



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Surgery

OPINION OF THE CHILDREN ON EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHILD CARE INSTITUTION IN REHABILITATION

KEY WORDS: Child Care Institutions, Effectiveness, Opinion of Children, Rehabilitation.

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ABSTRACT

Child care institutions have been established under Juvenile Justice Act, all across India for the children in need of care and protection. The study had the objectives to understand the socio-economic background of the children and opinion on the rehabilitation services. With the stratified random sampling, eight institutions were selected in two different districts (Mysuru & Dharwad) of Karnataka wherein four were government institutions and other four were of NGOs. Four institutions belonged to male children and other four belonged to female children. The interview schedule was administered after making sure the reliability and validity through two pilot studies. Total 306 children were covered in the sampling. Institutional stay, education, food, health, sanitation, religious activities, recreational activities, extracurricular activities, vocational training, relationship with family members and staff members, protection, and counseling were the dimensions covered in the interview schedule to meet the objectives. Data collected and statistical analysis reveal that there is significant difference between few different variables. The socio economic data reveal their status. The findings may be useful to understand the efficacy of the CCI in Karnataka. The suggestions given in the present paper may be helpful to ensure the betterment of CCIs.

Note: Identity of the children is kept confidential. Study has been done with all ethical considerations.

Introduction:

Children are considered to be the most precious asset of a nation. They need care, love and protection. They have an inborn right to justice, freedom and opportunity for development irrespective of their nationality, caste, creed and sex. The world has made an attempt to understand that the children are today's citizens of any country. The protection of their childhood could be reflected in the bright future of the country. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child acknowledges the primary role of parents and the family in the care and protection of children, as well as the obligation of the State to help them carry out these duties. The UN Convention consists of 41 articles, each of which details a different type of right. A common approach is to group these articles together under the following themes: Survival rights, Development rights, Protection rights, Participation rights.

Any country can claim to have developed only when there is welfare of all. All segment of the population need to be taken care by the country. Efforts need to be put to keenly understand the problems existing in any such segment. The current study has tried focusing on the child welfare. A special focus is given on the children in need of care and protection who are living in child care institutions. It is assumed by the researcher that by understanding the efficacy of these institutions, it would be appropriate to come up with suitable suggestions towards making CCIs more effective in meeting the needs of its inmates. It is also assumed that such research studies may help these institutions to improve their quality contributing to the welfare of the children in our country.

Review of literature:

Families and the community. Most of the children who live in institutions are not orphans but they have at least one or both the parents living. In a number of countries, 80–90% of institutionalized children have at least one living parent (Save the Children, 2009). Anecdotal evidence suggests that many parents consider their children's future more promising in the institutional setting than in the family (Save the Children, 2009).

SREEPRIYA (2008), institutional services for children in need of care and protection in Kerala exhibit very poor administration and service delivery. Most of the homes lack enough infrastructure, resources, trained and professional hands and proper facilities with regard to education, health, rehabilitation, entertainment and the like. All these lower the quality of services provided. The final result is that the target group becomes ever dependent and never self sufficient. It also does not provide them intellectual and emotional growth. Thus the services provided fail to attain its real goal.

The study conducted by **Saraswati et.al. (2008)** on Adjustment of Institutionalized Children stated that majority of institutionalized children had unsatisfactory adjustment indicating more problems in social, emotional and educational areas. These children were emotionally unstable, impatient, demanding, disobedient, less accommodating, shy, timid, sensitive, insecure, aggressive, worried, troubling, lacking concentration and interest in studies, poor memory which put impediment in their adjustment in the institutional living and in effective utilization of its services.

Kumar (2001) emphasizes that there is a need for social work intervention to test its efficacy improving child and adolescent mental health. This necessitates establishing linkages with psychiatric social workers, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and nurses to facilitate professional and paraprofessional social workers through training and guidance.

NIPCCD (2001) infrastructure facilities available in children institutions differed significantly from institution to institution. A marked difference was also reflected amongst government run, and private institutions. Private institutions were found to be having relatively better infrastructure facilities (like good building, ownership of building, cleanliness etc), the govt run institutions were found to be having better hostel facilities compared to other institutions.

Methodology:

Objectives:

- To understand the opinion of the children to get deeper understanding about effectiveness of the services available for the children in the child care institutions.
- To contribute knowledge to improve the effectiveness of the Child Care Institutions.

Sampling Technique:

The researcher intended to adopt two types of sampling techniques for the present study. In the first type it was stratified random sampling wherein the inmates between 12 and 18 years of age group living in the selected institutions would be the respondents for the present study. Both boys and girls children's homes of two districts i.e, Mysuru and Dharwad (both government and NGOs) were considered as the place of study. In total eight institutions have been taken as sampling from two districts of Karnataka in which four were government run institutions and another four were run by NGOs. In total 306 children were included as sampling from all eight Child Care Institutions.

Tools used data collection:

Primary data were used. For the primary data, self prepared interview schedule, observation method were used to collect data from the respondents and for secondary data project reports, government reports etc. were referred. Tools are administered to collect the information regarding the personal background of the children, nature, quality & quantity of the services provided by the CCI, physical, mental, psychological, social and educational needs of the inmates and the services provided to fulfill these needs. Level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries, present condition of the inmates.

Data analysis:

Both descriptive data analysis and statistical tests of the data are undertaken. Statistical 't' test is used in order to compare the data between two different groups. Data are presented in table.

Table 1: Comparison of government and NGO children with respect to total opinion scores and its component scores by 't' test (Overall)

Variables	Government children			NGO children			t-value	p-value
	Mean	SD	SE	Mean	SD	SE		
Total opinion scores	251.20	46.74	3.55	284.89	27.80	2.41	-7.3691	0.0001*
Opinion on institutional stay scores	23.93	6.21	0.47	29.99	4.23	0.37	-9.6606	0.0001*
Opinion on food scores	35.10	8.49	0.65	38.59	4.89	0.42	-4.2279	0.0001*
Opinion on health scores	29.12	6.69	0.51	30.86	4.92	0.43	-2.5232	0.0121*
Opinion on recreation scores	20.95	5.86	0.45	23.72	6.31	0.55	-3.9633	0.0001*
Opinion on co-curricular activities	15.24	5.26	0.40	16.80	4.28	0.37	-2.7729	0.0059*
Opinion on religious activities	15.37	3.22	0.25	16.71	2.30	0.20	-4.0769	0.0001*
Opinion on sanitation scores	16.17	4.26	0.32	20.38	2.61	0.23	-10.0560	0.0001*
Opinion on relationship with family members scores	34.12	11.31	0.86	36.52	5.06	0.44	-2.2813	0.0232*
Opinion on relationship with staff members scores	23.13	6.39	0.49	25.81	4.59	0.40	-4.0878	0.0001*
Opinion on education scores	18.35	7.96	0.61	23.38	2.90	0.25	-6.9283	0.0001*
Opinion on other services scores	9.03	2.69	0.20	9.43	2.68	0.23	-1.2890	0.1984
Opinion on materials scores	10.69	5.63	0.43	12.70	5.74	0.50	-3.0714	0.0023*

*p<0.05

Table 1 reveals the following findings:

Opinion on institutional stay, food, health and recreational services:

An observation of the table number 4.02 reveals the following facts, on total opinion of the children on all dimensions in terms of Comparison of government and NGO children. The Mean scores obtained on the institutional stay by the children of government institutions is 23.93, SD is 6.21 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 29.99 and SD is 4.23. The calculated 't'score is ('t'=-9.6606; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **quality of the food** by the children of government institutions is 35.10, SD= 8.49, whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 38.59 and SD is 4.89. The calculated 't' score is ('t'=-4.2279; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **health related services** by the children of government institutions is 29.12 SD is 6.69 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 30.86 and SD is 4.92. The calculated 't' score is ('t'=-2.5232; P>0.0121*) which is significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **recreational services** by the children of government institutions is 20.95 SD is 5.86 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 23.72 and SD is 6.31. The calculated 't' score is ('t'=-3.9633; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

Opinion on services related to co-curricular activities, religious activities, sanitation related services:

The Mean scores obtained on the **co-curricular activities** by the children of government institutions is 15.24 SD is 5.26 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 16.80 and SD

Ethical considerations:

- Children were informed about the purpose of research study before start administering the interview schedule.
- Information collected by the researcher has been only used for research purpose. The confidentiality has been strictly practiced.

Limitations:

- The study only includes the children aged between 12 to 18 years.
- Many children were looking here and there to ensure there was no one to see them while giving their responses during the interview conducted by the researcher. This is may be because of the fear they have on the staff members that if they give opinion against them, they would later be punished.
- Sampling included only two districts of Karnataka state.

is 4.28. The calculated 't' score is ('t'=-2.7729; P>0.0059**) which is significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **religious activities** by the children of government institutions is 15.37 SD is 3.22 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 16.71 and SD is 2.30. The calculated 't' score is ('t'= -4.0769; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **sanitation related services** by the children of government institutions is 16.17 SD is 4.26 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 20.38 and SD is 2.61. The calculated 't'score is ('t'= -10.0560; P>0.0001*) which is significant.

Opinion on the relationship with family members & staff members, educational services, materials given and other rehabilitation related services:

The Mean scores obtained on the **relationship with family members** by the children of government institutions is 34.12 SD is 11.31 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 36.52 and SD is 5.06. The calculated 't' score is ('t'=-2.2813; P>0.0232*) which is significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **relationship with staff members** by the children of government institutions is 23.13 SD is 6.39 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 25.81 and SD is 4.59. The calculated 't' score is ('t'= -4.0878; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **educational related services** by the children of government institutions is 18.35 SD is 7.96 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 23.38 and SD is 2.90. The calculated 't' score is ('t'= -6.9283; P>0.0001*) which is highly significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **quality of materials** by the children of government institutions is 10.69 SD is 5.63 whereas the

children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 12.70 and SD is 5.74. The calculated 't'score is ('t' = -3.0714; $P > 0.0023^*$) which is significant.

The Mean scores obtained on the **other rehabilitation services** by the children of government institutions is 9.03 SD is 2.69 whereas the children of NGOs have obtained the Mean scores of 9.43 and SD is 2.68. The calculated 't'score is ('t' = -1.2890; $P > 0.1984$) which is not significant.

Conclusion:

Most of the reviews of literature project the child care institutions as negative for the children's development in all dimensions. However, the current research study has revealed that the opinion of the children about the child care institutions is rather positive. As the data were interpreted with the 't' tests, there is significant difference in the opinion between different groups taken in the study. These differences give avenues for the future researches. The dimensions which have received negative opinion by the children could be considered carefully by the CCIs and the concerned authorities so that there may be improvements in the quality of the services being provided. All this may help the effectiveness of the child care institution in the near future.

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