

**ADVANCE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARCHIVE JOURNAL**Available Online: <https://assajournal.com>

Vol. 04 No. 01. July-September 2025. Page#.4463-4476

Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17361417>**Factors That Push Children on Street in Pakistan****Mr. Allahdad Lashari**

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hamadullah2001@yahoo.comdean.social@usindh.edu.pk**Abstract**

This study, deal with inside the domain of Sociology, has been conducted to investigate the central causes donating to the accelerating growing of street children in urban zones of Pakistan. The research was grounded on a descriptive survey, using a purposive sampling method to select 380 participants, including 310 boys' and 72 girls. Primary data was collected by surveys through closed-ended, and structured questions. The results show that the problem of street children in Pakistan is extremely rooted in multifaceted socioeconomic, household, and educational matters, rather than single choice. The demographics indicates a large share of street children are boys', aged 12–14 years, and commonly from dual or extended families through high necessity ratios.

Correlation analysis indicated strong positive relations among the growing statistics of street children and both family poverty ($r=0.524, p<.001$) and household violence ($r=0.546, p<.001$). Family dysfunction similarly presented a statistically significant, poor positive correlation ($r=0.296, p<.001$). Equally, the correlation among personal wishes for freedom and street children was statistically insignificant ($r=0.081, p=.117$), proposing street life is not a first choice but a response to challenging backgrounds. Key drive factors identified comprise severe family disturbance and destroyed homes, with 90.4% indicating parent's separation. Economic deficiency is significant, as 71.9% of children decided they met food shortage at family, convincing children to labor to addition household income. Less parental schooling and negligible occupations more worsen financial weakness. Educational marginalization is striking, with above 90% of both respondents (Boys'/Girls) not go to school due to financial problems or school violence.

Key Words: Street children, Poverty, Family dyfactions, Domestic Violence, Peer Presure, Economic Factors, Social Influences, Drug Addictions.

Introduction:

Street children create a universal social matter found in inner-city areas globally, troubling equally developing and developed countries. In Pakistan, a quickly rising economy on the worldwide phase, the dilemma of street children has develop gradually marked. Around 1.2 million street children suffer a life anxious with challenges on the streets of inner-city Pakistan, wherever they not only grown but also involve in various forms of employment for survival. These children absence essential adult care, directing their daily fights without satisfactory security or supervision.

This set of children is between the maximum noticeable appearances of child labor, frequently involved in events such as minor occupation, shoe polishing, carrying goods, begging, and trash gathering. Several definitions have been offered by diverse researchers and scholars, with the United Nations providing a broadly acknowledged explanation. According to the UN, street children are well-defined as 'any boy or girl for whom the street, in its widest intellect, has become their usual residence and/or cause of livelihood, ineffectively sheltered, overseen, or focused by liable adults' (Lusk 1992 p. 294).

In Pakistani inner-city areas, these street children can be seen at lorry stops, tombs, in hotels, beside roadsides, and involved in numerous income-generating events. Their persistence is noticeable by a lack of household support, with some frequent house at night, while others tolerate the strict situations of sleeping on walkways, in vacant under construction buildings, community parks, graves, railway stations, below flyover bridges, or even at their spaces of work. The current condition in Pakistan finds 1.2 million children handling through life on the streets, driven there by issues such as economic deficiency, household conflicts, and destroyed families (Rana, H. & Chaudhry, H. 2011). This study, located inside the territory of Sociology, goals to deliver a thoughtful of street children in Pakistan. The main focus is on discovering the root reasons behind the accelerating statistics of street children, describing the phenomenon itself, and shedding light on the contests these children face every day. The research investigates into the factors faced by street children, their persistence mechanisms, and the social effects of their dilemma.

Behind being a societal problem, the phenomenon of street children signifies a substantial harm of future human investment. These children not only dull the nation's global appearance but also distract from educational recreations, skill growth, and social norms. This study assists as a valuable implement for understanding the causes contributing to the growth of street children, measuring their present circumstances, and articulating strategies aimed at ameliorating their condition and decreasing their statistics.

1.2 Statement Problem of Problem:

Exact statistics about the specific quantity of street children remain indefinable, contributing to the difficulty of addressing this pervasive issue. While it is stimulating to identify the exact statistics, estimates propose a substantial existence of child employees in Pakistan, with expectations ranging nearby 10 million. Universally, the statistics of street children is projected

to be between 10 to 100 million, with nearly 40 million in Latin America, 25-30 million are in Asia, and above 10 million in Africa. The United Nations has stated a shocking 270 million street children universal. In Punjab, province of Pakistan has of 130,000 street children. UNICEF confesses the inherent trouble in counting the quantity of street children, declaring that the number likely spreads into the 10 of millions universally. Unauthorized sources estimate the total of street children in Pakistan at 1.2 million, while worldwide estimations by the United Nations show 100 to 140 million street children universal. South America has 40 million street children, Asia is home of 25 million, and Africa bearing 10 million, with Western and Eastern Europe also facing this challenge. Forecasts for the future are shocking, with an expected increase to 800 million street children universal by the year 2020. Main urban areas in Pakistan, comprising Hyderabad, Karachi, Sukkur, and Larkana, stated significant statistics of street children, paying to the projected 1.2 million on the streets of the state's main cities. South Asia, has admitted as bearing nearby of the maximum statistics of street children universally, with around 70,000 children alive on the streets nationwide. In urban areas Sindh only is estimated to have no below then 50,000 street children, Karachi holding more then 16,000, Hyderabad has 8,000, Sukkur has 5,000, and Larkana has estimated 2,000 street children. The absence of exact statistics shows a significant task in widely understanding and resolving the matter of street children. UNICEF's worldwide estimate of 100 million children rising up on inner-city streets, universal highpoints the serious need for extra exact data. In Pakistan, an projected 1.5 million street children more underlines the significance of the problem, highlighting the need for dedicated research and intervention policies.

1.3 Objectives:

The main objective of this research was to examine the fundamental causes contributing to the accelerating occurrence of street children in inner-city parts of Pakistan. This predominant aim is defined into the subsequent definite sub-objectives:

To Study the Relationship Among Poverty and the grow in Street Children in Pakistani:

To Analyze the Impact of Domestic Violence on the Growing Incidence of Street Children in Pakistani:

To Investigate the Link Between Broken Families and the Escalation of Street Children in Pakistani:

To Examine the Influence of Peer Pressure on the Increasing Number of Street Children in Pakistani Urban Cities:

These study objectives purpose to deliver a complete understanding of the multi-layered reasons driving the occurrence of street children in Pakistani. By speaking these sub-objectives, the research pursues to donate appreciated visions for the growth of targeted interferences and strategies to alleviate the tasks faced by street children in the Pakistani situation.

1.4 Hypotheses:

H1. Poverty is likely to be linked with growing number of street children in Pakistani.

H2. Domestic violence is likely to be related with emerging number of street children in Pakistani urban cities.

H3. Broken families are likely to be cause increasing number of street children in Pakistani urban cities.

H4. Peer pressure is likely to be cause growing number of street children in Pakistani urban cities.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Background:

Street children represent a significant global issue, affecting the image and future human capital of countries worldwide. UNICEF estimates there are 25 million street children in Asia, while WHO and UNICEF in the mid-1990s estimated around 100 million globally (Alianza Casa, 2000). Rana and Chaudhry (2011) report 1.2 million street children in Pakistan, driven by poverty, family issues, and orphanhood, leading to psychological disorders. Save the Children estimates over 115 million children are involved in hazardous work that impedes their education and development (Alianza Casa, 2000).

2.2 Definitions:

Many definitions of street children exist, but none fully capture the complexity of the issue. Street children has two types: "on the street," who living and working on the streets without guardian security, and "of the street," who work on the streets however go back home to their parents at night. Additional type comprises children from nomadic household, occasionally grouped underneath the term "street children" or considered individually by investigators. The Oxford Dictionary describes a street child as "a homeless or abandoned kid who survives primarily in the street" (Panter-Brik, 2003). The United Nations describes them as kids for whom the street, approximately understood, is their routine residence or livelihood, absent satisfactory security and direction by responsible adults (Lusk, 1992).

The WHO classifies street children into four types: those alive on the streets, those who have leftward their parents to live in numerous shelters, those in security hubs or homes at danger of homelessness, and children with poor family links forced to sleep external. UNESCO describes street children as child with detached household ties, alive everyday on the streets, facing hazards such as medications and prostitution, and sensation a logic of independence there. The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) defines them as children for whom the street is their habitual dwelling, absent satisfactory security. Felsman (1985) recognized three types of street children in Colombia: orphans or abandoned kids, escapees, and those by household ties. UNICEF distinguishes street children founded on household interaction: persons "on the street" who labor there but go back home, and those "of the streets" who depend on completely on the streets for endurance. Martins (1996) recognized three types in Brazil: children with established family relations who labor and go back home, those with unbalanced relations who infrequently visit home, and those totally on their personal. Street children differ by time consumed on the street, use of the street for employment, absence of mature security, and societal relations (Amoah and Jorgensen, 2014).

2.3 Causes:

Children wind up on the streets for numerous causes, both essential (attitude, behavior) and unnecessary (social life, surroundings). Main causes recognized by investigators include:

Family Conditions: Poverty pushes children from deprived families to the streets for endurance, as understood in Indonesia, where minor houses, big families, and high rentals drive children to living in communal places (National Policy, 2005). Family matters similar abandonment, exploitation, parents' drug habit, and drunkenness are substantial causes (Volpi, 2002; Strehl, 2010).

Economic Factors: Economic crises drive most children to the streets and mistreatment (Pinheiro, 2006). The poverty of families forces children out to the streets where they have to work (Volpi, 2002). Lack of proper housing causes homelessness to both the rich and the poor countries (Volpi, 2002).

Social Influences: Younger children are influenced by their peers or older siblings/friends who are already on the streets and follow them (Volpi, 2002). This is caused by the migration of male household heads in rural areas to urban ones resulting to family breakdown and financial difficulties that force children to the streets (Heinonen, 2000).

Other Factors: Streetism is caused by other factors such as loss of parents because of conflicts, natural disasters, diseases such as HIV/AIDS and refugee (Strehl, 2010). Poverty aggravated by family tragedies or economic shocks is another reason why children are left to work on the streets (Pinheiro, 2006). The children are pushed to the streets by material hardship, absence of family communication and emotional issues (Volpi, 2002).

Perceived Benefits of Street life: Some children feel that street life is attractive to them because of the freedom, no rules, independence, making money and the ability to spend their money as they wish (Strehl, 2010). In Addis Ababa, street children are of different types of household such as those headed by females consisting of widowed, migrant, and never-married mothers (Heinonen, 2000). Few children integrate schooling with street work, and some of them live in social groups that are not influenced or affected by adults (Pinheiro, 2006; Heinonen, 2000).

2.4 Street Life:

Studies have named many of the ills that street children have to contend with across the world such as being exposed to the harsh weather conditions, inadequate parental attention, insecurity, poor health, dangerous employment, sexual and physical abuse and insufficiency in education. According to Strehl Talinay (2010), such children were completely left alone. Other street children are those who go to school with their families but spend their days out in the streets. According to Volpi Elena (2002), street-working and street-living children have to deal with informal economic activities, such as light and hazardous work to provide themselves or their families with a livelihood.

These are major issues such as drug addictions, sexual promiscuity, exploitation in the workplace, participation in criminal acts, and violence perpetrated by the police, adults and gangs (Volpi, 2002). Street children tend to join gangs to support and protect one another and they even share food and shelter (Rana and Chaudhry, 2011). These organizations serve as auxiliary families, and they offer a feeling of belonging (Strehl, 2010). Even the shopkeepers and market vendors make up of the supportive adults in social networks. The insecurity of the guardians makes it hard to

secure jobs permanently and the escape out of the street life demands a complete transformation of the environment (UN DCCOP, 2000; Strehl, 2010). They are exposed to sexual exploitation by pimps, traffickers and other people who provide shelter and in most cases, they do what they call survival sex (Pinheiro, 2006). Street children have a volatile life and no identification papers, thus, it is hard to accurately determine their numbers (Volpi, 2002).

The boys or girls on the streets can sell sex either as food, shelter or as drugs (Pinheiro, 2006). Street children are more vulnerable compared to other children because of unfavorable home conditions and street living problems. These conditions however aid in them being able to devise adaptive coping mechanisms (Koller and Hutz, 2001). The street is the core of their lives to make money, get food, meet friends, and even sleep (Strehl, 2010). Among the street children, there is a serious issue of drug addiction since they do not have the social safety nets of a family or a community. Violence is typical especially in weaker children that are emotional and physically. Street girls can be harassed or raped sexually, and sometimes as a sign of power, street boys can also be victims of gang rapes and sexual abuse. Although the sexual violence is a problem, it is something that street boys never discuss (Strehl, 2010).

2.5 Conceptual Framework:

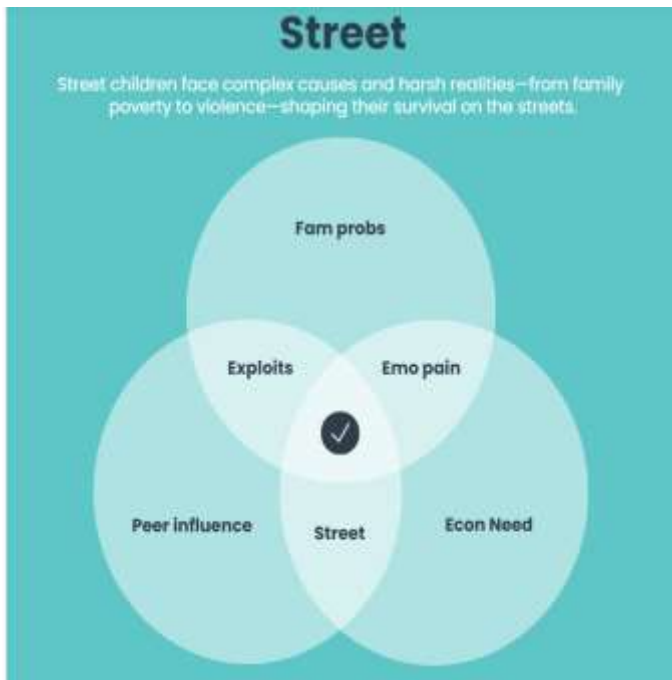
The theoretical framework used in this research paper is developed out of the critical analysis of relevant literature and throws light on the correlation between independent and dependent variables. This framework is used as one of the guides to show the interconnectedness and influences of the different factors in the study. The following are considered as the most important elements of the conceptual framework:

Independent Variables:

- a. Poverty: Research on how economic deprivation contributes to street children in Pakistani urban cities.
- b. Domestic Violence: Discuss the role that domestic violence plays in the increasing street children.
- c. Broken Families: Research on the relationship between broken family structures and street children rampancy.
- d. Peer Pressure: Discuss how peer pressure affects the choices of children to stay in the streets.

Dependent Variable:

Study Population: The main subject of research is to know the quantitative aspect of the street children phenomenon in the Pakistani urban cities.



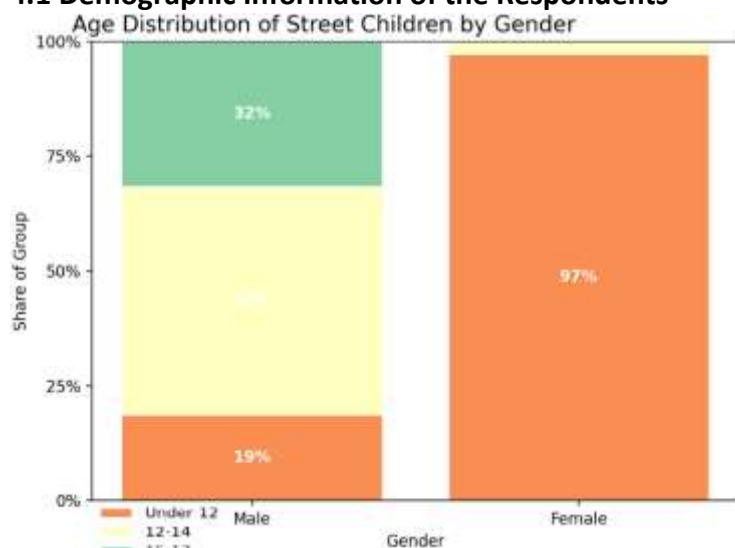
Through this conceptual framework, the study will be able to break down the knotty relationships between the identified independent variables (poverty, domestic violence, broken families, and peer pressure) and dependent variable (numbers of street children). This framework is designed to offer a systematic method of engaging and examining the causes that lead to the increasing level of street children in the urban cities in Indonesia in detail. It further makes it easier to find possible areas of intervention and policy suggestions to address the problems of this vulnerable group.

3. Research Methodology:

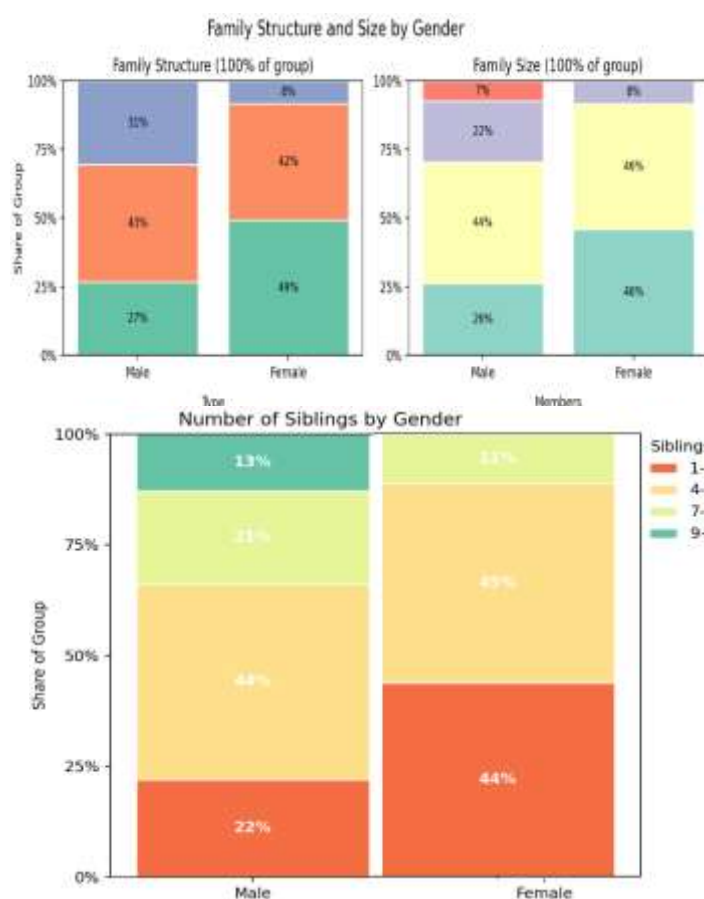
The study has been conducted using a descriptive survey. This made it possible for the researchers to investigate the reasons underlying the rise in urban street children. The children who live and work on the streets in order to survive each day were the target audience. In addition, there are some street kids that labor throughout the day and return home to their families at night. The population was divided into strata, and 380 respondents were chosen for the sample using the purposive sampling technique. The research employed primary and secondary data sources. Surveys have been used to gather primary data. Closed-ended, structured questions were included in the questionnaire. For that reason, secondary data has been gathered from official documents released by government and non-governmental organizations. Several data analysis phases were used. Questionnaires that were filled out have been revised for uniformity and completeness. After that, the data was coded and thoroughly examined for mistakes and omissions. To quantitatively and carefully analyses the data, a multivariate data analysis has been employed. Data have been shown as frequencies and tables. To test theories, correlation analyses have been performed.

4 Findings of The Research

4.1 Demographic Information of the Respondents



The research findings indicate that the study included 310 male and 72 female respondents. The age distribution of the male street children is as follows: 58 boys (18.7%) were under 12 years old, 154 boys (49.7%) were between 12-14 years old, and 98 boys (31.6%) were between 15-17 years old. In contrast, among the female respondents, 70 girls (97.2%) were under 12 years old, and 2 girls (2.8%) were between 12-14 years old.



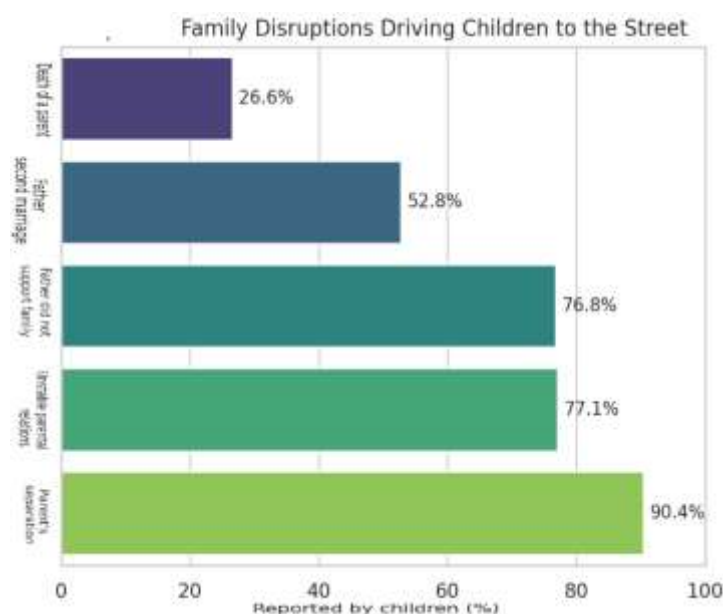
In terms of family structure, 83 boys (26.8%) and 35 girls (50.0%) belonged to nuclear families. Additionally, 132 boys (42.6%) and 30 girls (41.7%) belonged to joint families, while 95 boys (30.6%) and 6 girls (8.3%) were from extended families.

Regarding family size, 81 boys (26.1%) and 33 girls (45.8%) had 1-5 family members, 137 boys (44.2%) and 33 girls (45.8%) had 6-10 family members, 69 boys (22.3%) and 6 girls (8.3%) had 11-15 family members, and 23 boys (7.4%) had more than 15 family members.

Furthermore, the data on siblings revealed that 68 boys (21.9%) and 31 girls (43.1%) had 1-3 siblings, 137 boys (44.1%) and 32 girls (34.4%) had 4-6 siblings, 65 boys (21.0%) and 8 girls (11.1%) had 7-9 siblings, and 40 boys (12.9%) had more than 9 siblings.

4.2 Severe Family Disruption and Broken Households:

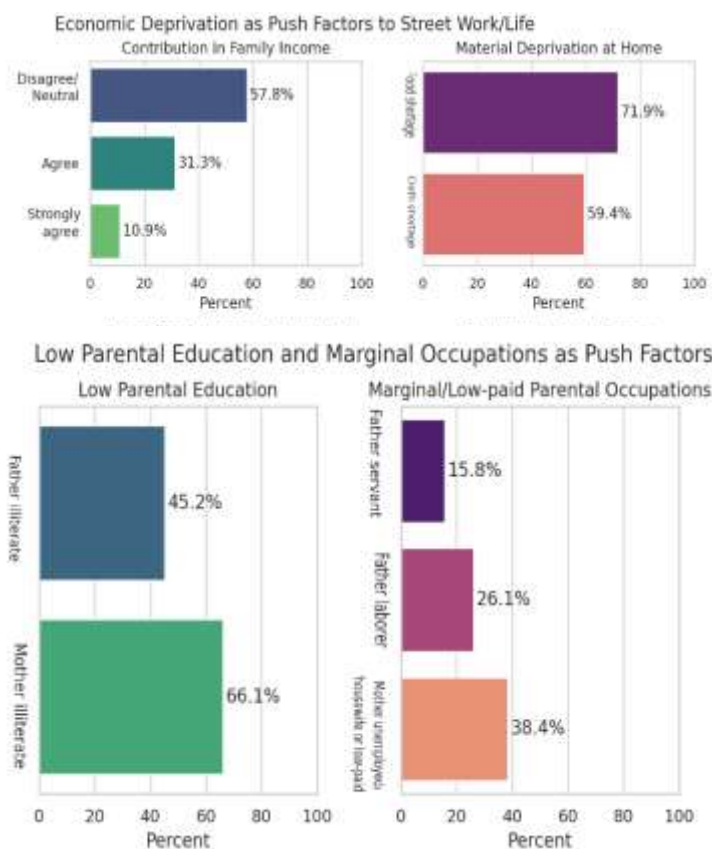
Family disruption and broken household emerges as central push factors, because a very large



number of street children reported broken family conditions: 77.1% (296/384) indicated they had come on the street due to unstable parental relations and 76.8% illustrated that the father did not support the family or and 52.8% children reported father has second marriage. A large majority of children one or more structural disruption (parent's death, parent's separation, step parents); for instance, 26.6% illustrated death of parents while 90.4% indicated parent's separation. These statistics shows that death, separation, second marriage, absent paternal support and unstable

parental relations are pushes children on street.

4.3 Economic Deprivation as a Push Factor:



Economic deprivation seems as a clear reason for the street work and street life. When researcher asked about the economic incentives, considerable shares agreed they worked on the street to support the family in economic needs: on the questions "Contribution in family income" 36.5% were 36.5%, 31.3% agree, 10.9% strongly agree that they contributed in family income. While 71.9% children agreed/strongly agreed they faced food shortage and 59.4% agree/strongly agree for cloth shortage at home. Which clearly shows that lack of adequate food and clothing material deprivation are largely reported and may force children to work on the street. Many households of street children have only one or two person who contributed in family income as data

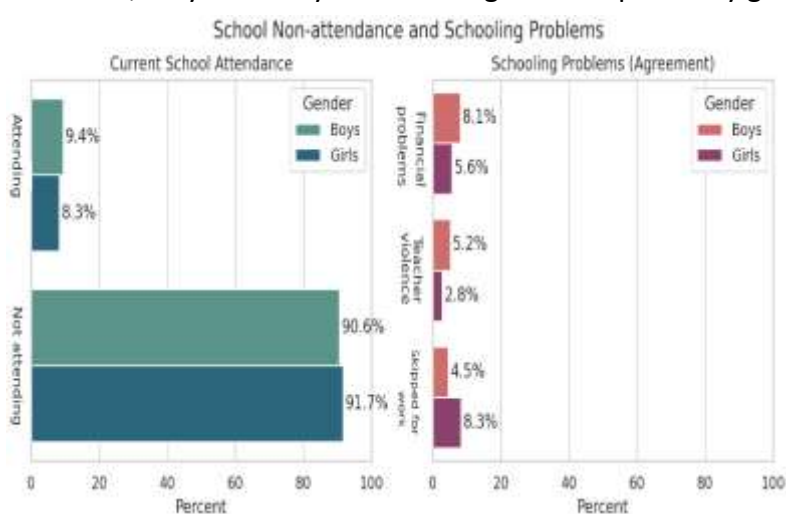
shows (32.6% has one contributor; 45.8% households have two contributors). While researcher asked about the “Per-day household income” a large number of respondent’s families fall in the lowest per day income groups (34.2% reported \$1–3/day; 52.9% illustrated \$4–6/day), which showing structural poverty that wields force to send children to the street to assistance the household economy. Taken together, the economic factors constantly appearance that incomplete household income, limited contributing earners, and material absences (especially clothing) drive as push factors that encourage children to work and pass continuous time on the street.

4.4 Low Parental Education and Marginal Parental Occupations:

Less parental education and marginal parental occupation are crucially behind the increasing the number of street children as respondents illustrated regarding the Parental education, 45.2% children reported their father, 66.1% reported their mother was illiterate, hence low parental education decreases the household income earning possibilities consequently reduce the parental ability to protect children against child labor. While, children’s parents reported 26.1% father is laborers, 15.8% servants and mothers of 38.4% is unemployed/housewives or involved in low-paid works (servants, begging). Occupation types show precarious or less-paid work, strengthening the economic push to child street labor.

4.5 School Non-Attendance and Schooling Problems:

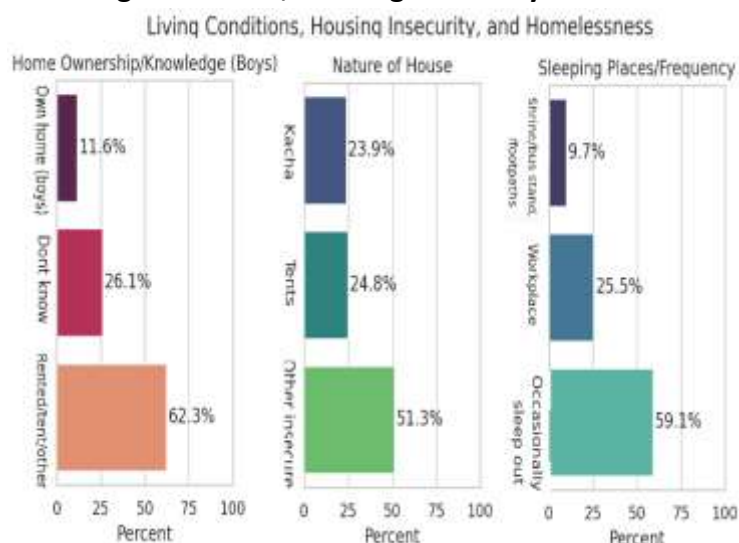
Findings illustrated that Educational marginalization is additional salient push factor: as data revealed, only 9.4% boys and 8.3 of girls were presently going to school; more than 90% of both



gender were not attending school. Data indicated **8.1% boys, 5.6% girls** skipped school due to **financial problems** and **5.2% boys, 2.8% girls** stopped school because of **teacher violence**. Moreover, 4.5% of boys, 8.3% of girls skipped their class for work. While large number of both gender never attended school due to presence of economic obstacles and school violence are recognizable push factors triggering dropout and shift to street life. Both, , school

marginalization and school violence/economic difficulties eliminate an significant defensive setting and surge exposure to street life.

4.6 Living Conditions, Housing Insecurity and Homelessness:



Statistics illustrated that housing instability and unavailability of safe sleeping spaces are related with street life. Only small parts reported possessing homes (11.6% boys). Huge share were living in rented home, in tents, or the child unaware household proprietorship, showing housing uncertainty. 26.1% of boys stated “Don’t know” for home ownership, telling instability or parting from home. Nature of house of the street children answers indicated a mix of kacha (23.9%), tents (24.8%) and

additional uncertain forms. A prominent part of boys slept at shrine bus stand or footpaths (9.7%), workplace (25.5%), (59.1%) stated they occasionally sleep out of home at night. Housing uncertainty consequently functions mutually as a push to start living/working on the street and to continue there.

5. Result and Discussion:

The conclusions of the correlation examination showed significant relationships among the growing statistics of street children and several socioeconomic causes in Pakistan. The results illustrate that household poverty has a strong positive relationship ($r = 0.524$, $p < .001$), proposing that financial deficiency is a key driving strength pushing children to the streets for endurance and work. Correspondingly, home violence showed a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.546$, $p < .001$), demonstrating that domestic abuse and aggressive homebased environments contribute to children’s choices to leave family/house and pursue refuge in community places. Family dysfunction similarly presented a weak but statistically significant relationship ($r = 0.296$, $p < .001$), suggesting that unbalanced domestic structures, deprived parental affiliations, and absence of emotional care are significant reasons, though to a smaller amount than violence and poverty.

In compare, the correlation between individual desires for independence and street children was identical weak and statistically insignificant ($r = 0.081$, $p = .117$), proposing that children do not mainly decide street life out of individual wish or independence but somewhat as a response to opposing socioeconomic and household environments. These consequences cooperatively highlight that organizational and household poverties, rather than personal favorites, mainly decide the occurrence of street children in Pakistan. Consequently, interventions aiming poverty mitigation, domestic stability, and household violence anticipation are important to alleviate the problem of street child.

Table 1: Pearson Product-Moment Correlation between Street Working Children and Selected Socioeconomic Factors (N = 384)

Variable	r-value	Relationship Strength	p-value	Significance	Hypothesis Result
Poverty	0.524	Strong positive	.000	Significant	H ₀ Rejected
Domestic Violence	0.546	Moderate positive	.000	Significant	H ₀ Rejected
Family Dysfunction	0.296	Weak positive	.000	Significant	H ₀ Rejected
Personal Wishes for Independence	0.081	Very weak	.117	Not significant	H ₀ Accepted

5.2 Conclusion:

The results of this study disclose that the occurrence of street children in Pakistan is extremely deep-rooted in multifarious socioeconomic, domestic, and educational problems rather than single choice. The demographic statistics illustrate that the large portion of street children are male, aged among 12–14 years, and commonly derive from combined or extended families categorized by large household sizes and high dependence proportions. Household associated problems appeared as one of the utmost influential push factors. A substantial part of children drives from damaged or unbalanced families, noticeable by parental death, separation, another marriage, and absence of paternal care. Such domestic disturbances depressed children of emotional safety and parental support, pushing numerous to pursue refuge and persistence on the streets.

Financial deficiency was additional leading driver. Maximum families of street children survived underneath the poverty line, with very little everyday incomes and insufficient earning participants. Extensive substantial deficiency mainly food and clothing scarcities forced children to go on the streets to increase family income. Little parental schooling and unbalanced, less salaried jobs further worsened economic weakness, dropping parents' ability to deliver satisfactory care and safeguard. Educational marginalization too played a serious role. The huge majority of children were school dropouts or had never joined school because of poverty, teacher violence, and the necessity to work for earning. This absence of education not only controlled their future chances but also pushing them to the threats of street life and child labor.

The correlation investigation showed that financial deficiency, home violence, and domestic dysfunction are all meaningfully and completely correlated to the incidence of street children, although personal wish for freedom was seen to be insignificant. This positively proves that street life is not intentional desire but a necessary effect of fundamental inequalities, financial destitution, and household failures.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes that the phenomena of growing numbers street children in Pakistan is indicator of more socioeconomic and family disasters. Speaking this matter needs communal interferences that attention on poverty mitigation, educational presence, family support, anticipation of household violence, and delivery of established housing. Merely through

multisector strategies and public support schemes can the sequence of deficiency that drives children to the streets be efficiently damaged.

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