

## AN ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG STREET CHILDREN AT LAHORE

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### **ABSTRACT**

The research aims to explore the phenomenon of substance use among street children. The study is conducted in the city of Lahore which firstly shed light on the cruel incident of serial killing of street children in the history of Pakistan. The field based, exploratory type of study uses both qualitative and quantitative methods of research and strengthened from data collected. Observation and a structured interview schedule were used as tools for data collection from the field. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques and scientific hypotheses were used for the purpose of interpretation of the results. The results of the research show that the highest majority of street children were addicted to different types of injurious substances among smoking and glue sniffing were the most famous. Present research also indicates that majority of the street children start to use these substances through co-worker. The research also depicts that majority of street children feels good about their taking substances and did not want to get rid of substance use. The research reveals the dire need of initiating such programs with the cooperation and coordination of public and private organizations which directly address the root causes of this problem.

**Key Words:** Street children, substances use, public places, co-worker, glue sniffing

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## INTRODUCTION

Children are the real assets and the future architects of society. They are very precious, delicate and need proper care. They are the unprecedented segment of society because they are not independent rather than dependent on others.

Childhood is the most significant, pompous as well as delightful phase of human life but not for those who are caught up by the cruel clutches of decree, not permitting them to heave up their mind and heart with many inner most wishes and inclinations. But those who strive for really endeavor to mean it, particularly true for street children preferring to shun their home to find out the horizon of their wishes and dreams.

Street Children are the unwanted gifts of economic growth, war, poverty, lost of traditional values, domestic violence, physical and mental abuse. Every street child has a reason for street life while some children are deceived by the promise of excitement and liberty; the majority is pushed onto the street by the desperation and realization that they have nowhere else to go. If the problem of street children is explored at the inner level, it would not be futile to say that poverty and parental negligence lies in the background of the street children and their needs and problems are a result of wanting to fulfill basic needs for survival. The enigma of street children demands and requires an understanding that who they are, what they need, what they do and how they can be identified and can be solved by our sincere practical efforts.

It is estimated that there are 10 to 100 million street children in the world today <sup>1</sup>. These children live a transitory life style and are vulnerable to inadequate nutrition, physical injuries, substance use and health problems including sexual and reproductive health problems. Some street children are “on the street” which mean they still see their families regularly and may even return every night to sleep in their family homes. “Children of the street” on the other hand, have no home but the street. In present research, children of the street are focused.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Pakistan is also confronting the problem of street children like many other countries. No statistics are available related to street children in Pakistan. It is just estimated that 10,000 street children are present only in the city of Lahore <sup>2</sup>.

In Pakistan, street children are deprived of their basic needs and rights. They have limited access to social services. Being separated from their families they are deprived of parental care, guidance and love which are significant factors in the healthy development of a child. They are at the mercy of criminals, police, drugs addicts and smugglers. Unhealthy living environment, lack of proper food, shelter and basic health services make them vulnerable to different types of diseases including sexually Transmitted diseases (STDS) and HIV/AIDS, exploitation and abuse. They are heavily into substance abuse, glue being the

cheapest and the most accessible of all the substances. They are socially rejected and look down upon by the society due to which they develop negative attitude towards society which has lifelong effect and some time force them to indulge in anti social activities<sup>3</sup>. (Spark2007). This drastic plight calls for serious consideration to have the deep study of the phenomenon.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are following.

1. To know about the demographic characteristics of street children.
2. To know about the phenomenon of substance use among street children

### LITERATURE REVIEW

It is quite true that the world is encountering with a lot of challenges i-e Poverty, misery, and instability. These issues have erupted the most critical issue that is of "Street Children".

These street children are deprived of their basic human rights. In some cases, they do not find the guidance of their parents to be best nurtured children of the society. Their circumstances compel them to be on the street.

Chetty also confirms this research statement that life in the street is difficult and that children are essentially alone. He adds that it might be happen that child fails to obtain some food, shelter, clothes, medical services and other relevant basic needs for child care and well being<sup>4</sup>

### DEFINITION

Lewis defines a street child as someone younger than eighteen, who has decided to leave home to care for himself / herself on the street unassisted by an adult<sup>5</sup>.

Barnett defines street children as children who spend a considerable amount of their time in street of urban centers to fend for themselves and their families and are inadequately protected, supervised and cared for by a responsible adult person<sup>6</sup>.

In the light of above mentioned definitions, there are three common elements drawn which are listed below

- These children live or spend a significant amount of their time on the street.
- The street has become their source of livelihood.
- Overall, they are inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.

Although the term, "Street Children" is widely debated but at the centre of each definition are children who are out of place.

### WHY CHILDREN ON THE STREET

Every street child has the justification for being on the street. He/ she strive to satisfy his/her inner by giving some justifications. In spite of these justifications, some children are captured and get attracted on score of excitement and freedom from outer world. While they leave their home, they are not cognizant of

harsh and bitter realities of the callous attitude of the life. The majority of children enter into this sphere due to the desperation and pessimism. They have no rights for this sightless world and are compelled to stay there forever. Desmond says that the street children phenomenon represents a complex issue resulting from a wide variety of integrating factors <sup>7</sup>.

Stolberg mentioned that the reason for children taking to the street or forced out of their home are multiple. This simply means that no single factor is responsible for homelessness of children <sup>8</sup>.

Kombrakaran has different opinion about children arrival on the street. He has found that the major reason for going to the street is lack of supportive homes which involve traumatic experiences; children have to cope with at home <sup>9</sup>. Another reason which is quoted for street life is to be considered the peer influence <sup>10</sup>. It is also noted that before going to the streets, these children believed those who live on the street enjoyed life better than themselves did at home <sup>11</sup>.

Undoubtedly, these are so many reasons for why children dwell and lodge on the streets. Till now, to trace out a simple cause has become an impossible herculean tasks for the social workers. Lalor says that the picture is more complex then to be comprised in a simple reason <sup>12</sup>.

#### **SUBSTANCE USE AMONG STREET CHILDREN**

The use of substance by street children is functional in most communities which tend to add their health and many other difficulties. Substances are used by street children to keep awake for work, to alter possible violence, to get sleep, to anaesthetize physical or emotional pain or to replace for the need for food that increase health risks and may lead to high level of exploitation and violence. Street children use usually most readily available and cheap substances. For example, Glue which is easily available in furniture making areas and industrial areas. According to P.C. Shukla (2005) "Some children vulnerability or duress becomes involved with the manufacture, traffic, distribution and sales of drugs. For other, drug use may provide status within the street community <sup>89</sup>". within the street community <sup>13</sup>".

The word substance means any type of psychoactive material that after consuming, effect the people by the way about their feelings, thinking, taste, smell, or in behavior. Psychoactive substances include any industrial product or a medicine which may be divided into legal and illegal substances e.g. cigarette is legal while heroine and hashish are illegal substance.

It would be interesting to know that every country has its own laws about the use of substance which vary country to country. A calculation shows that 25% to 90% street children use some kind of psychoactive substance <sup>14</sup>.

## TYPE OF SUBSTANCES USED BY STREET CHILDREN

It is very difficult to determine which type of substance, street children use because it also varies from areas to areas and region to region. Substances that are available in market are famous by their generic name. But generic name is standard name used in the whole world. Other than generic name, substances are also known by “Trade Names” and by “Street Names” which may be varied region to region. Following are some substances that are used by street children <sup>15</sup>,

### ➤ Alcohol

Alcohol is a liquid substance also used in medicines which affect the nervous system and activity of the spinal cord. Here is a list of substances having alcohol, Wine, Beer, Spirits and Homebrew

Alcohol is also present in medical tonics and syrups e.g cough syrup and in some toiletries and industrial products.

### ➤ Nicotine

Nicotine is a stimulator that can activate, enhance or increase nervous system. Nicotine may be present in following,

Skin patches, Spray, Chewed tobacco, Pipe tobacco, Cigar, Cigarette, Gum

### ➤ Opioids

These substances relive some kind of physical pain and depression. This substance is made by poppies (opium). Below are some kinds of it,

#### a. Opiates

Codeine (in cough mixture) heroin, opium and morphine are the examples of opiates.

#### b. Synthetic Opioids

Pethidine, methadone, hydrochloride, buprenorphine are synthetic opioids.

### ➤ Hallucinogenic substances

The above substance can change a person's mood, the way a person experience or the way the person's perceive. Hallucinogen substance may be chemically produced or naturally occurs. Following are some examples,

#### a. Lysergic Acid Diethylamide

LSD in pure state is white's powder having no odorless. It commonly use in capsules, tablets, liquids and usually mixed a lot of other ingredients.

#### b. Mescaline

It is produced from the pulp of peyote cactus.

#### c. Psilocybin Mushrooms

Psilocybin is a hallucinogen. It found in some of mushroom.

### ➤ Cannabis plant

Cannabis plant is found in different parts of the world. The substance hashish is produced commonly by the resin of flowering heads of plant tablets having THC (tetroydreycannabinol).

➤ **Hypnosedatives**

This drug does not occur naturally. Many kinds of drugs group involved in the hypnosedatives which are different from each other but have the same effect on the body. For example, subdues the body and its nerves system. Following are some example of hypnosedatives,

a. **Caffeine**

Caffeine is famous substance, almost known to every educated person find in cocoa, coffee, tea and chocolate. It may also present in soft drinks and medicines.

b. **Coca products**

This is found include coca leaves and coca paste.

c. **Cocaine**

Coca leaves are source of cocaine

➤ **Inhalants**

Aerosols, volatile solvents and gasses are easily available products which are inhalants. Some of the inhalant substances are following which can be inhaled,

- a. Aerosol sprays
- b. Petrol
- c. Glue
- d. Paint thinner
- e. Solvents
- f. Amyl nitrite (poopers)

Kilbourne mention that glue sniffing or the use of other abusive substances is the part of the way of life of street children. She contends that when the street children are hungry or unable to by food due to the lack of money, they often sniff glue or benzene to make them feel better their sniffing seem to take away their hunger<sup>16</sup>.

Finkelstein says that they also sniff glue and benzene to protect themselves from the cold and also to make them feel happy when they are depressed<sup>17</sup>.

**METHOD OF USING SUBSTANCES**

Following are some ways of using the substances by street children<sup>18</sup>,

- a. By injecting through needle in skin or vein
- b. By inhaling though the mouth or by Bagging (Placing a bag over the head)
- c. By rubbing into the skin
- d. By placing mucous membrane inside the eyelid, vagina or anus.



- e. Swallowed or dissolved or chewed slowly in the mouth.

**METHODOLOGY**

Methodological techniques are very important for analyzing sociological problems empirically. Sound methodology is vitally important to establish chain for knowledge and empirical verification of hypothesis. The population for the study consisted of street children who were spending their life away from their home at least for one month ago and they have no or very little contact with their families. Present study is conducted at Lahore city. Different areas i.e., Data Darbar, Railway station, Minar-e-Pakistan, Laxmi Chock, Regal Chowk and Badami Bagh were the focal locals of the study. 370 street children were selected as a sample size through purposive sampling. According to Lawrence Neuman, “Purposive sampling is an acceptable kind of sampling for special situation. It uses the judgment of an expert in selecting cases with a specific purpose in mind”. Data was collected with the help of a well structured interview schedule. Collected information’s were analyzed through SPSS software. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**TABLE 1: BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Age (in years)	Frequency	Percentage
9-11	76	20.5
12-14	111	30.0
15-17	183	49.5
Total	370	100.0
	Mean age = 14.90	Std. Dev. = 3.18
Number of siblings	Frequency	Percentage
1-4	91	24.6
5-8	208	56.2
9 and above	71	19.2
Total	370	100.0
	Mean = 6.24	Std. Dev. = 3.78
Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Islam	359	97.00
Christen	11	3.00
Total	370	100.0
Geographical Background	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	123	33.2
Rural	247	66.8
Total	370	100.0
Earnner family members	Frequency	Percentage

One	166	44.9
Two	145	39.2
Three	59	15.9
<b>Total</b>	370	100.0
<b>Dependent family members</b>	Frequency	Percentage
1-4	88	23.8
5-8	165	44.6
9 and above	117	31.6
<b>Total</b>	370	100.0
<b>Number Of Birth Order</b>	Frequency	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	89	24.1
2 <sup>nd</sup>	38	10.3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	42	11.4
4 <sup>th</sup>	96	25.9
5 <sup>th</sup>	56	15.1
6 <sup>th</sup> and above	49	13.2
<b>Total</b>	370	100.0

Above table indicates that about one-fifth i.e., 20.5 percent of the respondents had 9-11 years of age, while 30.0 percent of the respondents had 12-14 years of age and about a half i.e., 49.5 percent of the respondents had 15-17 years of age. Mean age of children was about 15 years.

Table also presents the number of siblings of the respondent. As the siblings play an important role in the life of children so the numbers of the siblings of the respondents were asked. About one-fourth i.e., 24.6 percent of the respondents had the siblings 1-4 in number. A majority i.e., 56.2 percent of the children had the siblings 5-8 in numbers and little less than one-fifth i.e., 19.2 percent of them had the siblings 9 and above in number. Average number of siblings (as calculated by mean) was almost 6.

Table indicates that the highest number of the respondents who were 97.0 percent falls in the group of Islamic religion. While the least number of respondents who were only 3.0 percent belong to Christian group.

Table also indicates that about one-third i.e., 33.2 percent of the respondent's family belonged to urban areas, while a majority i.e., 66.8 percent of the respondent's family belonged to rural areas. In our rural areas has less entertainment, educational and economic opportunities as compare to urban areas, so due to more attraction majority of the children run towards cities.

Table further depicts that a major proportion i.e., 44.9 percent of the respondents had one earning member, while 39.2 percent of the respondents had two earner family members and remaining 15.9



percent of the respondents had three earner family members. It indicates low economic status of the respondents' family.

Table also reveals that 23.8 percent of the respondents reported that in their family 1-4 dependent members, while a major proportion i.e., 44.6 percent of the respondents said that 5-8 family members were dependent and 31.6 percent of them told that 9 and above family members were dependent.

Table also indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were about one-fourth i.e. 25.9 percent had 4<sup>th</sup> birth order. The second highest number of the respondents who were little less than one-fifth i.e. 24.1 percent had 1<sup>st</sup> birth order. Whereas the third highest number of the respondents who were 15.1 percent had 5<sup>th</sup> and 13.2 percent of the respondents had 6<sup>th</sup> or above birth order. 11.4 percent of them had 3<sup>rd</sup> birth order. While the least number of respondents who were 10.3 percent had 2<sup>nd</sup> birth order.

**Table 2.** Distribution of the Respondents According To Their Education Level

Education level	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	60	16.2
Below primary	98	26.5
Primary	87	23.5
Below Middle	54	14.6
Middle	42	11.4
Below Matriculation	21	5.7
Matriculation	8	2.2
Total	370	100.0

Above table shows that 16.2 percent of the respondents were illiterate, while more than one-fourth i.e., 26.5 percent of the respondents were below primary and less than one-fourth i.e., 23.5 percent of them were primary passed. About 14.6 percent of the respondents were below middle and 11.4 percent of them were middle passed. Only 5.7 percent of the respondents were below matriculation and 2.2 percent of the respondents were matriculated.

**TABLE # 3: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR ACTIVITIES BEFORE LEAVING HOME.**

Activities	Frequency	Percentage
Studying	49	13.2
Working	277	74.9
Do nothing	44	11.9

Total	370	100.0
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Above table presents the activities of the respondents before leaving home. Data indicate that only 13.2 percent of the respondents were studying before leaving home, while a significant majority i.e., 74.9 percent of the respondents was working before leaving home and remaining 11.9 percent of the respondents told that they do nothing before leaving home.

**TABLE # 4: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR RESIDENTIAL PATTERN.**

Residential pattern		Frequency	Percentage
Room hired		250	67.6
Public places	Shrine	70	18.9
	Parks	30	8.1
	Graveyard	11	3.0
	Bus stop waiting room	9	2.4
Total		370	100.0

Above table presents the residential pattern of the street children. A large majority of the respondents i.e., 67.6 percent were living in hired room and other were living at public places i.e., 18.9 percent at Shrine, 8.1 percent at parks, 3.0 percent at graveyard and 2.4 percent at Bus stop waiting rooms.

**TABLE # 05.** Distribution Of The Respondents According To The Substance Use And their First Experience Of Using Substance

Substance use	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	359	97.0
No	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
First source of substance use	Frequency	Percentage
Through friends	59	15.9
Through co-worker	213	57.6
Through employer	84	22.7
Any other (trafficker, force by someone etc.)	3	0.8
NA (No use)	11	3.0

Total	370	100.0
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Above table indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 97.0 percent reported that they use substances. Whereas the least number of the respondents who were only 3.0 percent said that they never use any substance.

Table indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 57.6 percent star to using substances through co-worker and the second highest number of the respondents who were 22.7 percent stars using substances through employer.15.9 percent of the respondents stars using substances through friends. While the least number of the respondents who were only 0.8 percent stars using substances through any others source (trafficker etc.).

**TABLE # 06: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF SUBSTANCE THEY USED.**

Type of substance	Yes		No		Total	
	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age
Opium	5	1.4	354	98.6	359	100.0
Hashish (Chars)	27	7.5	332	92.5	359	100.0
Heroin	10	2.8	349	97.2	359	100.0
Alcohol	22	6.1	337	93.9	359	100.0
Glue sniffing	141	39.3	218	60.7	359	100.0
Cigarette	215	59.9	144	40.1	359	100.0
Pan	56	15.6	303	84.4	359	100.0
Gutka	77	21.4	282	78.6	359	100.0
Niswar	82	22.8	277	77.2	359*	100.0

\* 11 respondents never used substance.

Above table indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 98.6 percent never use opium and the least number of the respondents who were 1.4 percent used opium. While the highest number of the respondents who were 92.5 percent never use hashish and the least number of the respondents who were 7.5 percent use hashish (Chars). On the other hand, the highest number of the respondents who were 97.2 percent never use heroin and the least number of the respondents who were 2.8 percent uses heroin. Whereas the highest number of the respondents who were 93.9 percent never use alcohol and least number of the respondents who were 6.1 percent addicted to Alcohol. The table also depicts that the highest number of the respondents who were 60.7 percent never sniffs the glue and least number of the respondents who were 39.3 percent uses glue for sniffing. A highest number of the respondents who were

59.9 use cigarettes for smoking and least number of the respondents who were 40.1 percent never smoke a cigarette. While the highest number of the respondents who were 84.4 percent never use pan and the least number of the respondents who were 15.6 percent uses Pan. On the other hand, the highest number of the respondents who were 78.6 percent never use gutka and the least number of the respondents who were 21.4 percent uses gutka. Whereas the highest number of the respondents who were 77.2 percent never use niswar and the least number of the respondents who were 22.8 percent uses niswar.

The table shows that 1.4 percent respondents use opium, 7.5 percent used Hashish (Chars), 2.8 percent respondents used heroin and 6.1 percent respondents were addicted Alcohol. Whereas 39.3 percent of the respondents used Glue sniffing, a majority i.e. 59.9 percent of the respondents was smoker, 15.6 percent of them used Pan, 21.4 percent used Gutka and 22.8 percent of them used Niswar.

**TABLE # 07. Per Day Use Of Substances By The Respondents And Respondents Feeling Before And After Using Substances**

Per day use	Frequency	Percentage
One time	228	61.6
Two time	101	27.3
Three time	30	8.1
NA (No use)	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
Feeling before using substances	Frequency	Percentage
Uncomfortable	297	80.3
Pain in body	52	14.1
Senselessness	10	2.7
NA (No use)	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
Feeling after using substances	Frequency	Percentage
Relaxed	151	40.8
Forget worries	107	28.9
Sleepy	68	18.4
Excitement	33	8.9
NA (No use)	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0

Above table indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 61.6 percent uses substance once in a day. While the second highest number of the respondents who were 27.3 percent uses it two times and the least number of the respondents who were 8.1 percent use substance three times in a day.

Above table also indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 80.3 percent reported that they feel uncomfortable before using substances. While the second highest number of the respondents who were 14.1 percent felt pains in body before using substances. The least number of the respondents who were 2.7 percent felt senselessness before using substances.

Above table also shows that the highest number of the respondents who were 40.8 percent feel relaxation after using substances while the second highest number of the respondents who were 28.9 percent told that they forget worries after using substances. Whereas 18.4 percent feel sleepy after using substances and the least number of the respondents who were 8.9 percent felt excitement after using substances.

**TABLE # 08 distribution of the respondents according to the their feelings about taking substances & fight during and after using substance use and aims about get rid of substance use**

Feeling about taking substances	Frequency	Percentage
Good	196	53.0
Bad	163	44.1
NA	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
Ever in fight during using substances	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	107	28.9
No	252	68.1
NA (No use)	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
Ever in fight after using substances	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	69	18.6
No	290	78.4
NA	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0
Aims to get rid of substances use	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	160	43.2
No	199	53.8
NA	11	3.0
Total	370	100.0

Above table indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 53.0 percent reported that they feel good about their taking substances while the least number of the respondents who were 44.1 percent told that they feel bad about their using substances

Above table also indicate that the highest number of the respondents who were 68.1 percent said that they were never in fight during the use of substances while the least number of the respondents who were 28.9 percent reported that they ever in fight during the use of substances.

Above table also shows that the highest number of the respondents who were 78.4 percent replied that they never in fight after using substances while the least number of the respondents who were 18.6 percent reported that they ever in fight after using substances

Above table also depicts that the highest number of the respondents who were 53.8 percent did not want to get rid of substance use while the least number of the respondents who were 43.2 percent reported that they aimed to get rid of substances use.

**TABLE # 9: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF HEALTH PROBLEM THEY FACED.**

Health problems	Frequency	Percentage
Stomach problem	107	28.9
Fever	86	23.2
Pain in body	60	16.2
Weakness	37	10.0
Any other (hepatitis, skin infection, teeth problem, allergy etc.)	10	2.7
No health problem	70	18.9
Total	370	100.0

Above table presents the health problems of the respondents. Most of the respondents had stomach problem (28.9%) and 23.2 percent of them were suffering from fever and 16.2 percent had pain in body. About one-tenth i.e., 10.0 percent of the respondents felt weakness and 2.7 percent of them were suffering any other problems i.e., hepatitis, skin infection, teeth problem, allergy etc. Whereas 18.9 percent of them had no health problem.

**Hypothesis Testing**

**Hypothesis # 1**

**Hypothesis: Working street children use the substances during their street life**

**Null Hypothesis: There is no relationship between working status and the use of substances by the respondents.**



**Association between working status and the use of substances by the respondents.**

Working status	Use of substances		Total
	Yes	No	
Working	296	6	302
	98.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Not working	63	5	68
	92.6%	7.4%	100.0%
Total	359	11	370
	97.0%	3.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 5.54      Std. Dev. = 1      Significance = .019\*

\* = Significant

Chi-square value (5.54) shows a significant (P = .019) association between working status of the respondents and use of substance. Above table clearly indicates that 98.0 percent working street children were using substances, whereas 92.6 percent non-working children were using substances during their street life. So the ratio of substances users among working children were high as compared to non-working street children. So the hypothesis “Working street children use the substances during their street life” is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

**CONCLUSION**

The results of the research shows that the highest majority of street children were addicted to different types of injurious substances among smoking and glue sniffing were the most famous. Present research also indicates that majority of the street children start to use these substances through co-worker. The research also depicts that majority of street children feels good about their taking substances and did not want to get rid of substance use. The research reveals the dire need of initiating such programs with the cooperation and coordination of public and private organizations which directly address the root causes of this problem.

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