck. The finding shows that this type of violence was faced comparatively in less number, even though it happened in less percentage but still if you combine both intensity of this violence it is 52.7% it means at least every second of the respondent was victim of this type

of violence. The data in the table II also shows that no respondent was burned or scalded on purpose. However, data shows that 45.1% of the respondents were at least threatened with knife or gun with some variation in intensity. Furthermore, study findings shows that 7.7% of the respondents were tried to cut with a sharp object by the perpetrator to some or great extent, while 92.3% of the respondents were not faced this type of physical assault at all. The table II findings besides concluding that physical violence is very common amongst these children also reflected that violence against these children is generally accepted to a level where they are not harmed physically or emotionally to extent causing any severe injury.

The distribution of perpetrators in physical violence

The table below has details of perpetrators of child physical violence for the current study.

Table III
The Distribution of perpetrators in physical violence

Sr. No	Perpetrator	To some extent f(%)	To great extent f(%)	Not at all f(%)	Total f(%)
1	Family member	35(38.5)	47(51.6)	9(9.9)	91(100)
2	Friends	40(44.0)	47(51.6)	4(4.4)	91(100)
3	Community member	37(40.7)	48(52.7)	6(6.6)	91(100)
4	Guardian	1(1.1)	3(3.3)	87(95.6)	91(100)

The data in the table III displays that 51.6% respondents were victim of physical violence from family members to a great extent. The finding shows that collectively more than 90% of the respondents were victim of physical violence from family members with some variation in intensity. The data further reveals that 51.6% of the respondents were victim of physical violence from friends to a great extent, the data concluded that 95.6% of the respondents were victim of violence from friends, however, 52.7% of the respondents were victim of physical assault from community members in the shape of physical violence to a great extent, so the data further concluded that more than 93% of the respondents were victim of violence from community members with some variation in intensity, however, only 3.3% of the respondents were victim of physical violence from guardians.

Chi square test

The below table compare the physical violence and ethnicity, as ($p>0.05$) so the null hypothesis is accepted that there is no relation between physical violence and ethnicity.

Table IV
Chi square test

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.365 ^a	4	.669
N of Valid Cases	91		

Discussion

The study reveals that majority respondent’s awareness level about child abuses were low because of illiteracy and poor background of the family. Alshoubaki & Harris (2018) conducted a research on the scarcity of resources and a livelihood opportunity available to refugees which leads to violence against them by local communities also reveals similar findings (Alshoubaki & Harris, 2018). Study findings illustrates that physical violence was very prevalent with these children, and they were victim of different type of corporal violence, getting spanked on the bottom with hand total (82.4%), and hit on the bottom with hard object (92.3%), slapped on the hand, arm or leg (97.8%), pulled hair or twisted the ear (90.1%), slapped on face, head or ear (97.8%), hit on any other body parts except bottom with hard object (95.6%), threw or knocked down (87.9%), got punched or kicked hard (96.7%), choked by grabbing by the neck (52.8%), threatened with knife or gun (45.1%), tried to cut with a sharp object (7.7%), the study generally shows that physical violence is very widespread amongst these children , it also reflects recognition of a general level of violence against these children being an outsider and with Afghan ethnicity and a view that these children are not severely injured physically or emotionally. Moreover, Ruegger (2018) asserted the same that ethnic identity is also one of the key sources of conflict eruption among refugees and the host. The findings of the study reveal that the workplace abuse is prevalent for these children; this designates that mistreatment and abuse is not only perpetrated by friends and parents, then besides by strangers with whom the children meet during work, for instance employers, and other people in the community. However,

Malik, Mohar, & Irvin Erickson (2017) study findings revealed that Afghan refugees have socio-cultural homogeneity with Pakistan but are even suspiciously treated specifically the children in the labor force. Family members (90.1%), friends (95.6%), and community members (93.4%) were indicated by child scavengers of the study as perpetrators of physical violence against them.

Conclusion

The children of any country or society are its future and prospect and have to be treated with care and responsibility; this study supports the previously conducted researches establishing that the families' structure and socio-economic aspects are directly linked to the children's safety. Although physical violence against children at the domestic level or by parents or other family members is common in every socio-economic background throughout the country, but the findings of this explorative study suggests that these child scavengers are in more miserable conditions than any other group of children in the country, 90.1% of the respondents were victim of physical violence from the family members. Violence faced by children at work is particularly startling: deprived of their basic rights of education or getting engaged in age-appropriate activities most of these children devote their maximum time to work where they also have to experience violent acts and abuses which adversely affect their developing minds and bodies mutually.

The study analysis illustrates that child abuses are widespread in the workplace as well physical or corporal mistreatment by the community members, friends, and family is reported by child scavengers in this study which is very frequent. From the study and direct interaction with these child scavengers it is revealed that phenomenon of child scavenging have causes deep in poverty, social structure of these Afghan refugees, parental behavior, lack of education in their community, and ethnic problems they face. They confront the physical violence, on the streets and at workplace and even at home, they are hated at society as well. They face a lot of health issues as well during work.

Limitations of the Study

The current study was primarily focused on physical violence faced by child scavengers in Islamabad. For the data collection purpose, only Afghan refugees' children were accessed. However, a quantitative approach has opted for the present study, and collected data were statistically analyzed and tested.

Future Research Directions

Keeping the limitations of the current study in view it is suggested that the children of local communities need equal attention to be studied with reference to abuse and neglect at the national level. As the current study focused on physical abuse only but the dark consequences of psychological and sexual violence are also important to be addressed. Further, Pakistan is a young population country so focusing on different aspects of the growing children's needs is an important concern to avoid bleak consequences later on which can affect the development process of the nation if we will be having unskilled youth. There is a dire need to study the current phenomena more in detail, so a qualitative approach and analysis are required by researchers. This study's scope was limited to rural areas of Islamabad and to Afghan scavengers however other types of labor that children are engaged in need to be explored with reference to hurdles and issues faced by children in Pakistan.

Recommendations

Here are some recommendations based on the findings of this study.

- Government should come up with micro financing strategy to eradicate poverty from the society.
- Government's concerned authorities, UNICEF, UNHCR and other UN agencies related to child protection should take immediate steps to protect these children from hazardous job of scavenging.
- Government should come up to improve the employment of legal and social response services for physical violence.
- Government should come up to develop and implement social change strategies for addressing cultural norms and societal practices that permit and encourage violence against children.
- Government should work on to ensure schooling of these children, by providing free education and free education material to these children, early start of the school timing, and fining the parents not sending their children to school.

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