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**A DETAILED STUDY OF BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL
PROBLEMS FACED BY ORPHANAGE IN INDIA
“HIGHLIGHTING POST COVID ERA”**

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ABSTRACT

Up to 45% of orphaned children and adolescents in orphanages struggle with behavioural and emotional issues. The intervention of emotional and behavioural issues in orphan children and adolescents has been the subject of several literature studies. Based on the type of group method employed in published publications, there are few reviews of therapies for emotional and behavioural problems in the orphan group. The lack of a family's love and care, orphans and other vulnerable children and adolescents (OVCA) housed in institutions are more likely than others to experience behavioural and emotional issues. Studies examining the psychological wellbeing of these kids in India are few. For these kids, frequent screenings for behavioural issues, emotional issues, hyperactivity, and peer issues are necessary. Several multicentre studies must also be conducted due to the dearth of available data to provide a full overview of these issues. Researchers in the field of mental health have always placed a high priority on studying children and adolescents. Research has focused on behavioural issues like hyperactivity and conduct issues in individuals as well as emotional issues including sadness, anxiety, and difficulties interacting with others.

Keywords: Adolescents, orphans, vulnerable children, behavioural, emotional, psychological, hyperactivity.

INTRODUCTION

In the world of eyes, like a forested sight, the person who lost the soul of his life, roaming in the streets without any help. In the heavy blow of sun, nobody notices my pain, all they look with pity eyes for a day, And for them life moves, but what for me, I stand like a day dreamer, wishing to get a brighter life, what about my soul, which cries everyday night. Just hope that everything becomes right and fine, and I may get a brighter life.

These are some lines which describe the pity condition lived by children when they become orphans.

Orphanage, a place in where the children without parents are cared for and even housed. The word itself gives us meaning and definition and we easily get to the point. If a child has no parents because they died or lost custody, the child is regarded as orphan. Orphans are parentless. They don't have anyone to guide or take care of. They completely lose their supporting units. It is the prime and soul duty of these orphanages to care and nourish these little kids, to look after them until they get placed in homes or get adopted by someone else.

It might sound very deep and vivid thinking about these children that they don't have their guiders to guide them. Teach them what life is. Make them fulfil all the desires of life. Make them stay connected to the surrounding, etc. But since, there are non-governmental organisations which are made to help these children to learn all the moves of life starting from the letter 'A' to the letter 'Z'.

The situation of orphanages remains very vivid and problematic since the ancient times. Not talking about past, I may prefer you to know the recent problems faced by orphanages post covid era. According to the data published by 'Ministry of Women and Child Development', there are nearly 577 children across the country who have become orphan since the second wave of pandemic hit the

country. Many field specialists suggest that it is due to higher mortality rate of the young adults. The age estimated is between 30 to 40 years. Even there are cases when all the family members have been affected by the virus and children are left alone. They have no one to look after their needs and necessities. It increased the number of orphans in India, where the number was already high. Hence, there came a need to increase the number of orphanages here.

According to UN, India has 29.6 million orphaned since 2018. Even the number is more than the total population, that exists in Sri Lanka. ¹

There are different challenges which are faced by the orphanage, and they highlight different situations that worsen the condition.

CHALLENGES FACED BY ORPHANAGES

1. Shortage of Funds - The major issue and problem faced by the orphanages are the funds. They face the heavy crisis of funds. Being a nongovernmental organisation, the government issues the funds extremely late and even a small amount does not cater the needs. Hence, the first challenge faced by the orphanage is the funding issue.²
2. Lack of facilities - The government even does not provide the adequate facilities like proper educational facilities, health, sanitation to these kids apart from the funds provided.
3. Proper awareness campaign - The government does not take enough measures to drive the awareness campaign and even to encourage increased adoption of orphan kids so that they can overcome the challenges faced by the orphanages.
4. Survey - The government does not ensure that the orphanages are working well through the surveys. The agencies do not act very steadily or properly in order to improve the condition of orphanages. ³
5. Lack of foreign investments- The orphanages even fail to take help from the foreign agencies like the other organisations who aim in providing funds for public welfare.

WAYS TO OVERCOME WAYS

1. Adequate funding - If the government ensures proper funding, then the situation might get under control or may improve.
2. Better Surveillance - If the government takes initiative to hire another set of officials apart from the service for looking after the situation, it might prove especially useful. This will not include the corruption indeed .

¹ Posted on (2021, June 1), Orphaned Children in India – Explained, pointwise, ForumIAS.

<https://blog.forumias.com/orphaned-children-in-india/>

² Posted on (2021, June 1), Orphaned Children in India – Explained, pointwise, ForumIAS.

<https://blog.forumias.com/orphaned-children-in-india/>

³ Posted on (2021, June 1), Orphaned Children in India – Explained, pointwise, ForumIAS.

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3. Promote other investments- The orphanages might take some steps to encourage the investments by other set of organisations.
4. Awareness campaigns- The orphanages must launch the awareness campaigns so that society becomes aware and there must be an increase in the number of adoption cases.

Recently I paid a visit to one of the orphanages, and I was very much surprised to see the location of the place. Located at about 20 kms from the city surrounded by jungles. The place is typically very much inward. As I entered there, I felt very amazed by the warm greetings of little kids. Hearing the stories from the owners made me stand like a dump.

He told me that a kid was literally taken from the center of, the jungle, like area where he was thrown just two or three hours after his birth.

Another story was two sisters whose parents were killed by the terrorists and both were raped. The girls were brought to the orphanages. Like this, there were about many stories that made me think what the life these kids are surviving through.

One thing that hit me, was there was no facility of television, we in today's generation use cell phones single handily, but these children even do not have a television to get connected, through the world. The major problem they were facing the post covid era was the shortage of funds. They even did not have enough to meet the requirements of the grocery. This was surprising. Even they said that they have two centres working, but only one of it is receiving fund but at a period of eight to twelve months. There was a huge gap, and it further increased the difficulty.

They further added that the children go to the school, but the government school failed to provide much care and concern, and students face

much difficulty to complete their education. Hence, the proportion of students taking jobs is nearly 0.1% in case they do not get adopted. These are some challenges I found personally which the orphanages are facing and this is not for one place or one location.

I don't know, but I think the awareness within the people is also not much as compared to what is should be. People if they take initiative and work towards adoption then the whole story will finish. The numbers in orphanages will reduce and automatically they will face quite a less challenge as compared to the previous times.

Highlighting post covid times-

In the post covid times, the situation I guess is further worsened. As mentioned earlier the problems like funding issue remains the same. Apart from it, the increasing number of orphans led to increase in number of orphanages.

CONCLUSION

Hence, we find that there are many problems faced by the orphanage. even there exists problems, but there are solutions to it. We can ensure and spread awareness as present-day youth. we can organize clubs for imparting donations. These will give them financial help. Even some sort of programmes like the programs related to the adoption can be launched. It will reduce the burden of the orphanages. According, the individual, a narrow and broad concept launched by the government can overcome this challenge. It can provide a relief to some extent. At least, it will overcome the shortcomings indeed. If taken seriously, we can overcome the problem to some extent.