

An Empirical Study on the Psychological Consequences of Child Hawking

E. Thamilarasan¹ and Mr. Varun. S²

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Saveetha School of Law, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Chennai, India
tamilarasan9889.tt@gmail.com and varunvaseegra@gmail.com

Abstract: *Hawking is referred to as an occupation engaged by children and young adults which involves selling of items or goods in the street. Despite India's recent economic progress, more than a third of the population still lives in poverty. Any family, society, or nation that does not have a good agenda or adequate plans for its children is inevitably bound to fail to ensure its own survival and continuity. The ability of a society's children and youths to function effectively as members of that society depends on their ability to function effectively socially, politically, economically, and religiously. The quality of a child's connections with his or her primary caregivers has the biggest impact on his or her socio-emotional development. The early nurture, experiences, and interactions that a kid has have a tremendous impact on his or her socio-emotional development. The main objective of study is based on the psychological consequences of child hawking. The method followed in the study is an empirical research method using a convenient sampling method. The sample size of the total number is 200. The independent variables used in the study are age, gender, occupation and place of living. The dependent variable used in the study 1. Do you know about child hawking? 2. Agreeability to forcing children to sell things on the street. 3. factors constituting child hawking. 4. Results of child hawking. The Aim the study is that according to people's view child hawking is to be considered as a serious maltreatment towards children and it completely violates the child's fundamental rights. It also results bt causing mental stress, lack of education, rape and sexual abuse and lot more.*

Keywords: Child, rights, maltreatment, violation, hawking, streets

I. INTRODUCTION

At birth, a child is defenceless and completely reliant on others for all of his or her requirements, which include personal uniqueness and originality, as well as strong and vocal requests for attention, care, and security. Any family, society, or nation that does not have a good agenda or adequate plans for its children is inevitably bound to fail to ensure its own survival and continuity. The ability of a society's children and youths to function effectively as members of that society depends on their ability to function effectively socially, politically, economically, and religiously. To put it another way, children must be able to relate to people, engage in politics, and contribute to the economy in order to adapt to the environment in which they find themselves. If society cherishes children's future development, this potential enablement can be realised. Hawking is referred to as an occupation engaged by children and young adults which involves selling of items or goods in the street. Despite India's recent economic progress, more than a third of the population still lives in poverty. Technical advancements in the IT sector have not resulted in the creation of jobs in impoverished areas. People in rural areas with limited educational opportunities frequently have no other option but to pull their children off school and put them to work to help feed their families. Children are sold to child traffickers by their fathers and mothers due to the severe circumstances of many families, or parents abandon their children in the countryside while looking for a job in a big city. These children are particularly vulnerable, and they are frequently exploited by human traffickers who force the boys and girls to work for pitiful salaries or for no pay at all. Children with well-developed social-emotional abilities are better able to articulate their thoughts and feelings, connect with others, manage frustration and disappointment more effectively, feel self-assured, form and maintain friendships more readily, and excel in school. The quality of a child's connections with his or her primary caregivers has the biggest

impact on his or her socio-emotional development. The early nurture, experiences, and interactions that a kid has have a tremendous impact on his or her socio-emotional development. The aim of the research is to study about child hawking and its effects on children. Street trading and child hawking have the potential to corrupt young minds in two major ways. Firstly, a child that misses school frequently fails to benefit comprehensively from the education system. This can mean poor performance in examinations and open the door to examination malpractices for those seeking a certificate at all cost. This in turn can lead to incompetent and unlearned graduates with consequences for the nation as a whole, including increased national illiteracy. Secondly, street trading and child hawking may also lead to behavioral patterns inimical to healthy citizenship. They may indulge in negative activities or criminal acts, such as prostitution, armed robbery, and pick pocketing and face imprisonment. (Humert, 2009 and Humphries, 2010). Many government policies have been put in place to curb the issue of child hawking and child labour, but all to no avail. This probably is as a result of the low economic status of most Nigerians who barely earn enough to feed themselves and their children. Oruwari (1996); Okojie (1987) and Aderinto (2000) linked the phenomenon of child hawking and educational development to socio economic status of poor parents who subsist at the periphery of the urban economy. Unemployment and poverty are the major causes of child hawking. These children are mostly seen at motor parks, streets and road sides under the harsh weather with blistered feet's while their mates are in classrooms attaining formal education. This spells out the gap between the rich and the poor. While others are desperate for the fruits of the womb, others give birth to many, and catering for these children becomes very difficult for them, which result to the older once to go into street hawking. Some of these children who hawk save what they earn and give some to their parents. Others say hawking and doing menial jobs helps them provide shoes and clothes for themselves. The Aim the study is that according to people's view child hawking is to be considered as a serious maltreatment towards children and it completely violates the child's fundamental rights.

1.1 OBJECTIVE

1. To study what child hawking is all about.
2. To determine reasons for the cause of child hawking
3. To discuss the psychological consequences faced by the child according to the adults perspective.
4. To examine the public's awareness on the results of child hawking.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The value of children as unique gifts from God has a worldwide acceptance. In Africa, including Nigeria, children are the yardsticks with which a man's wealth and success are measured. **Alegre A. (2012)**.

Furthermore, children ensure not only continuity of the society but also give parents their rightful position in the society (**Olaitan & Akpan, 2003**). This gift of children is so treasured that people go to extremes to look for it. Any marriage without children is most often bereft of happiness and in some cases; such marriages do not last or are usually epileptic in nature

Ugwu, 2007). There are variations in the conception and definition of a child. In view of this, child and childhood are defined differently by different cultures (**Melchiorre, 2004**). He further stated that children's ability and maturity vary so much that defining a child's maturity by calendar age can be misleading. **Cohen, (2005)**. There is no uniform definition of a child in Nigeria. Nigeria Labour Act, NLA (2003) defines a' child as a person under the age of 18 years. The International Labour Organization, ILO (1999) defined a child as an individual below 15 years of age **Igwe, O. M. B (1996)**.. In spite of the variations, in this context, children are seen as any human beings below the age of 18 years. Early childhood (0-6 years) has come to be recognized as a period of critical development of the human being. During this period love, care, good nutrition, a safe environment, stimulation, and encouragement are particularly critical for the individual's future life (**Dixon-fyle, 2002**).

Regrettably, in Nigeria, many children in the process of their development seem to experience exposure to street hawking. Hawking is referred to as an occupation engaged by children and young adult which involves selling of items or goods in the street (Voluntary Counseling and confidential Testing – VCCT, 2005). Street hawking is considered as the act of canvassing for sale, items carried by the hawker along the street, from house to house or in the public places in town (**Ikechbelu, Udigwe, Ezechukwu, Ndinechi, and Joseph-Ikechebulu 2008**). The culture of hawking did not

come from the blues; it has a historical offshoot. In seeking to situate the development of street hawking in Nigeria, a historical review of how street hawking came to stay in Nigeria becomes imperative. As it concerns the emergence of child hawking in Nigeria, **Olori (2009)** is of the opinion that street trading, especially by children, appears to have started with the introduction of an International Monetary Fund Structural Adjustment Plan (IMFSA) in the late 1980s, which led to the devaluation of the currency, a withdrawal of subsidies on items such as fuel, water, and electricity, and job cuts. Resulting from the above, any parents who could no longer afford school fees for their children withdraw them from the education system. In an effort to help families make ends meet, some of these children were engaged as domestic servants to wealthy households, as car washers and watchers, bus conductors, and street hawkers.

Ngwoke, D.U.(2000). At this point, it is very clear that the issue of child hawking is not as old as man, rather it started at a point in the history of human existence. Therefore, it is still believed that the principles of anything that has a beginning must have an end will one day be fulfilled in the issue of child hawking in Nigeria, if the right policy steps are taken (Olori, 2009). Child development refers to the biological and psychological changes that occur in human being between birth and the end of adolescence, as the individual progresses from dependency to increasing autonomy

Kail, 2006). Developmental changes, like growth in stature, involve fairly gradual and, predictable progress towards adult characteristics (**Patterson, 2008**). As it concerns the developmental stages of the child, **Ngwoke and Eze (2004)** noted that child at birth is helpless and dependent on others for survival; the child lacks the basic motor skill and coordination required for exploration of his environment, he confuses self with things and objects around, and is unable to use sound and symbols in a manner intelligible to those around. **Olaitan, C. B., and Akpan, A. E. (2003)**,

Parents and other caregivers play an important role in emotional development, but as a child world expands, other people in the social context also play a part in emotional development (**Corso, 2007**) Children with well-developed social-emotional skills are more able to express their ideas and feelings, empathy towards others, manage their feelings of frustration and disappointment more easily, feel self confident, easily make and develop friendships, and succeed in school (**Nelson, Erwin, and Duffy, 2001**). (**Banda, 2003**) It is characterised by the period at which children always play as a natural activity which contributes to their development which gives them satisfaction and enjoyment

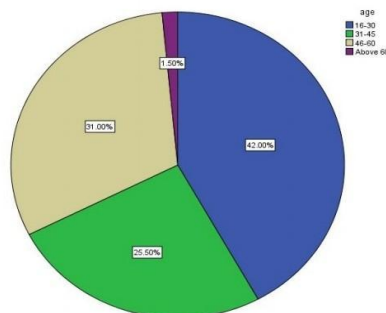
Ibiam, 2006). However, some children are denied the opportunity due to the exposure to street hawking. Emotion is the stir up of an individual, which involves both internal and external manifestation (**Uche & Ngwoke, 2004**).

III. METHODOLOGY

The research methods followed in empirical research have a total of **200 samples** and have been a convenient sampling method using Survey method . The sampling frame Taken here is a public area in and around Chennai ,Tamil Nadu The research method used is an empirical study and the tools used for analysis is SPSS The independent variables are age, gender education qualification, occupation and income .The Dependent variables are about child hawking And statistical tool used here are correlation and graphical representation .

IV. ANALYSIS :

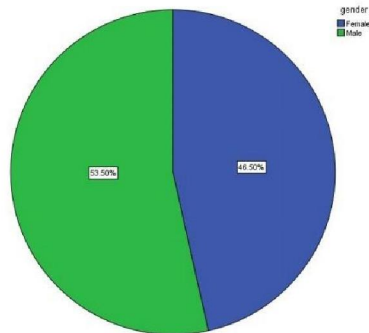
Fig-1



LEGEND

Shows the age distribution of the sample population and their opinion on psychological consequences of child Hawking

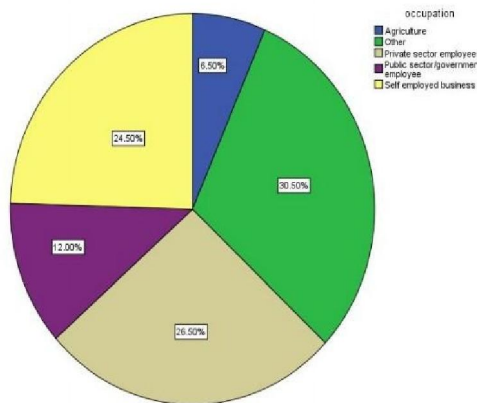
Fig-2



LEGEND :

Shows the gender of the sample population and their opinion on consequences of child Hawking

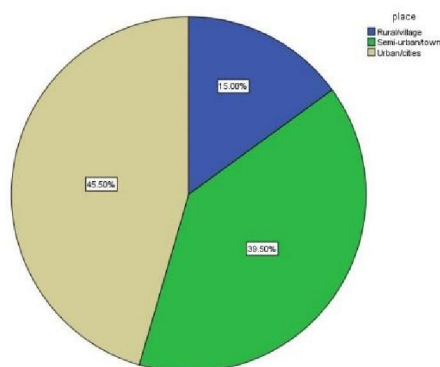
Fig-3



LEGEND :

Shows the occupation distribution of sample population and their opinion on consequences of child Hawking

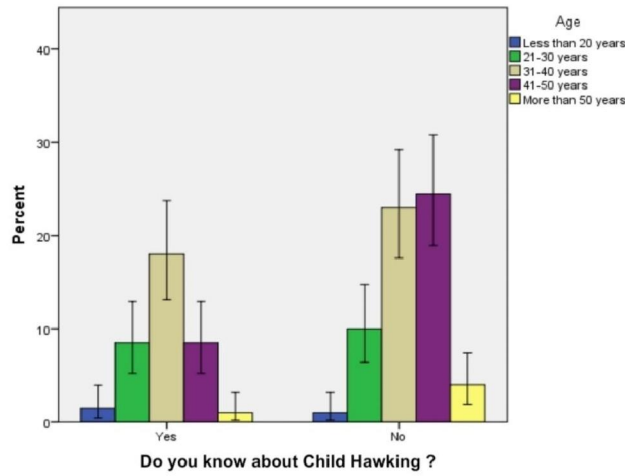
Fig-4



LEGEND

Shows the place of the sample population and their opinion on consequences of child Hawking
The guardians will learn from this study that hawking exposes children to armed robbery and will stop sending them to hawk.

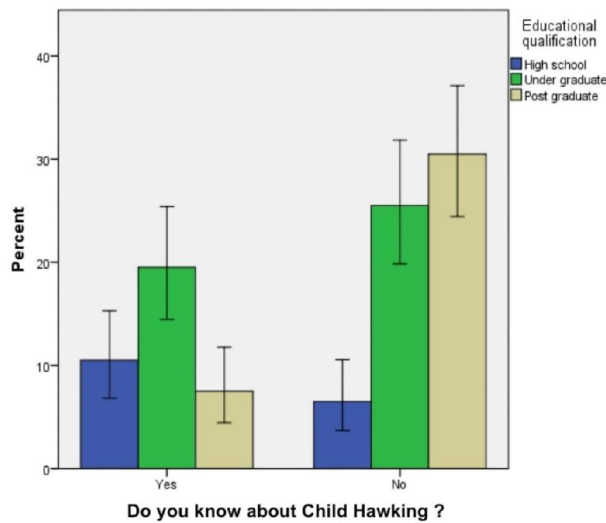
Fig:5



LEGEND

It shows the age distribution of respondents with their opinion on child hawking where the majority of the respondents have no knowledge about child hawking.

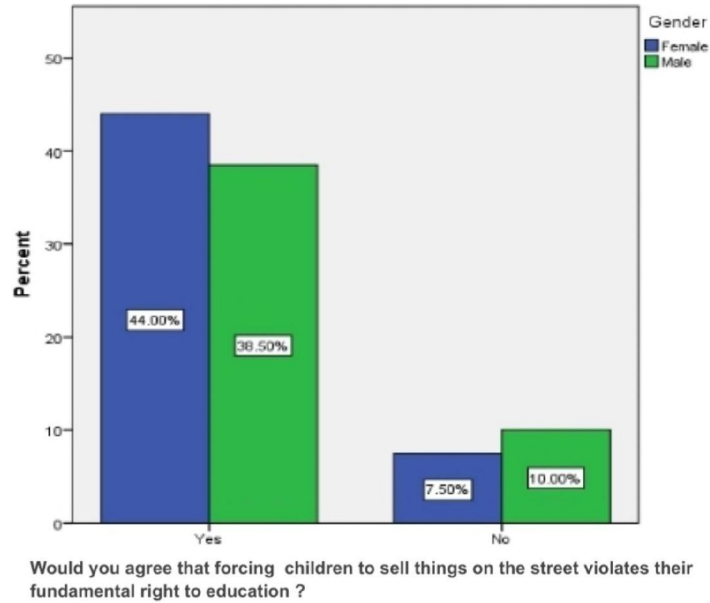
Fig:6



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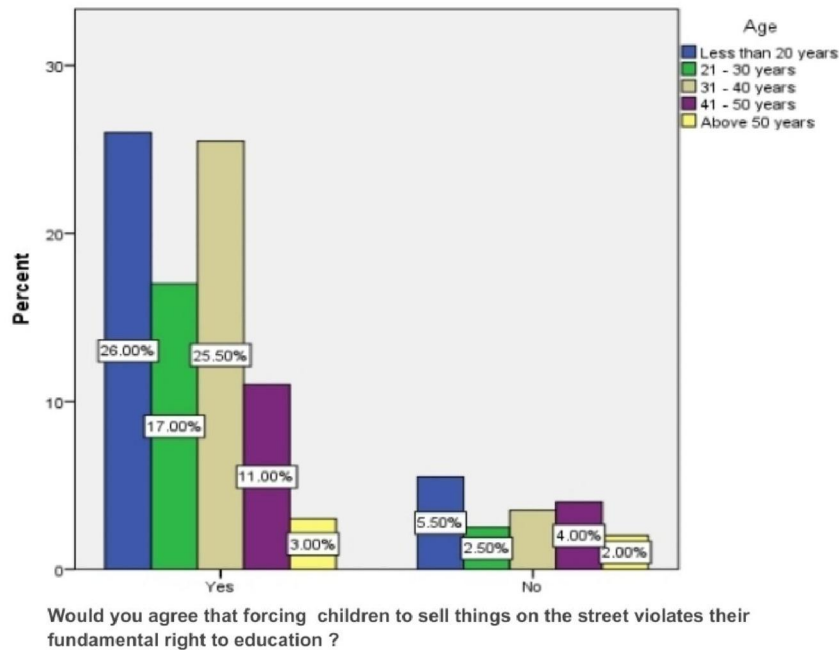
It shows the educational qualification distribution of respondents with their opinion on child hawking where the majority of the respondents have no knowledge about child hawking.

Fig:7



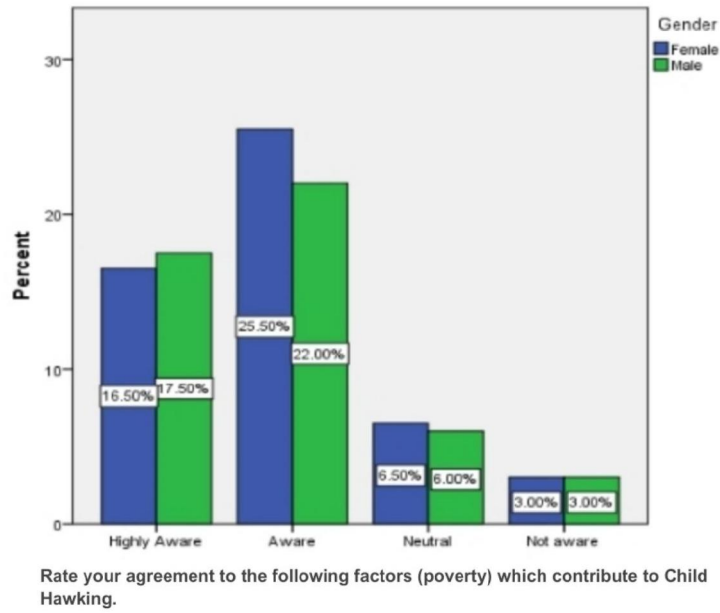
Legend:- It represent the Gender distribution of Sample population and

Fig:8



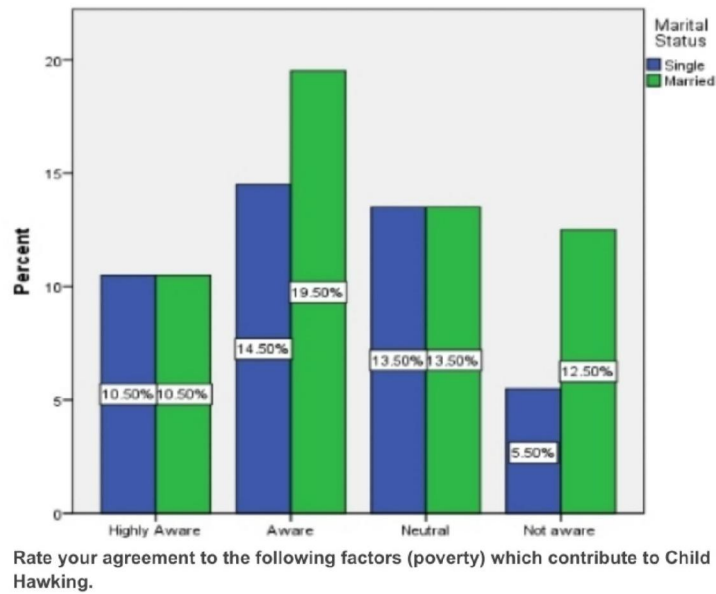
Legend:- It represent the Age distribution of Sample population and children sell things on the street violates their rights

Fig:9



Legend :- It represents the distribution of Gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about child hawking.

Fig:10



Legend :- It represents the distribution of marital status distribution of a sample population and awareness about child hawking.

Fig:11

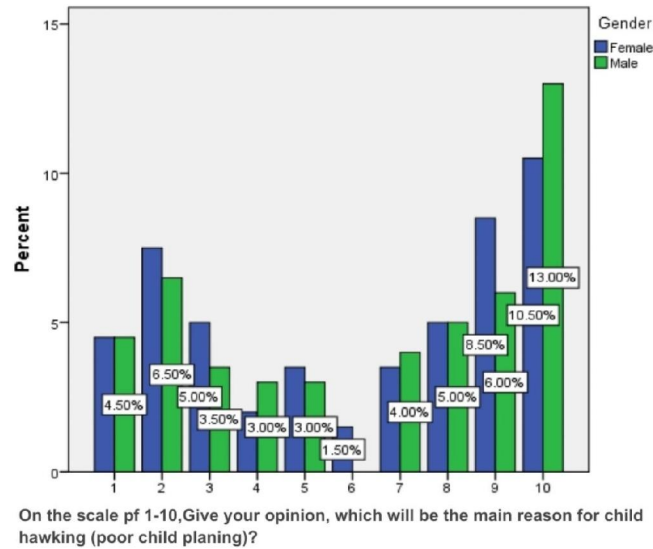


Figure 4 :- It represents the gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about poor child planning is the reason for child hawking

Fig:12

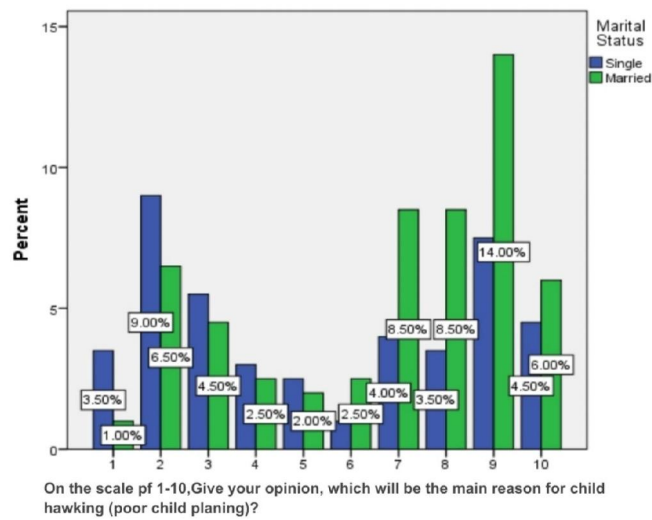
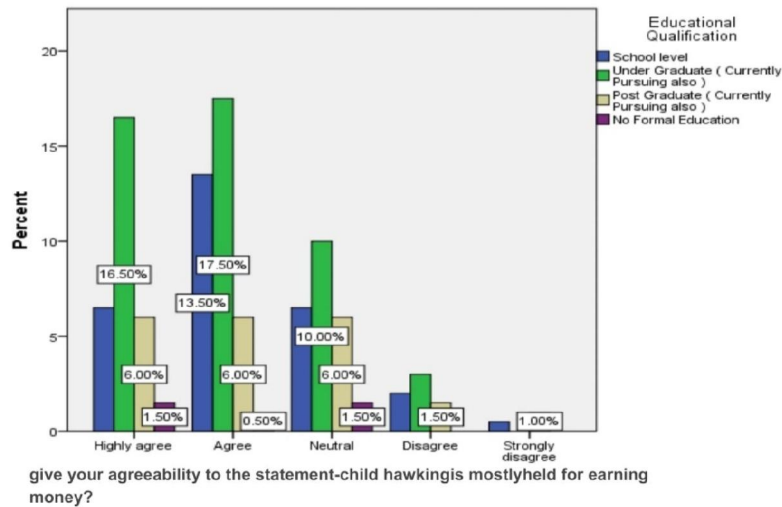


Figure 3:

It represents the Marital Status distribution of a sample population and awareness about poor child planning is the reason for child hawking

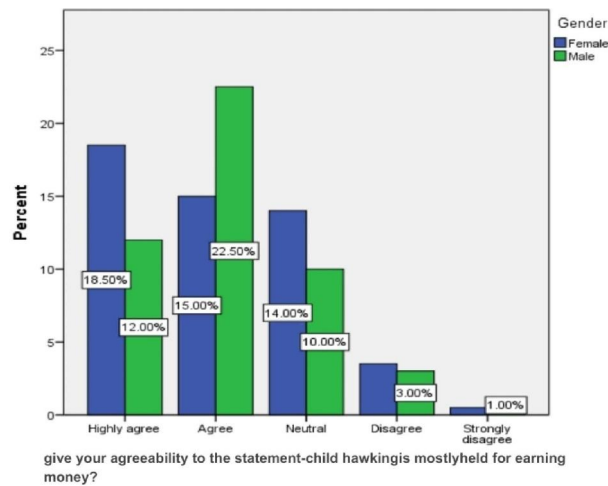
Fig:13



Legend:

It represents the educational qualification distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by undergraduate students

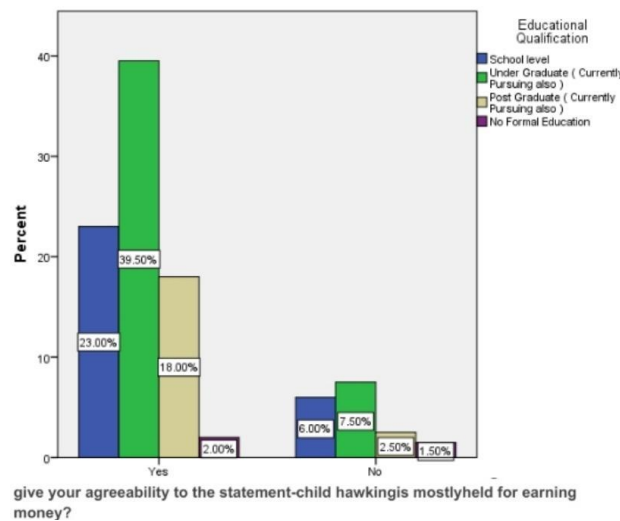
Fig:14



Legend:

It represents the gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by male

Fig:15



Legend:

It represents the gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by male

IV. RESULT

Shows the occupation distribution of sample population and their opinion on consequences of child Hawking Shows the place of the sample population and their opinion on consequences of child Hawking. The guardians will learn from this study that hawking exposes children to armed robbery and will stop sending them to hawk. It shows the age distribution of respondents with their opinion on child hawking where the majority of the respondents have no knowledge about child hawking. It shows the educational qualification distribution of respondents with their opinion on child hawking where the majority of the respondents have no knowledge about child hawkin It represent the Gender distribution of Sample population and children sell things on the street violates their rightsIt represents the educational qualification distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by undergraduate studentsIt represents the Marital Status distribution of a sample population and awareness about poor child planning is the reason for child hawking It represents the gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about poor child planning is the reason for child hawking It represents the distribution of marital status distribution of a sample population and awareness about child hawking. It represents the distribution of Gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about child hawking.It represents the gender distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by male It represents the educational qualification distribution of a sample population and awareness about the statement child Hawking is mostly held for money in that the most agreeable is given by undergraduate students

V. DISCUSSION

Many child labourers in India are working for starvation wages in textile factories, helping with the processing of carpets, or doing back breaking work in brick making factories and quarries. Other child labourers work selling cigarettes, called "Bidis", on the street for the tobacco industry. Children are also used for cheap labour in industries such as steel extraction, gem polishing and carpet manufacturing. A staggering number of girls are victims of child trafficking in India, whether through traditional bondage or through organized crime. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is among the worst forms of child labour and in India there are around 1.2 million children involved in prostitution Despite the recent economic boom in India, more than a third of all Indians still live below the

poverty line. The technical innovations and developments in the IT sector have not created jobs in poverty-stricken areas. People from rural areas with little education often see no alternative but to take their children out of school and put them to work to help feed their family. Due to the dire situation of many families, children are sold by their fathers and mothers to child traffickers or parents abandon their children in the countryside while they look for work in a big city. These children are especially vulnerable and are often exploited by traffickers who force the boys and girls to work for very low wages or nothing at all. The Indian Government enacted a law against child labour in 1993 prohibiting dangerous work or activities that could harm the mental, spiritual, moral or social development of girls and boys under the age of 18. However, child labour continues for a number of reasons, for example people exploit loopholes in the law which allows the employment of children if the work is part of a family business. Thus, having children sell cigarettes on the street could be considered legal if it is part of a family business. In addition, numerous business leaders, such as mine owners, hold political office and have considerable influence. Companies may not be interested in banishing the cheap labour from within their business operations.

In 2006 and again in 2016, the laws against child labour were tightened to ensure that children under the age of 14 were prohibited from working as domestic help or service staff in restaurants and hotels. However, child labour in family businesses remains acceptable. In addition, the law does not apply to 15 to 17 year-olds who are only prohibited from doing "dangerous" work. These laws also do not exclude activities such as field work where children are exposed to pesticides or physically exhausting work like carpet weaving.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the study:

1. There should be advocacy campaigns to educate parents and guardians on the dangers of hawking to the children.
2. There should be law enforcement agent to arrest parents and guardians who sent out school- age children the street to hawk goods.
3. Seminars, workshop, radio and television programmes, handbills, billboards etc are available instruments that can be used to educate people on the dangers of hawking.

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, that hawking influence social development of children. This is by exposing them to early drinking of alcohol, not allowing them time to play, visit their mates, exposing them to armed robber, early prostitution and wayward lifestyle. The study also revealed that hawking influence child's emotional development by making them fight easily, have low self-concept, lack self-confidence and to be sexually aware too early in life. The finding of this study has some implications for the government, parents, teachers, guardians, guidance counsellor and the pupils. The government, aware of the findings of the study, should enact law that will prevent the act. The study will enable the parents' to know that sending out their children to hawk influence their social/emotional development will make teachers show concern whenever. Despite the emotional trauma and physical dangers these vulnerable children face, little is being done to protect them or to discourage such practices. Every child deserves the right to education, care and peaceful assembly. It is necessary to secure a better future for children, the government needs to enforce labour regulations for children street vendors and support them with free and compulsory education so they have an alternative. When children are cared for and well trained they will definitely function well

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