

Child Care Institutions: A Review

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Abstract: Institutional care is the oldest form of substitute care. Institutionalization is always offered to children who are deprived of one or more factors of adoption to the normal life, their handicap being Physical, Mental or Social. There are different Institutions which focus on children's services on the Treatment, Care and Protection, Education and Rehabilitation. The Concept of child welfare services has changed with the changing concept of social science. Helpless and destitute children have been the object of ancient religious charity. In today's age the term 'child welfare' has assumed a broader meaning. He is no longer treated as a stature of adult but a child in his own rhythm.

Keywords: Children, Child Care Institutions, Emotional, Orphanages, Social.

1. INTRODUCTION

Children are our future and most precious resource. They are the mirror of our nation. In India, a number of Child Welfare Programmes are organized. Child Welfare includes every aspect of the Child's Life. It is concerned with his growth and development. Children grow and develop in a favorable climate, which provides and satisfies their physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs. These needs are satisfied at home in the family, where the parents provide care and guidance to their children. Within the family through its ties of love, affection and emotional security the child gets to learn self-discipline, social values and the code of society.

The community contributes and supplements the role played by family in terms of meeting the developmental needs of the children. The community's contribution is in providing education, recreation, physical and mental health, etc., through Schools, Day-Centers, Holiday Homes, Recreational and Hobby Centers and Balwadis. In schools along with educational facilities; library facilities, health services, and social work services are provided.

Institutional care is the oldest form of substitute care. In 19th century, Destitutes and Orphans were kept in Orphanages and Asylums. Institutionalization is always offered to children who are deprived of one or more factors of adoption to the normal life, their handicap being Physical, Mental or Social. There are different Institutions for Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children which focus their services on the Treatment, Care and Protection, Education and Rehabilitation of the inmates. The Institutions for Socially Handicapped Children also have the same kind of service Programmes but more emphasis is given on providing facilities for their proper growth and development. Socially handicapped child may be a Delinquent, a Destitute, an Orphan, or an abandoned one.

In ancient and medieval India, caste system and joint family were the two institutions which provided help to the Uncared Children. Self-sufficiency of the village economy also contributed towards the welfare of these children. During British period, service programme was based on Charity and it included Educational Programmes, Medical Care, and help for Needy Women and Children. After Independence, the Government has started taking interest in the fields of the Child Welfare. There have been certain efforts for the upliftment of Welfare of Children, by helping the existing welfare agencies through grants and by establishing new agencies. The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) was established which have been interested in the development of Child Welfare Agencies. There is another organization like All India Women's Conference which contributes to the development of Child Welfare. In spite of these efforts, the Child Welfare in India has not yet reached a satisfactory stage.

The Orphan child in India has been looked after by the joint family or relatives for centuries. Today, the problem of his care arises because the joint family is disappearing. The acute conditions of poverty and existence of organized and ruthless agencies force the exploitation of such children by making them Beggars, Exploiting their Labor or introducing them to Vices at an early stage.

Children who are institutionalized at an early age often demonstrate delays in Emotional, Social and Physical development. Institutional care may affect a child's ability to make smooth transitions from one developmental stage to another throughout his/her life. Children brought up in institutions may suffer from severe Behavior and Emotional Problems, such as Aggressive or Antisocial Behavior, have Less Knowledge and Understanding of the world, and become Adults with Psychiatric Impairments. Finally, children raised in institutions are at Risk for Learning Problems—such as Poor Reading Ability and have more Difficulty with Critical Thinking, establishing Cause-and-Effect, and Impulsivity.

However, the effects of institutionalization are not uniform and are dependent on other factors. The extent of suffering is not the same for every child who is institutionalized. The differential effects are due to Child Characteristics, Basic Personality, Attractiveness, Prenatal Risk Factors, Caregiver characteristics, Institutional characteristics, and the Child's History.

The Concept of child welfare services has changed with the changing concept of social science. Helpless and destitute children have been the object of ancient religious charity. But the recognition that all the children are in need of help including the destitute is a recent phenomenon. In today's age the term 'child welfare' has assumed a broader meaning. It is not only concerned with the care of the maladjusted and delinquents, but incorporates the social, economic and health activities of public and private agencies, which secure and protect the wellbeing of all children in their physical, intellectual and emotional development "Scientific progress in the fields of anthropology, biology, medicine, psychology and social research during the past hundred years has changed the attitude of society towards the child. He no longer is treated as an adult person only smaller in stature but as a human being with his own different rhythm of life and with his own laws of biological and mental growth. We are aware that the child is following drives, social forces and motivations which are basically different from those which govern adult behavior". Generally children up to the age of fourteen years are treated in this category from where the period of youth starts. However, the declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations in November, 1959 defined children as individuals up to sixteen years of age. And now, in present declaration of the Rights of Child, defines children as individuals up to eighteen years of age.

2. JUSTIFICATION

There are different types of Institutional Care such as Foster Home Care, Day Care, Adoption and Institutional Care, for giving Services to the Children who needs help because of the above mentioned reason. The child may be placed in an Institution, immediately when any of the above emergencies arise. One of the methods of fulfilling this need of the child is the foster home placement. The child stays with a family where the foster parents looks after the needs of the child as of their own child, for which they are sometimes paid either by parents or by social welfare agency or by both. It may be made clear that the foster home placement is necessary till a time when either the child is able to go back to his family or he is adopted by other family or he goes to an institution.

Children worldwide are not in the best of conditions. They are denied their right to basic survival and a healthy life. Their population may be increasing at an unprecedented rate, yet their mode of survival is going from bad to worse daily.

The investigator has thus selected certain Child Care Institutions in Northern and southern parts of Gujarat State. The investigator wanted to know how these CCIs work, i.e. in terms of Facilities provided to children, services carried out for children, how children are brought to the Child Care Institutions, what problems do they face after coming to the Child Care Institutions, etc.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A literature review is a text of a scholarly paper, which includes the current knowledge including substantive findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature reviews are secondary sources, and do not report new or original experimental work. Most often associated with academic-oriented literature, such reviews

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are found in academic journals, and are not to be confused with book reviews that may also appear in the same publication. Literature reviews are a basis for research in nearly every academic field. A narrow-scope literature review may be included as part of a peer-reviewed journal article presenting new research, serving to situate the current study within the body of the relevant literature and to provide context for the reader. In such a case, the review usually precedes the methodology and results sections of the work.

Producing a literature review may also be part of graduate and post-graduate student work, including in the preparation of a thesis, dissertation, or a journal article. Literature reviews are also common in a research proposal or prospectus.

Following are the review of literature included for the study:

Pappas. (2012), “Early neglect alters kids' brains”, Until the 1990s, the orphanages of Romania were notorious for their harsh, overcrowded conditions. Those perceptions have been borne out in new research that finds growing up in such an environment can change the brain for good. Institutionalization in early childhood can alter a child's brain and behaviour in the long run, the research finds. Fortunately, early intervention can stave off the effects. The study, conducted with children growing up in Romanian orphanages, reveals changes in the brain composition of kids who spent their first years in institutions versus those who were randomly assigned to foster care.

Roy (2010), from Mumbai wrote the article “India Journal: What Is a Child?” Various child protection laws define a child according to different ages and activities. “If you have children below 14 working legally, how will you implement Right to Education?,” says Komal Ganotra, a specialist in advocacy and training with Childline India Foundation, which runs a phone help line for children.

Arumughan (2006), conducted a study titled, “A study on the problems faced and opportunities available to persons with physical disabilities in Vadodara city”, with the objective to check the level of awareness among the respondents, to assess if persons with disabilities are aware of the schemes developed for them and whether they are able to utilize them, to find out what are the problems faced by persons with disabilities in life especially in the age-group of 18-45 years, to find what are the opportunities available and visible to persons with disabilities especially in the age-group of 18-45 years.

Out of the total 1936 persons with physical disabilities between the age-group of 18-45 years residing in the City of Vadodara (according to a survey conducted during September 2002 to July 2003 carried out by National Association for Blind), 75 persons were selected for the study. These sample included 25 orthopedically handicapped, 25 blind, while 25 hearing impaired individuals. Stratified Sampling Method was used to select sample. Data was collected by primary source: visiting homes or work place and interviewing the respondents; and secondary source: National Association for Blind (NAB), United Way of Baroda (UWB), books, websites, etc. Interview schedule was used to collect data.

The study was limited to aspects of Education, Employment, Mobility, and Accessibility, Social Life, Self-Concept in lives of persons with disabilities, deals only with the issues of persons with disabilities in the age-group of 18-45 years, respondents were not cooperative so the researcher had to make efforts by explaining them that this interview will be useful to tell people about the problems they face, help of the family members was required in cases of hearing impaired respondents, this is the first attempt of research by the investigator.

Paul (2005), wrote the article “The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-being of the Next Generation”. The writer investigated how children in households with both biological parents differ from children in households with only one biological parent. He shows that children growing up with two continuously married parents are less likely to experience a wide range of cognitive, emotional, and social problems, not only during childhood but also in adulthood. Although it is not possible to demonstrate that family structure causes these differences, studies using a variety of sophisticated statistical methods suggest that this is the case. Amato then asks what accounts for the differences between these two groups of children. He shows that compared with other children, those who grow up in stable, two-parent families have a higher standard of living, receive more effective parenting, experience more cooperative co-parenting, are emotionally closer to both parents, and are subjected to fewer stressful events and circumstances.

Finally, Amato assesses how current marriage-promotion policies will affect the well-being of children. He finds the interventions that increase the share of children who grow up with both parents would improve the overall well-being of

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U.S. children only modestly, because children's social or emotional problems have many causes, of which family structure is but one. But interventions that lower only modestly the overall share of U.S. children experiencing various problems could nevertheless lower substantially the number of children experiencing them. Even a small decline in percentages, when multiplied by the many children in the population, is a substantial social benefit.

Contractor (2003) from Ahmedabad wrote the article "A New Lease of Life for Orphans" The honorary secretary of Gujarat State Voluntary Co-ordinating Agency for Adoption, Natubhai Patel, says that on an average 25-30 orphaned children from Gujarat find homes in foreign lands every year. Many childless couples from Spain come to India or go to China or Russia for adoption.

Patel (1974) conducted a study, "A study on Juvenile Delinquents in Observation Home in Junagadh", with the objective to study: different social factors that contribute to Juvenile delinquency, the economic factors, the impact of Juvenile Delinquency on the offender and his family. Out of approximately 117 children of the Observation Home in Junagadh, 30 children were taken for the study. Purposive Sampling Method was used to collect data and tools like interview schedule and observation schedule were prepared.

It was found that majority of them 16 (53.3%) were from the age group of 16-18 yrs. while rest were below 16 yrs. of age. Out of the 30 respondents, 26 of them had discontinued schooling, while 4 were still attending school. Among these 4 who were still studying, 3 were at primary level and 1 was at secondary level. Children discontinued their studies due to lack of interest in the case of 11 respondents, economic difficulty with 6 and 3 to their parents force had to leave schooling and other reasons were either due to sickness or failure in examinations. Out of total 30, 4 were not doing any job but studying, 6 were involved in farming and grazing cattle, 11 were labourers and bus cleaners followed by 3 were engaged as waiter and cook. Among the rest 2 were not doing anything whereas 4 were engaged in petty jobs like hawkers or servants. The study revealed that majority of them i.e. 11 delinquents came from large families of 7 to 8 members, followed by 8 from small families consisting 3 to 4 members and only few from middle size families having 5 to 6 members. As far as the housing structure is concerned, it was found that most of them i.e. 16 lived in semi pakka houses and 8 in kachcha while the rest in pakka houses. Majority of them had smoking habit, next was gambling and drinking liquor as well as indulgence in sexual activities. The types of offences commonly seen among the respondents were thefts, selling and transporting illicit liquor, gambling and pick-pocketing. Family discord was seen in 22 cases out of 30. As the economic level decreased, the number of respondents increased.

The study was limited in the context of time. As the respondent had collected the information during vacation, most of the children had gone home. It would have been much better if home contacts were made.

4. CONCLUSION

Review of Literature revealed that studies on Child Care Institutions and Special Needs Children have been conducted in different parts of India as well as abroad. Most of the studies used tools like Interview Schedule, Questionnaire, and Observation Schedule as a method of data collection. The sample from studies ranged from 15 children to 1070 children. No recent studies on Child Care and its Institutions were found. But, related articles were available on internet.

TREND ANALYSIS:

- Studies included are from India and U.S.
- The sample in the study ranges from 30 to 75 children.
- Tools like Interview Schedule and Observation Schedule were used.
- Methods like Stratified Sampling and Purposive Sampling were used to collect the data.
- Negligence of child causes problems related to social, cognition and emotional aspects.

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