

A Study on the Right to Protection and Promotion of the Children Living in the Streets of India

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Abstract: *Children living on the streets are among the most vulnerable groups in society, and they face a range of challenges that threaten their health, safety, and well-being. As such, they have specific rights that are protected by international law. The rights include right to protection, right to education, right to healthcare, right to food and shelter, right to identity, right to participation and right to non-discrimination. The main objective of the study is to know about the causes of children to live in streets and also to prevent them and the research method used here is the random sampling method and the sample size is 200. The sample frame is tamilnadu. It is found that children living in the streets are the more vulnerable people in the society and the rights of the children and being ensured by the state. protection and promotion of the rights of children is crucial for their well-being and development. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They also have the right to education, healthcare, and an adequate standard of living. Governments have a duty to create and enforce laws and policies that protect the rights of children, including those who are vulnerable and marginalized, such as children living on the streets.*

Keywords: Children, protection, promotion, policies, poverty

I. INTRODUCTION

Children living on the streets are among the most vulnerable groups in society, and they face a range of challenges that threaten their health, safety, and well-being. As such, they have specific rights that are protected by international law. The rights include right to protection, right to education, right to healthcare, right to food and shelter, right to identity, right to participation and right to non-discrimination. These rights are protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which is an international treaty that has been ratified by almost every country in the world. It is the responsibility of governments to ensure that these rights are respected and upheld for all children, including those living on the streets. The issue of children living on the streets in India is a complex and challenging one. Street children live in abandoned buildings, cardboard boxes, parks, railway, bus stations, and footpaths. A great deal has been written defining street children, but the primary difficulty is that there are no precise categories, but rather a continuum, ranging from children who spend some time in the streets and sleep in a house with ill-prepared adults, to those who live entirely in the streets and have no adult supervision or care. It is crucial that we take steps to protect and promote the well-being of children living on the streets. This includes providing them with access to basic needs, education, healthcare, and social and emotional support, as well as addressing the root causes of their situation, such as poverty, family breakdown, and societal neglect. According to the Indian government's estimates, there are about 20 million street children in India, although non-governmental organizations believe the number may be much higher. Children living on the streets in India face a range of challenges, including poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to education and healthcare, and exposure to violence and exploitation. They are often forced to work in hazardous and exploitative conditions to support themselves and their families, and are vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. The Indian government has taken several steps to address the issue of children living on the streets, including setting up shelters and rehabilitation centers, providing education and vocational training, and strengthening child protection laws. Children living on the streets in India face significant challenges, and their rights are often

violated. the State has a crucial role to play in protecting and promoting the welfare of children in India. This includes ensuring access to education, enacting and enforcing child protection laws, providing social welfare schemes, establishing child rights commissions, and fulfilling its international obligations. According to a UNICEF estimate, there are around 20 million children living on the streets in India, who face issues such as poverty, violence, and exploitation. Some of the specific challenges faced by children living in the streets of India are lack of basic needs, child labor, trafficking, violence and abuse, lack of education and discrimination and in order to protect them from all these the right to protection and the promotion of children is considered as one of the important rights. The main aim of the research is to know about the right to protection and promotion of the children living in the streets of India.

1.1 Objectives

- To know about the cause of children living in the streets
- To analyse the problems faced by children living in the streets To examine the rights of the children living in the streets
- To promote the children living in the street

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The authors have mentioned that the United Nations has provided a broad definition: “those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, i.e. unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.), more than their family has become their real home, a situation in which there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults.” (Dev et al., 2020)

This research explains that UNICEF 1986 has also identified three categories of children in difficult situations: children on the street (‘home-based’ children who return home at night), children of the street (‘street-based’ children who have less or no family support), and abandoned children (those ‘children of the street’ who have severed all ties with family and completely survive on their own.(Falch-Eriksen, 2005)

The author explains the increase with reference to factors like family status and the psychological condition of the child and his or her perceptions about life, others, like Epstein (1996), have highlighted abuses, armed conflicts, natural calamities, and an alteration in family structures as some of the causes. (Cook, 2020)

Considerably, one of the major reasons for such an increase is migration of people that also leads to the growing number of working children in the cities. However, I believe this growing problem could be tackled effectively by a systematic social organization that would not only spread awareness, but would also bring the street children back into mainstream society.(Thukral & Ali, 2005)

This research provides a comprehensive overview of the issue of child protection in the streets, and highlights the various approaches that have been used to address this complex issue. The author's analysis of the roles and responsibilities of different actors in protecting children in the streets is particularly useful, as it emphasizes the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach to child protection.(Muñoz-Echeverri et al., 2011)

The research examines interventions aimed at promoting the well-being of children living or working on the streets, with a focus on interventions that have been evaluated for their effectiveness. The authors argue that children living or working on the streets are a highly vulnerable population, and that interventions aimed at improving their well-being must be holistic, responsive to their specific needs, and designed in collaboration with them.(Deb, 2015)

The research provides a comprehensive overview of the issue of promoting the rights and well-being of children in the streets, and highlights the various approaches and interventions that have been used to support these children. The author's analysis of the challenges and limitations of promoting the rights and well-being of children in the streets is particularly insightful, as it emphasizes the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue.(Lucchini & Stoecklin, 2019)

The author has analysed the street children. Street children are among the most physically visible of all children, living and working on the roads and public squares of cities all over the world. Yet, paradoxically, they are also among the most “invisible” and therefore hardest children to reach vital services such as education and health care and the most difficult to protect. The term “Street Children” is problematic as it can be employed as a stigmatizing label. (Lieten & Strehl, 2014)

The research reveals that the greatest problems such children face is their demonetisation by mainstream society as a threat and a source of criminal behavior. Yet many children living or working on the streets have embraced the term,

considering that it offers them a sense of identity and belonging. It should not obscure the fact that the many children who live and work on the street do so in multifarious ways and for a range of reasons and each of them is unique, with their own, often strongly felt, point of view. **(Somanadhan et al., 2023)**

The literature review on children living in the streets aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the issue, including the challenges faced by these children, the interventions and strategies that have been used to support them, and the implications for policy and practice. By synthesizing and analyzing the existing literature on the topic, the review provides insights into the complex and multifaceted nature of the issue, and can help to inform the development of effective interventions and policies to support these children. **(Ganesan & Human Rights Watch (Organization), 1996)**

India has enacted several laws to protect the rights of children, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Right to Education Act, 2009. These laws aim to protect children from various forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. **(Banaji, 2017)**

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The POCSO Act, 2012 is a significant legislation in India for the protection of children from sexual offenses. The act defines various types of sexual offenses against children and provides for stringent punishment for the offenders. It also ensures that the trial of such cases is conducted in a child-friendly manner. **(Chopra, 2015)**

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, provides for the care and protection of children who are in conflict with the law or in need of care and protection. The act aims to provide a rehabilitation and reintegration approach for children in conflict with the law and promotes their social reintegration. **(Butcher, 1996)**

The Right to Education Act, 2009, provides for free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The act aims to ensure that every child in India has access to quality education and to reduce the number of out-of-school children. **(Aptekar & Stoecklin, 2013)**

Through this research the author analyzes that the laws for children have played a crucial role in protecting the rights of children in India. However, there are still challenges in the effective implementation of these laws. The lack of awareness about these laws among the general public and the limited resources and infrastructure in some parts of the country are some of the challenges faced in implementing these laws effectively. **(Aptekar & Stoecklin, 2013)**

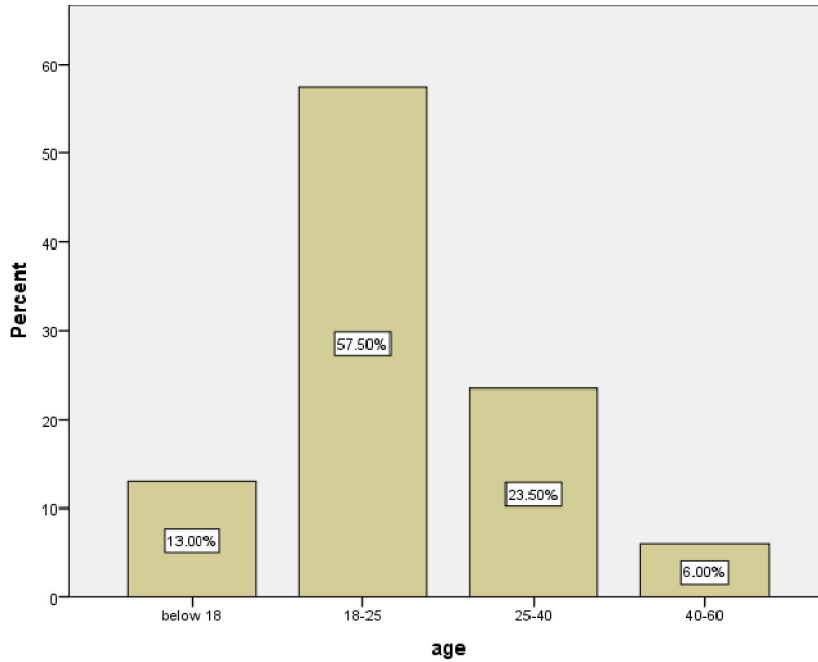
This research explains that there are four factors which aggravate the misery of these children. First is 'Abuse', street children generally are those children who have run away from home due to domestic or sexual violence. Common jobs for these children include working in domestic households, rag-picking, shoe-shining, collecting firewood, tending to animals, street vending, dyeing, begging, prostitution, and other forms of labor. **(Lieten & Strehl, 2014)**

III. METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this research is empirical research method. Empirical look into depends on watched and estimated marvels and gets information from genuine encounters instead of from hypothesis or conviction. Key attributes for an exact research is Specific research inquiries to be addressed And Description of the procedure used to consider this populace or wonders, including determination criteria, controls, and testing instruments, the factual apparatuses utilized for this examination work is chi square, correlation. The sample method used here is simple random sampling. The sample size is 200. The independent variables are age, gender and occupations. The dependent variable is age and gender. The statistics used here is SPSS

IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

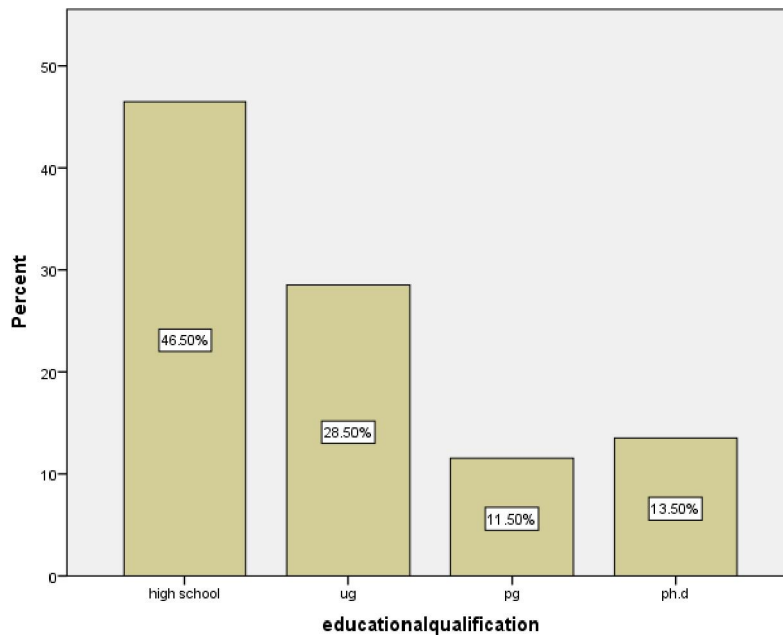
Figure 1



Legend

Figure 1 represents the age of the people who have responded to the following question

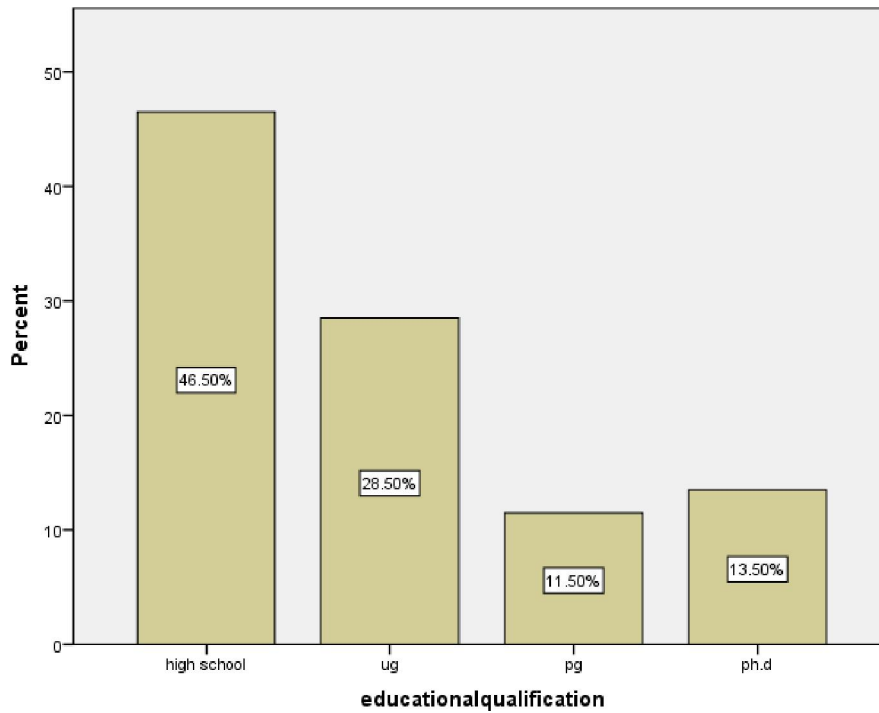
Figure 633



Legend

Figure 2 represents the gender of the people and their response to the following question

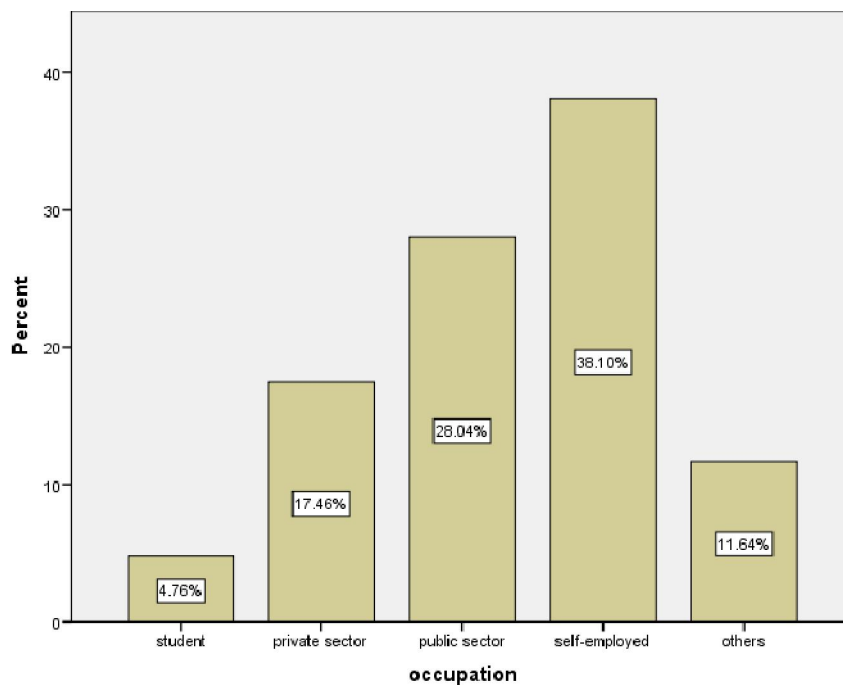
Figure 634



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Figure 3 represents the educational qualification of the people and their response to the following question

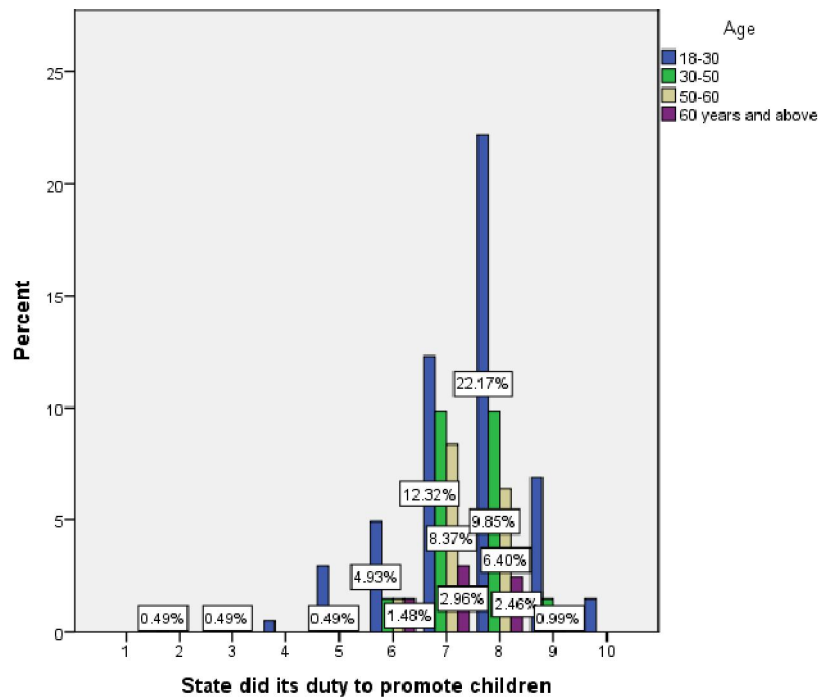
Figure 4



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Figure 4 represents the occupation of the people and their response to the following question

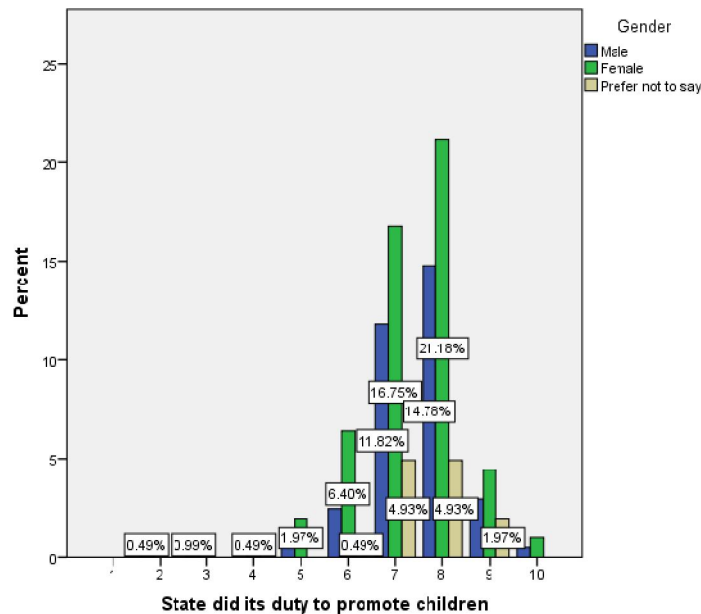
Figure 5



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Figure 5 represents the age of the people and their rating towards whether the state did its duty to promote children.

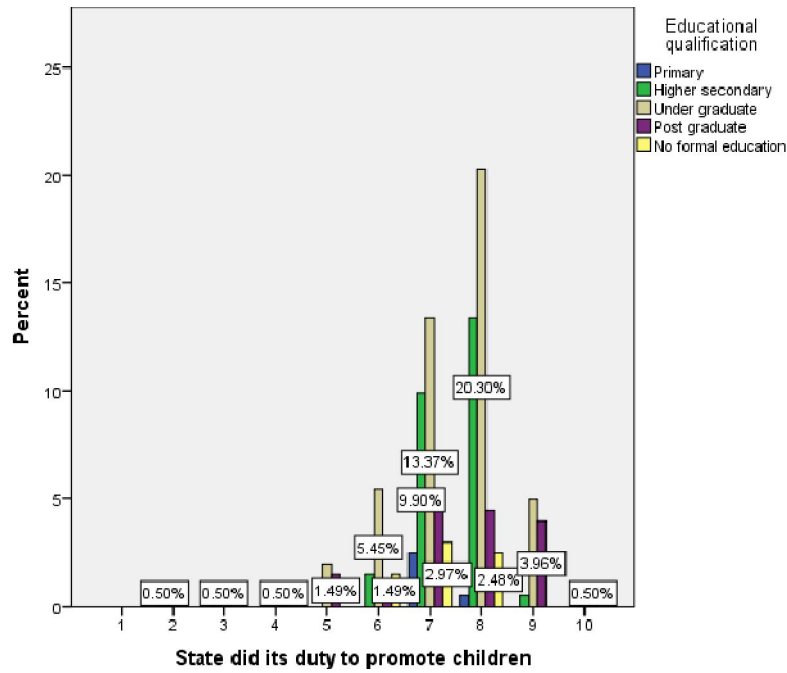
Figure 6



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Figure 6 represents the gender of the people and their rating towards whether the state did its duty to promote children.

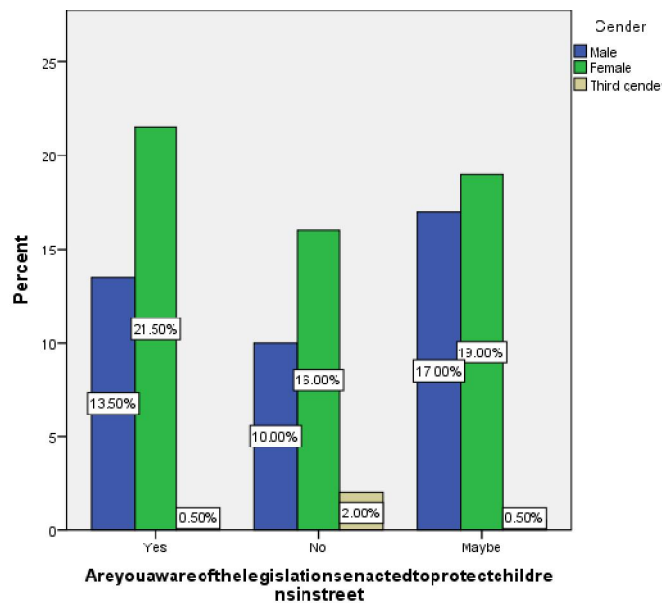
Figure 7



Legend

Figure 7 represents the gender of the people and their rating towards whether the state did its duty to promote children.

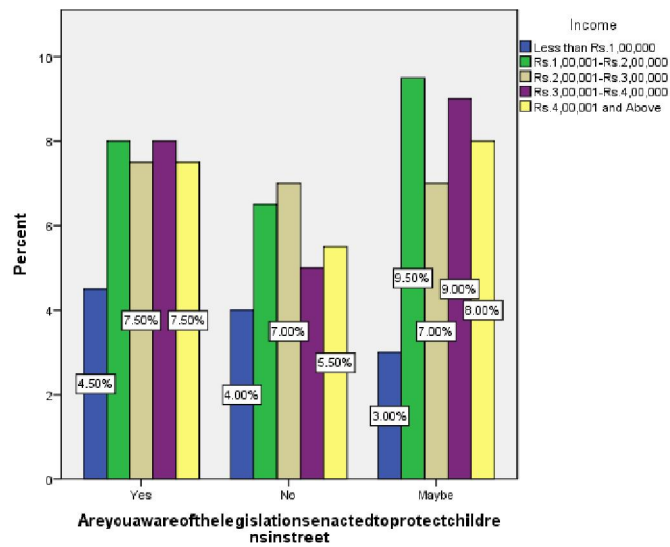
Figure 8



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Figure 8 represents the gender of the people and their response towards whether people are aware of the legislation enacted to protect children

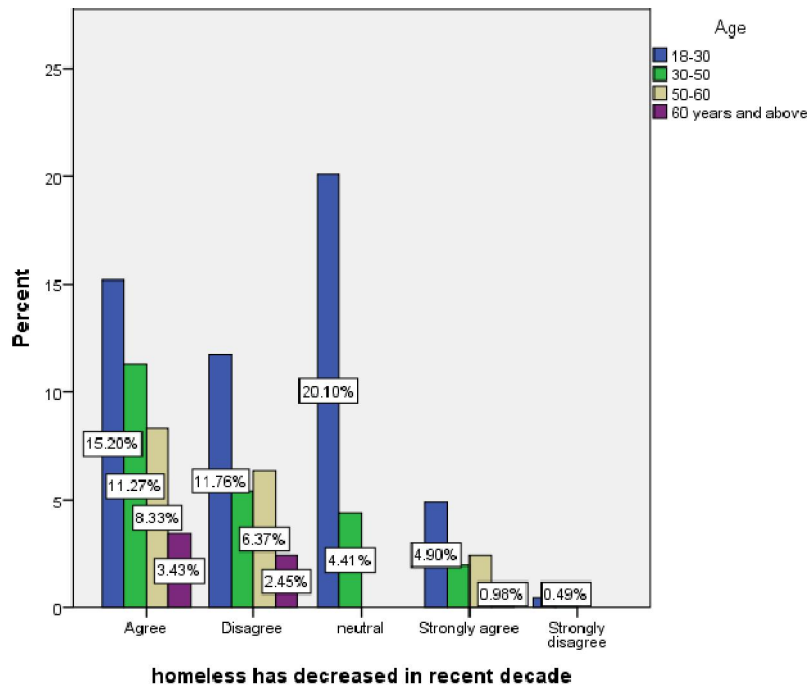
Figure 9



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Figure 9 represents the gender of the people and their response towards whether people are aware of the legislation enacted to protect children.

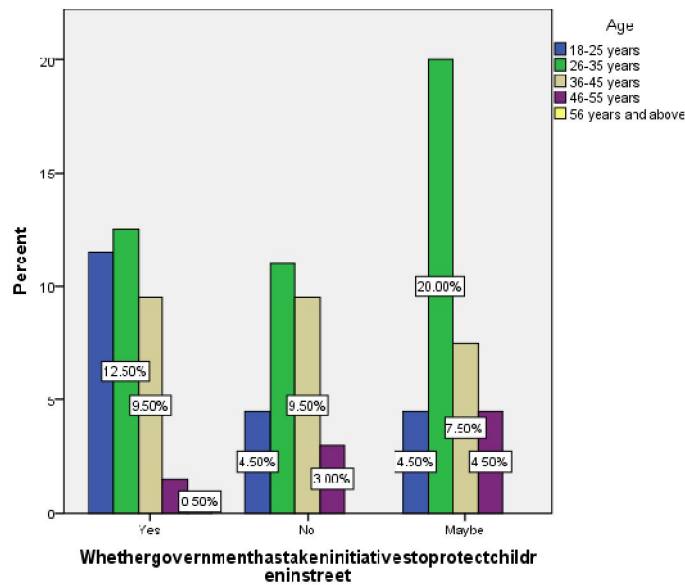
Figure 10



Legend

Figure 10 represents the age of the people and their agreeability level towards whether homelessness has increased in India.

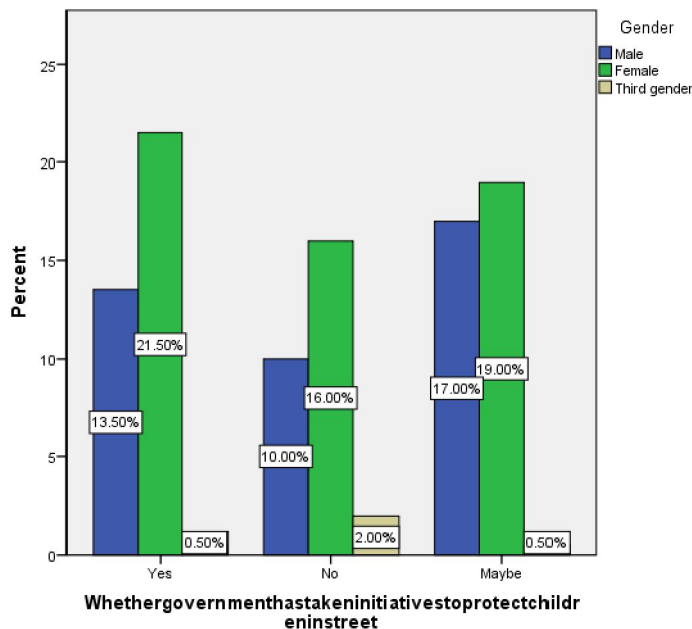
Figure 11



Legend

Figure 11 represents the age of the people and their agreeability level towards whether homelessness has increased in India.

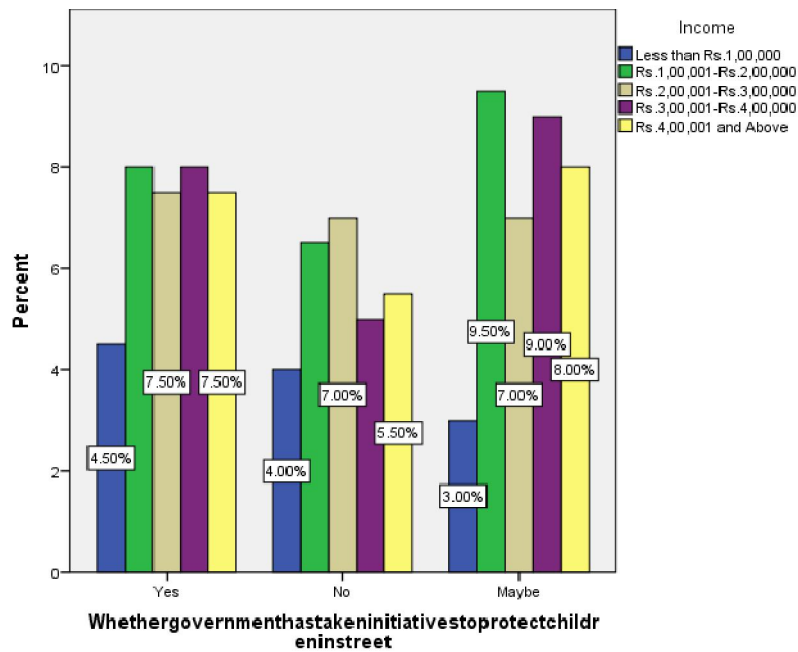
Figure 12



Legend

Figure 12 represents the gender of the people and their response towards whether government has taken initiatives to protect children in street

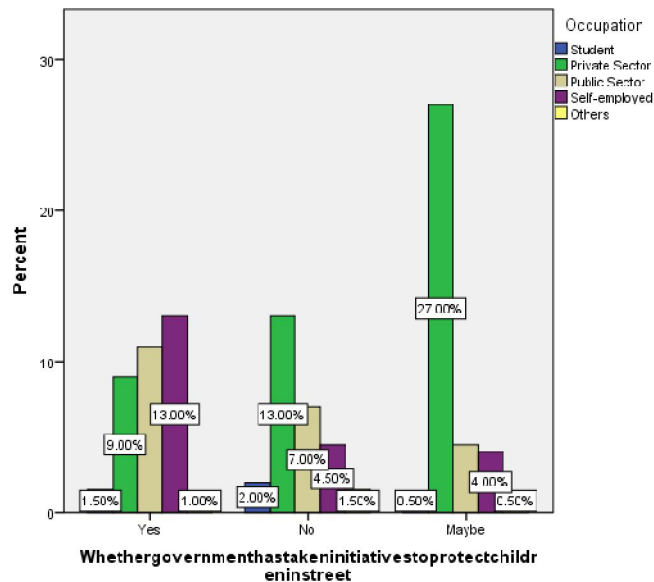
Figure 13



Legend

Figure 13 represents the income of the people and their response towards whether the government has taken initiatives to protect children in street.

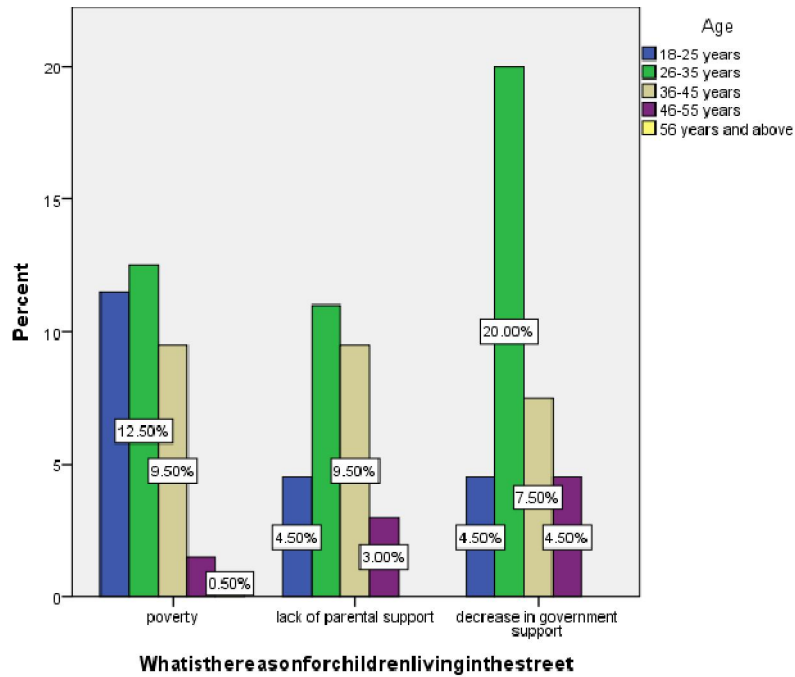
Figure 14



Legend

Figure 14 represents the income of the people and their response towards whether the government has taken initiatives to protect children in street.

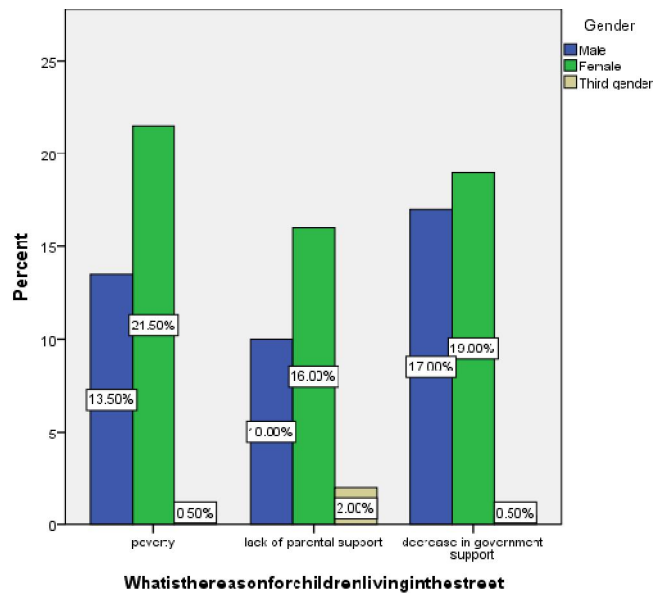
Figure 15



Legend

Figure 15 represents the age of the people and the response of the people towards children living in the street

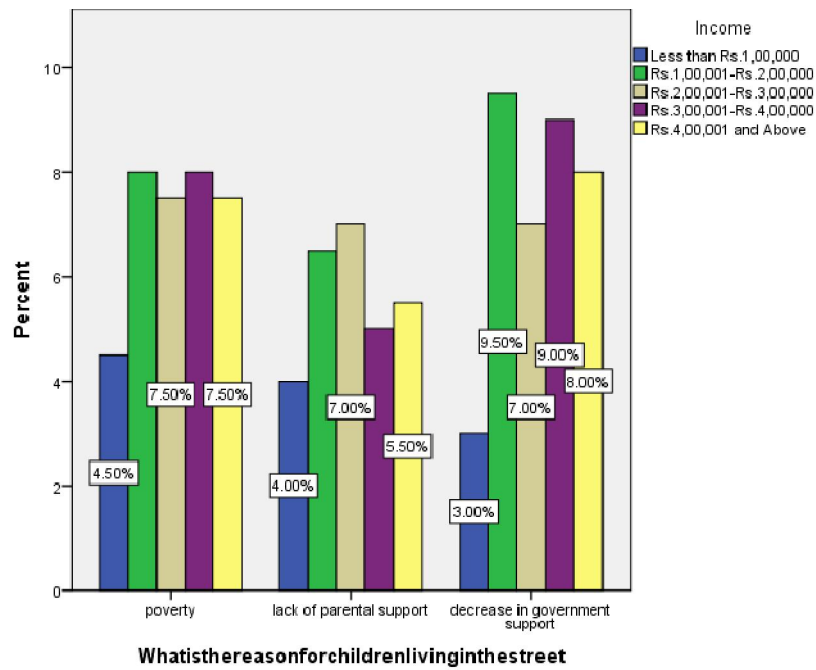
Figure 16



Legend

Figure 16 represents the age of the people and the response of the people towards children living in the street

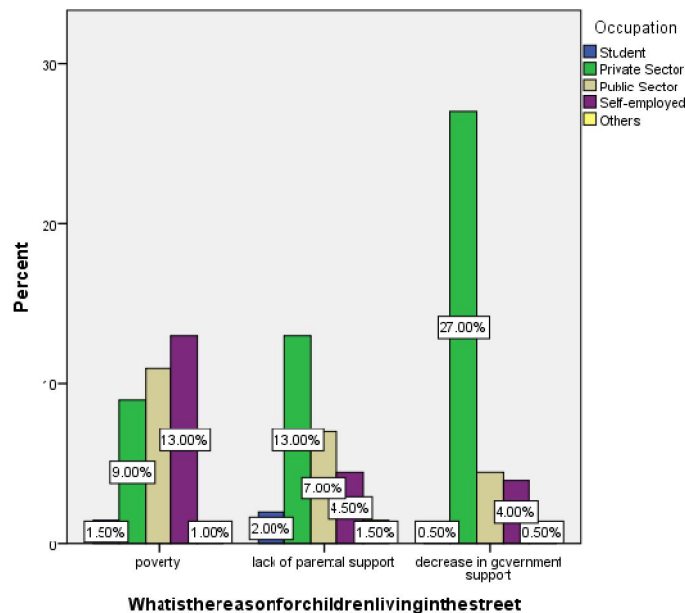
Figure 17



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Figure 17 represents the age of the people and the response of the people towards children living in the street.

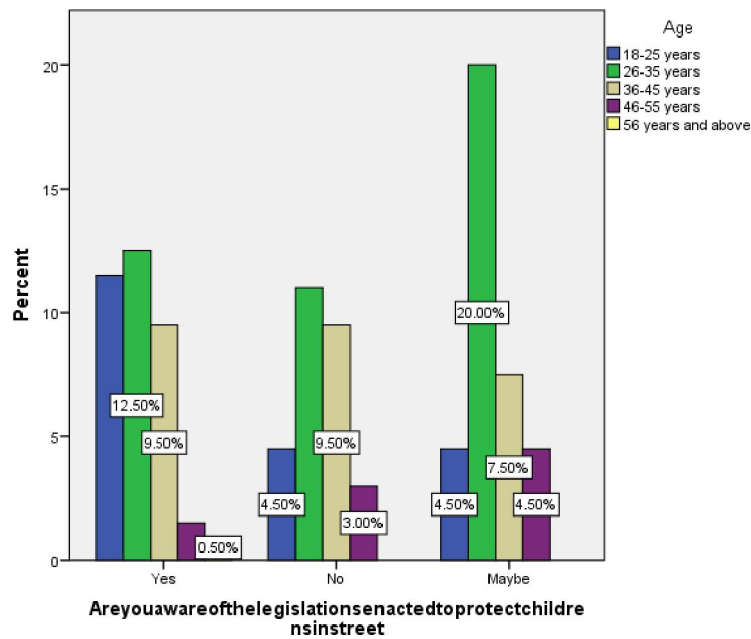
Figure 18



Legend

Figure 18 represents the occupation of the people and the response of the people towards children living in the street.

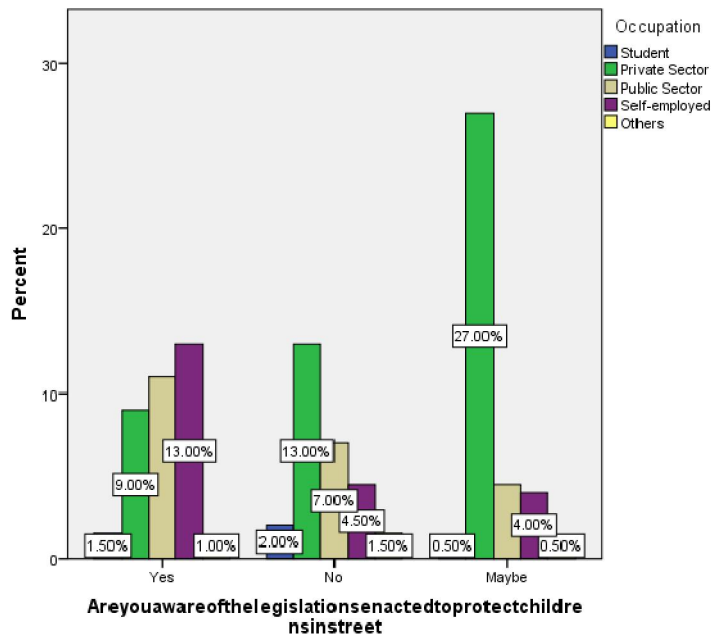
Figure 19



Legend

Figure 19 represents the age of the people and the response of the people’s awareness towards the legislation enacted to protect children in street

Figure 20



Legend

Figure 20 represents the age of the people and the response of the people’s awareness towards the legislation enacted to protect children in street

V. RESULTS

From fig.5 we can see the age of the people and their rating towards whether the state did its duty to promote children 22.17% if the people answered at a rate of 8 and 0.99% at a rate of 9 with respect to age this is because the policies and the legislations brought by the state are being effectively implemented and from fig 6 we can see that 21.18% of the respondents rated 8 and 1.97% of people rated 9 on state in promoting the children and from fig.7 we can see that 20.30% of the respondents rated 8 to the same question with respect to educational qualification and from fig.8 we can see that 21.50% of the respondents answered yes and 16.00% answered no to the question if they are aware of the legislations made with respect to gender and from fig.9 we can see that 7.50% of the people are aware of the legislations made and 33% of the people answered maybe with respect to income and from fig.10 we can see that 20.10% of the people are neutral on the same with respect to age and from fig.11 we can see that 20.00% of the people answered maybe to the question with respect to age on whether Government has taken initiatives to protect children and from fig.12 we can see that 21.50% of the children have answered yes to the same with respect to gender and from fig.13 we can say that 26% of the people have answered no to the question whether Government taken initiatives with respect to income and from fig.14 we can see that majority of the people nearly 27.00% of the people answered maybe with respect to occupation.

VI. DISCUSSIONS

From fig.5 we can see the age of the people and their rating towards whether the state did its duty to promote children 22.17% if the people answered at a rate of 8 and 0.99% at a rate of 9 with respect to age and from fig 6 we can see that 21.18% of the respondents rated 8 and 1.97% of people rated 9 on state in promoting the children and from fig.7 we can see that 20.30% of the respondents rated 8 to the same question with respect to educational qualification and from fig.8 we can see that 21.50% of the respondents answered yes and 16.00% answered no to the question if they are aware of the legislations made with respect to gender and from fig.9 we can see that 7.50% of the people are aware of the legislations made and 33% of the people answered maybe with respect to income and from fig.10 we can see that 20.10% of the people are neutral on the same with respect to age and from fig.11 we can see that 20.00% of the people answered maybe to the question with respect to age on whether Government has taken initiatives to protect children and from fig.12 we can see that 21.50% of the children have answered yes to the same with respect to gender and from fig.13 we can say that 26% of the people have answered no to the question whether Government taken initiatives with respect to income and from fig.14 we can see that majority of the people nearly 27.00% of the people answered maybe with respect to occupation.

VII. LIMITATIONS

The limitation of the study is the sample frame. Most of the respondents are from Tamilnadu and also by young adolescents and if this is precisely focussed on the affected parties and if responses are taken from them and in such cases the results would have been more clear and also the impact caused in the affected personalities can be shown.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Children living on the streets are among the most vulnerable groups in society, and they face a range of challenges that threaten their health, safety, and well-being. As such, they have specific rights that are protected by international law. The rights include right to protection, right to education, right to healthcare, right to food and shelter, right to identity, right to participation and right to non-discrimination. Children living on the streets are among the most vulnerable groups in society, and they face a range of challenges that threaten their health, safety, and well-being. As such, they have specific rights that are protected by international law. The rights include right to protection, right to education, right to healthcare, right to food and shelter, right to identity, right to participation and right to non-discrimination. These rights are protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which is an international treaty that has been ratified by almost every country in the world. These rights are protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which is an international treaty that has been ratified by almost every country in the world. In conclusion, protection and promotion of the rights of children is crucial for their well-being and development. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They also have the right to education, healthcare, and an adequate standard of living. Governments have a duty to create and enforce laws and policies that protect the rights of children, including those who are vulnerable and marginalized, such as children living on the

streets. It is important to provide them with access to basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, as well as social and emotional support to help them thrive. In India, the State has enacted several laws and policies to protect the rights of children, such as the Right to Education Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. However, more needs to be done to ensure that these laws are effectively implemented, and that all children, including those living on the streets, are able to access their rights. It is the responsibility of every individual and society as a whole to ensure that the rights of children are respected and protected. By doing so, we can create a safer and more equitable world for all children to grow up in.

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