



A Study on Orphan and Vulnerable Children and their Prospects in Child Care Institution of Nagaon District, Assam

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Date of Submission: 26-01-2021

Date of Acceptance: 08-02-2021

ABSTRACT:

Orphan and vulnerable children are one of the most fragile sections of society. These sections of society are greatly in need of care and protection. In every country of the world children are sent to children's home or other types of child care institution for various reasons. Every child's circumstances and causes are different which force them to admit in child care institution. The major problems faced by the children are like poverty, orphan, broken family, child trafficking, child abuse, child labor etc which force them to admit in child care institution. Children in institutional care refer to care, protection and social reintegration of children in institutional settings where care and guidance are provided under the juvenile justice act (2015). Children lodged in institutional care are separated from their parents for which it leave a deep mark on the development of children, but juvenile justice act try to focus on the areas of development of children for the best interest of the child. This paper is an attempt to look into the prospects related with vulnerable children in the institutional care.

KEYWORDS:

Orphan;
Children;
Children Home;
Child Care.

I. INTRODUCTION

Children are the most vulnerable section of society. The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mandates that every child has a right to a family and that "children have the best chance of developing their full potential in a family environment. Unfortunately for large numbers of children, having a happy and supportive family is like a distant dream. Due to different reasons like death, desertion, poverty, abuse at home

[1]. UNICEF (2009) report that "across the world, children continue to be separated - temporarily or permanently - from their families. Many factors contribute to this such as conflict and displacement, HIV/AIDS, endemic poverty, emotional or behavioral difficulties, family conflict and breakdown, abuse and neglect, and migration" Scholvinck (2004) elaborates that children and families especially in poverty, experience 'lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods. This gets linked to hunger and malnutrition, ill health, and limited or lack of access to education and other services. There is increased morbidity and mortality from illness. Homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environments further compound the problem. Lastly due to all of these there is social discrimination and exclusion. Child growing up in such a situation is vulnerable, neglected, and marginalized. Majority of the children who come within State or NGO care or within the juvenile justice system are primarily victims of child poverty. They are separated from their families/guardian and several experience trauma, hardship, and/or abuse. While family is ideally best suited for a child, in the absence of family or family support, the State is mandated to provide care and protection to the child. The State has to initiate appropriate measures through laws, policy, schemes, and programmes for the development of vulnerable children. The development of any nation depends upon the development of children. Children's development is as important as the development of any other material resources. The development of children in one nation depends upon the care taken by the nation. In today's world it is found that children have to face various problems like child trafficking, child marriage, child abuse, child labor, poverty etc. For these kind of problems children are considered



as the most vulnerable section of society, and for that the concept of child care and child care institution are emerged in the society. Children lodged in child care institution are separated from their parents or from their families. Therefore the process of development inside the child care institution is become a challenging work. The juvenile justice act (2015) tries to cover the areas which are related with their development. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines child as “a human being below the age of 18 years. Juvenile Justice Act (2015) defines Child as “any person who has not completed eighteen years of age.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are mention below:

- (a) To analysis the roles of staff for the development of children in child care institution.
- (b) To analysis the facilities of child care institution and its affect upon the development of children

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This paper is prepared by the help of both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data are collected from the children of the institution with the help of interview schedule and the secondary data are collected from the monthly report, individual care plan, and guidelines of the institution.

Nagaon District is selected as the field of the research. There are ten child care institution in Nagaon District and from them two child care institution from the district is selected as the area of research. Nagaon is one of the promising districts in the sector of child protection and child development. There are several numbers of child care institution in Nagaon which are doing promising work in the sector of child protection. The district occupies both government and non-government organization (NGO) run home for the Children. For the study one government run children home and one non-government run children home is taken by using purposive random sampling. For the proposed study 40 respondents has been selected by using the purposive sampling method from the Government run child care institution and one non- government run child care institution of Nagaon. Out of 40 respondents each child care institution covers twenty (20) numbers of respondents.

IV. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Based on the different objective of the paper, the findings are arranged and elaborate systematically. The government run child care institution of Nagaon is known as the state home for women and children as a whole because it has three home inside the campus, these are women home, children home, observation home. The home occupies 23 bighas of land which is surrounded by boundary walls along with iron fencing for the safety of the inmates. For observing the movements of the inmates Closed Circuit (CC) Camera has been set up in the entire campus. The women home was established in the year 1958 and the intake capacity is 100. The children home was established in the year 1964 and its intake capacity is 100. The observation home was established in 1987 and the intake capacity is 50. One auditorium, one medical Centre and one garden are available inside the premise. The home is run by the Social Welfare Department, Assam in collaboration with State Child Protection Society, Assam.

Butterfly Children Home is located in Rangaloo which is situated in the outskirts of Nagaon. The home was established on 6th July 2012 and registered under Juvenile Justice Act. The name of the home is Butterfly Children Home and it is home for boys. The intake capacity of the home is 50. This paper tries to focus on the prospects of children within the child care institution.

V. VIEW OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING ROLE OF STAFF

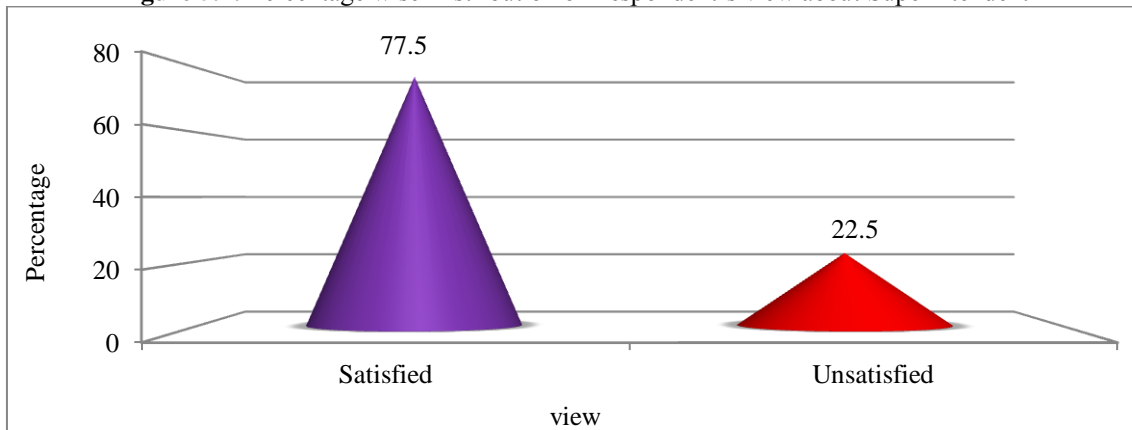
To find out the prospects of overall development of children it is important to analyze the role of employees in child care institution. The employees have to perform their duties for the best interest of the child. During the field work it is found from the view point of the respondents that, the staffs are tried to deliver their duty sincerely for the development of the children.

5.1 Role of Superintendent in Child Care Institution

The person-in-charge/superintendent is responsible for the reception and admission of the child in the Child Care Institution (CCI). Superintendent maintains the institution with love, care and protection and takes every kind of responsibility for the smooth running of the institution.



Figure 5.1: Percentage wise Distribution of Respondent's view about Superintendent



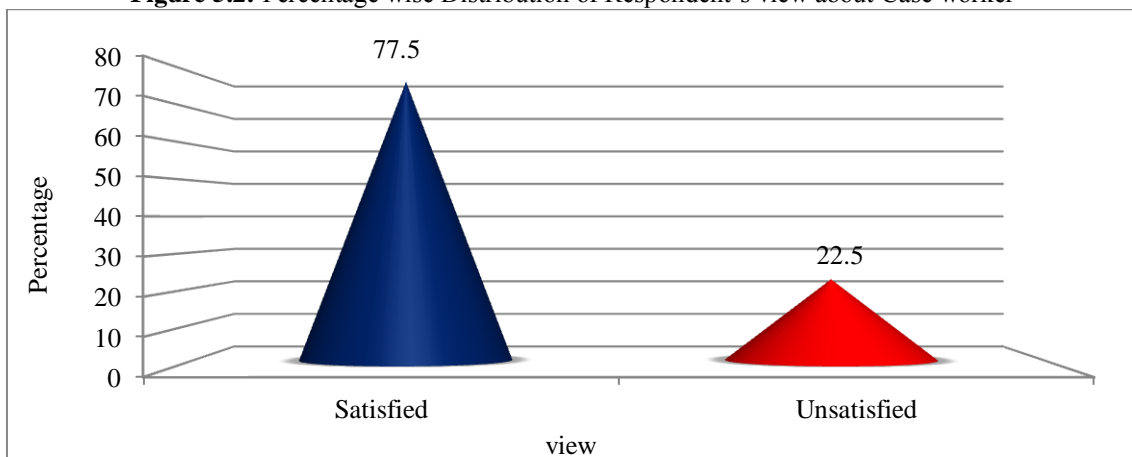
Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above diagram it is found that 77.5% children are satisfied with the role of Superintendent and 22.5% children are unsatisfied with the role of Superintendent inside the child care institution.

5.2 Role of Child Welfare Officer or Case Worker in Child Care Institution

Child welfare officer follows the rules of child welfare committee and takes necessary follow up action for the development of children. Child welfare officer try to know the background of children in the institution and take necessary steps for the further development of children.

Figure 5.2: Percentage wise Distribution of Respondent's view about Case worker



Source: Primary data collected from the field

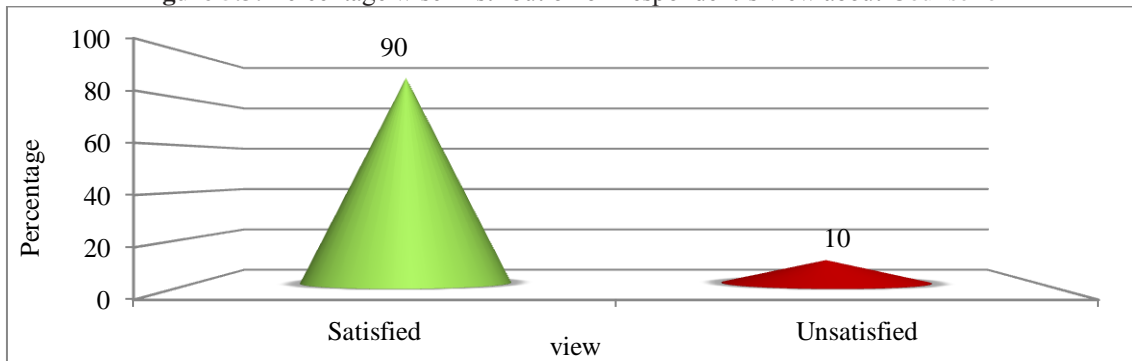
From the above mention diagram it is found that 77.5% children are happy with the role of child welfare officer inside the institution, 22.5% children are not satisfied with the role of case worker inside the institution.

5.3 Role of Counsellor in Child Care Institution

The counselor try to know the background, mental status of the children and take necessary follow up action for the behavior modification of the child. Counselor provides inputs about children in the meetings of child care institution.



Figure 5.3: Percentage wise Distribution of Respondent's view about Counsellor



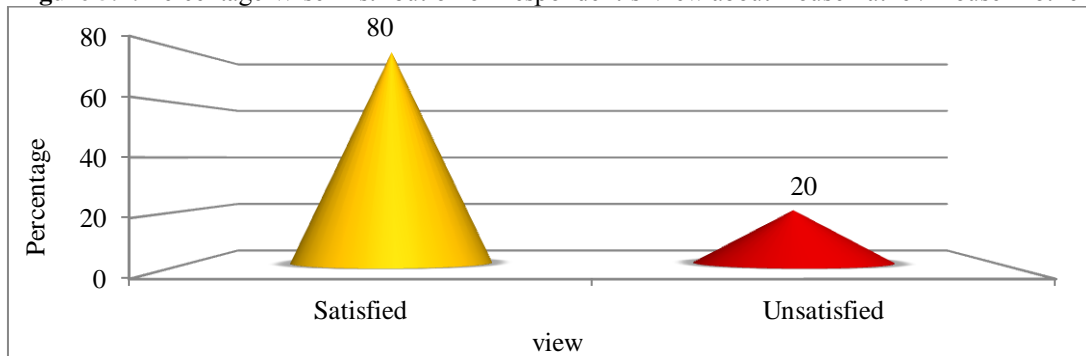
Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that 90% children are satisfied with the role of counsellor and 10% children are unsatisfied with the role of counselor inside the child care institution.

5.4 Role of House Father / House Mother

House father or house mother takes care of children of the child care institution. In a child care institution children have to maintain daily routine as per the instruction of the institution. House father or house mother report the daily status of the child to the superintendent and maintain discipline among the children of child care institution.

Figure 5.4: Percentage Wise Distribution of Respondent's View about House Father/ House Mother



Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that 80% children are satisfied with the role of house father or house mother in the institution and 20% children are unsatisfied with the role of house father or house mother inside the child care institution.

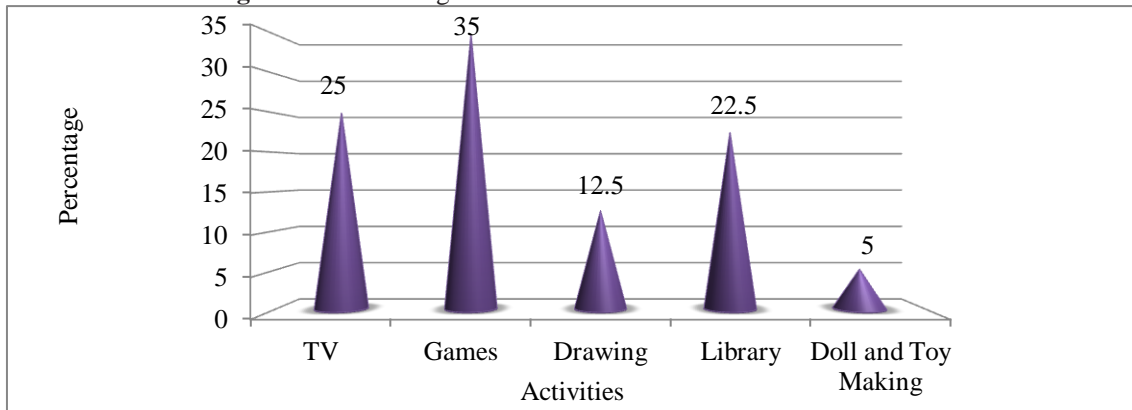
VI. THE FACILITIES OF CHILD CARE INSTITUTION AND IT'S AFFECT UPON THE CHILDREN

The development of children is highly associated with the steps taken by the child care institution. Apart from the role of the staff members it is also important that how the child cares institution provide space for the all round development of children or how the child care institution helps in the educational, mental and social development of orphan and vulnerable children.



6.1 Children and Their Recreational Activities

Figure 6.1: Percentage wise Distribution of Recreational Activities



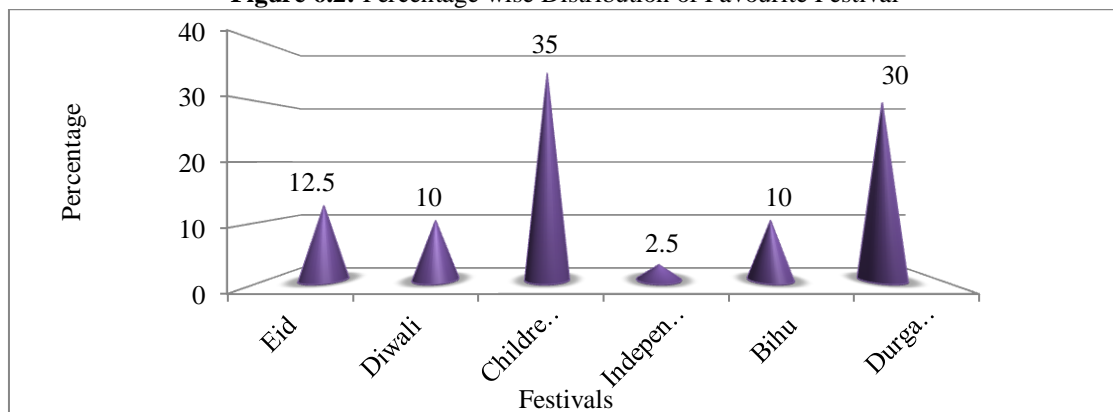
Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that, 35% children are choose games as their free time activity, 25% children are prefers watching television in their free time, 22.5% children prefers

go to library as their first choice in their free time, 12.5% children prefers drawing as their free time activity and 5% children prefers doll and toy making as their free time activity.

6.2 Preference of Festivals within the Child Care Institution

Figure 6.2: Percentage wise Distribution of Favourite Festival



Source: Primary data collected from the field

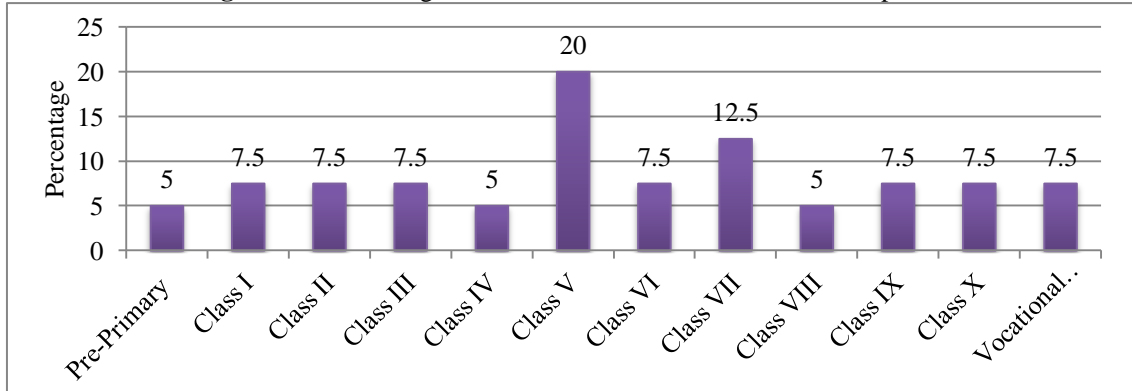
From the above mention diagram it is found that 35% children choose Children Day as their favorite festival within the child care institution, 30% children choose Durga Puja as their favorite festival, 12.5% children choose Eid as their

as their favorite festival, 10% children prefers Diwali, 10% children prefers Bihu as their favorite festival and 2.5% children prefers Independence Day as their favorite festival.



6.3 Children and Their Educational Development

Figure 6.3: Percentage wise Distribution of Educational Development



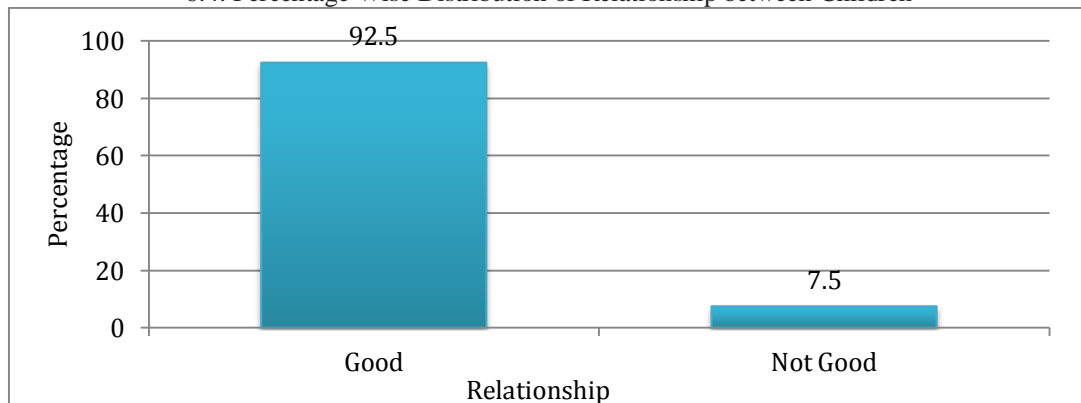
Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that 20% children reads in class V from the child care institution, 12.5% children reads in class VII from the child care institution, 7.5% children reads in class class X, 7.5% in class IX, 7.5% in

class VI, 7.5% in class III, 7.5% in class II, 7.5% in class I, and 7.5% attend vocational classes from the child care institution. 5% reads in class VIII, 5% reads in class IV, and other 5% attend pre-primary education from the child care institution.

6.4 Relationship between Children

6.4: Percentage Wise Distribution of Relationship between Children



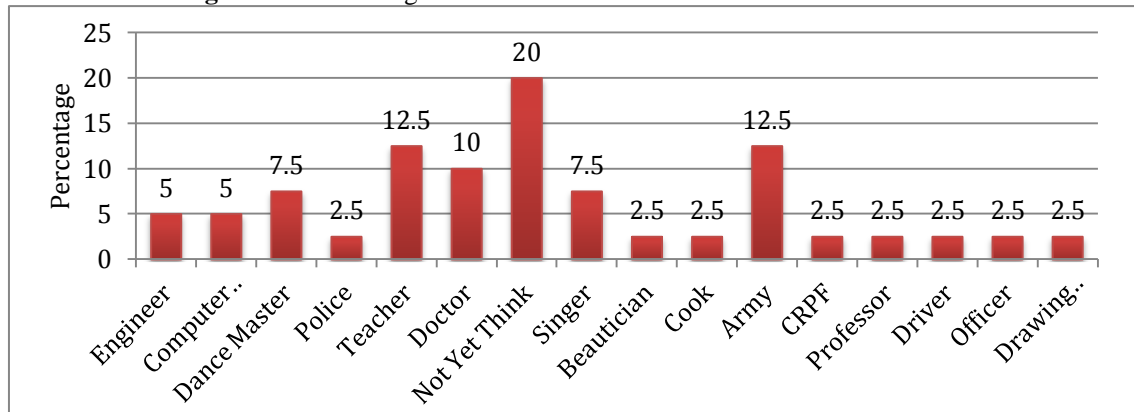
Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that 92.5% children maintain good relationship with other inmates of the institution and 7.5% children relationship with other inmates is not good inside the institution.



6.5 Future Ambition of Children

Figure 6.5: Percentage Wise Distribution of Future Ambition of Children



Source: Primary data collected from the field

From the above mention diagram it is found that, 20% children yet not think about the about their future ambition, 12.5% children wants to become army and another 12.5% children wants to become teacher, 10% children wants to become doctor, 7.5% children wants to become dance master, 7.5% children wants to become singer, 5% wants to become engineer, 5% wants to become computer teacher, 2.5% children wants to become police, 2.5% wants to become beautician, 2.5% prefers cook, 2.5% prefers CRPF, 2.5% prefers professor, 2.5% prefer driver, 2.5% prefer officer and 2.5% wants to become drawing teacher in their future.

VII. CONCLUSION

Orphan and vulnerable children are greatly in need of care and protection. War, disease, poverty, natural disaster, abandonment and accidents are among some of the leading causes of orphan children [2]. The children those who live in child care institution do not found equal opportunity as with the children those who live with their family. The children those who live in child care institution are deprived from the parental as well as from the family care. It is important to give them opportunity by which they can assimilate with the mainstream of the society. Whatever prospects they found from the child care institution it may not be sufficient for the children therefore it is responsibility of the government and civil society organization to give them scope for their all round development in the society.

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Article from Edited Volume

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