

Development of Organizational Care and Support Inventory for Sheltered Street Children

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ABSTRACT

The present study is aimed at developing organizational care and support inventory with six dimensions viz. physical facilities, Educational facilities, Health problems, Social support, Peer group support and Moral support. After consulting experts 55 items were selected. A purposive sample 444 sheltered street children (government 176, non government 268) was selected various shelters in Hyderabad and Vijayawada cities of Telagana and Andhra Pradesh. The items of organizational care and support inventory were tested into two steps. In the first step, the discriminative ability of each statement was examined by comparing the mean scores of the first and last quartiles on each statement. The second step of testing involved the computation of inter correlation among the variables. It was also observed that numbers of clusters are found in correlation matrix of organizational care and support determinants. Hence, it was decided that a factor analysis, using principle of component solutions and rotated to a varimax criterion (Kaiser 1958) with an Eigen value of 1. After the factor analysis, 46 items are loaded into seven factors, remaining items are deleted and an inter correlation of the seven factors was performed.

Keywords: *Organizational Care And Support, Street Children, Inter Correlation, Principle Of Component Method, Factor Analysis,*

The need for love, as well as for security, is a powerful motivator of behavior (Brendtro et al., 1990). Alienated youths, experiencing harsh social conditions, may seek alternative ways to fulfill these needs, including running away. Young people also desire autonomy. For many street children, freedom from adult control is the most important attribute of their adopted way of life (Scharf et al., 1986). Street children who experience harsh social conditions and broken family relations tend to have behavioral problems. They seek alternative ways to fulfill their needs, by running away from their homes. Pringle (1974) grouped the psychosocial needs of children into four main areas: i) the need for love and security, ii) the need for new experiences, iii) the need for praise and recognition and iv) the need for responsibility. If these needs are not met or are thwarted, children may be at risk for emotional and behavioral problems, and fulfillment sought elsewhere (away from the family unit). Street children may fall into this category.

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Organizational care and support

Once when the children leave their homes, psychologically they are pathetic, they need emotional support and they face many difficulties in street life. When they are enrolled in any organization, they expect some care, support and protection and usually they dislike too much security in shelters. Hence, the care and support provided by the organization and past experiences like familial and personal problems have a significant influence on the behavioral problems of street children. If the children receive proper care and support by organization, they feel happy, comfortable and become normal individuals.

Different organizations are rendering some kind of support to street children. The fact remains that a street child is “a child” who should be assisted by parents and the school in his process of becoming an adult. This crucial factor is at present often overlooked by these organizations that render support. These support structures direct their attention to activities that often exclude the school and the family context which are crucial in the child's becoming. The actualization of the child's full potential therefore becomes more remote.

Sample:

The sample for the present study belongs to the lower socio economic status with similar background in family living style has been chosen. The sampling procedure adopted is more or less purposive. Out of the total 444 respondents, 176 are from government shelters, and 268 are from non-government shelters. All the 268 children covered from the non-government shelters are boys while 68 of the 176 children from government shelters are girls. The average mean age of the participants is about 17.

Development of Measures for Organizational Care and Support:

In the present study, different measures for organizational care and support were adopted basing on the following earlier research studies:

- Zena Amury and Aneth Komba (2010) developed structured interviewed questionnaire, all the items are related to health parameter.
- “My work Book”, developed by Sekar from National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS). Needs: related to physical needs, schooling and peer group support.
- UNICEF and Arab league (2005) developed a questionnaire some items related to care provided by shelter homes to street children.
- Janse van Rensburg (1994) questionnaire related to physical needs, schooling, peer group support and moral support given by caretakers of shelter homes.

The view, experiences with formal and informal investigations, experiences by the above are taken into account as a source for constructing and designing the organizational care and support questionnaire. Some items are taken as it is; some items related to street life are modified in order to suit the situation. After modifications, the questionnaire was given to judges for examining its suitability and accuracy to use in the present investigation. All the judges

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unanimously agreed on its applicability. The items or aspects in the questionnaire are classified into six categories; viz., physical facilities, educational facilities, health problems, social support, peer group support and moral support. A total of 55 items were selected for their diversity in relevance to organizational care and support. Each item was represented as a single statement. Respondents were asked to rate each item on a five point liker scale – where a score of ‘one’ indicates strongly disagree and ‘five’ indicates strongly agree, with intermediary scores of undecided. Reverse scoring was given for some of the negative statements present in the questionnaire.

Example:

Physical facilities: we have sufficient clothing in our shelter.

5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3= undecided, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree.

Health problems: I have hearing problems.

1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3= undecided, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree.

The responses were scored in a manner such that a high score indicates more agreement towards the particular organizational care and support. The items of organizational care and support scale were tested into two steps. In the first step, the discriminative ability of each statement was examined by comparing the mean scores of the first and last quartiles on each statement. The results of this analysis are presented in table -1. Since all the variables exhibit significant differences, they have been selected for the inclusion in the scale.

The second step of testing involved the computation of inter correlation among the variables. Such correlations are theoretically possible by virtue of their definitions. It was also observed that numbers of clusters are found in correlation matrix of organizational care and support determinants. Hence, it was decided that a factor analysis would resolve these issues more meaningfully.

The data were factor analyzed using principle component solutions and rotated to a varimax criterion (Kaiser 1958) with an Eigen value of 1. The results of this analysis are presented in table - 2. After the factor analysis, 46 items are loaded into seven factors, remaining items are deleted. The seven –factor solution accounts 66.6 percent of the common variance. All the items loading more than 0.44 on a single item of the factor were included. A description of the seven factors is provided below.

Factor – I comprises of seven variables. These are sufficient clothing, basic facilities, clean water for drinking, enough food, sufficient place for sleep, clean and neat surroundings, sufficient bedding, play lots of games, sufficient play ground. The highest factor loading of 0.75 is for sufficient clothing and lowest of 0.44 is for playing lots of games. In view of the definitions of these variables, this factor was named as

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TABLE -1

DISCRIMINATIVE ANALYSIS FOR PERCEIVING ORGANIZATIONAL CARE AND SUPPORT ITEMS BETWEEN FIRST AND LAST QUARTILES

S.NO	Perceiving care and support of organization items	First Quartile (n=25)		Last Quartile (n=25)		t-value
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	
1	Adequate place for sleep	4.96	0.2	3.92	0.33	4.52**
2	Individual bedding	4.88	0.33	3.92	0.48	9.16**
3	Enough food	4.92	0.27	3.88	0.43	4.41**
4	Adequate water to drink	4.65	0.27	3.84	0.84	7.91**
5	Sufficient clothes	4.84	0.37	3.53	0.37	4.73**
6	Adequate basic facilities	4.80	0.40	3.65	0.79	5.19**
7	Surroundings are neat and clean	4.64	0.56	3.73	0.53	3.44**
8	Frequently we move to sight seeing	4.60	0.57	3.53	0.58	3.44**
9	Playing games	3.32	0.90	5.00	0.00	9.33**
10	Adequate play ground	4.84	0.37	3.11	0.71	2.86**
11	Extracurricular activities	4.16	1.14	2.57	0.90	8.08**
12	Compulsory primary education	4.60	0.70	4.15	0.53	7.02**
13	Sufficient stationary	4.80	0.40	3.92	0.62	3.46**
14	I like school	4.8	0.40	3.92	0.39	7.02**
15	Sharing doubts with others	4.72	0.84	4.00	0.48	2.28*
16	Teachers clarifies our doubts	4.76	0.59	4.19	0.49	3.28**
17	Teachers concerned about academics	4.92	0.50	4.23	0.51	4.58**
18	I like studies	4.70	0.75	3.38	0.94	7.15**
19	Training in computers/ mechanical	4.76	0.66	3.26	1.34	7.92**
20	Training in vocational courses	4.72	0.54	3.53	0.90	8.63**
21	Library facility	4.56	0.96	3.96	0.66	5.28**
22	Providing Job opportunities after education	4.52	1.00	4.30	0.61	6.33*
23	Education with morals	4.84	0.47	4.30	0.97	6.33**
24	Guidance and counseling facility	4.72	0.67	3.53	0.94	5.45**
25	Emergency medical services	4.72	0.54	3.96	0.44	7.45**
26	Regular health check ups	4.76	0.43	4.03	0.44	4.07**
27	First aid facility	3.36	1.04	2.30	1.04	2.85**
28	Eye problems	3.00	1.55	2.38	1.20	8.61**
29	Hearing problems	2.68	1.15	2.26	1.15	7.36**
30	Dental problems	3.08	1.52	2.42	1.13	8.76
31	Frequently getting illness	2.80	1.52	2.11	1.07	9.25**
32	Sleeping problems	3.44	1.41	3.96	0.44	3.36**
33	Regular vaccination	3.48	1.35	4.00	0.28	2.64**
34	Others are help me, when I was sick	2.64	1.15	2.26	1.15	3.54**
35	Skin problems	3.04	1.39	2.80	1.32	8.61**
36	No other problems	4.36	0.81	3.80	0.40	8.08**
37	Frequently I share my feeling with others	4.40	0.64	3.96	0.34	5.53**
38	Others are giving advises to me	4.52	0.65	3.92	0.48	4.28*
39	When I disappointed others gave support to me	4.44	0.65	3.92	0.48	2.96**
40	I care about others problems	4.44	1.04	3.5	0.94	3.35**
41	I am safe here	4.64	0.7	4.0	0.56	5.53**
42	No violence and discrimination	4.64	0.86	4.03	0.87	6.30**
43	I take role model from peer group	4.56	1.08	3.88	0.43	2.58*
44	I share my thoughts and feelings with peers	4.40	1.15	3.88	0.51	5.24**
45	I frequently help to our peer group	4.52	1.04	3.80	0.63	3.36**
46	Our peer group help to me	4.72	0.54	3.92	0.62	2.21**
47	I mingle with my peer group	4.36	0.56	4.00	0.56	2.58*
48	I take many advises from peer group	4.12	1.33	4.03	0.52	2.77**
49	We have religious activities	2.76	1.47	2.00	1.26	9.58**
50	We pray to God	5.00	0.00	2.69	0.97	4.79**
51	Our organization giving discipline with morals	4.88	0.60	3.96	0.44	2.98**
52	I believe morals are important in life	4.96	0.20	3.92	0.62	2.88**
53	I like to obey teachers and elders	4.84	0.62	4.00	0.48	2.25*
53	I obey to law and order	4.88	0.43	4.00	0.63	5.71**
54	I like to follow rules and regulations	4.68	0.67	4.15	0.67	2.84**

*p<.05, **p<.01

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TABLE-2

ROATATED FACTOR LOADINGS OF THE PERCEIVING ORGANIZATIONAL CARE AND SUPPORT ITEMS								
S.NO	Items	Factor-I	Factor-II	Factor-III	Factor-IV	Factor-V	Factor-VI	Factor-VII
1	Adequate place for sleep	0.60	0.25	0.07	0.26	0.05	0.12	0.13
2	Individual bedding	0.57	0.21	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.16	0.06
3	Enough food	0.70	0.15	0.06	0.22	0.08	0.12	0.16
4	Adequate water to drink	0.70	0.00	0.04	0.12	0.18	0.13	0.04
5	Sufficient clothes	0.75	0.01	0.03	0.16	0.16	0.03	0.01
6	Adequate basic facilities	0.71	0.13	0.08	0.26	0.14	0.07	0.10
7	Surroundings are neat and clean	0.68	0.15	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.18
8	Playing games	0.44	0.32	0.03	0.36	0.07	0.11	0.19
9	Adequate play ground	0.52	0.43	0.03	0.23	0.12	0.00	0.10
10	Compulsory primary education	0.07	0.56	0.00	0.14	0.09	0.21	0.14
11	Sufficient stationary	0.30	0.64	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.24	0.25
12	I like school	0.13	0.68	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.01
13	Sharing doubts with others	0.35	0.46	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.22	0.23
14	Teachers clarifies our doubts	0.16	0.64	0.00	0.03	0.21	0.24	0.05
15	Teachers concerned about academics	0.20	0.62	0.00	0.07	0.20	0.30	0.19
16	I like studies	0.11	0.64	0.07	0.17	0.14	0.22	0.03
17	Training in computers/ mechanical	0.02	0.44	0.10	0.16	0.03	0.39	0.04
18	Training in vocational courses	0.01	0.21	0.05	0.14	0.06	0.46	0.22
19	Library facility	0.09	0.27	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.60	0.04
20	Providing Job opportunities after education	0.15	0.20	0.02	0.00	0.31	0.51	0.15
21	Education with morals	0.18	0.16	0.02	0.06	0.27	0.67	0.04
22	Guidance and counseling facility	0.16	0.28	0.01	0.14	0.10	0.65	0.02
23	Emergency medical services	0.30	0.30	0.11	0.51	0.11	0.11	0.14
24	Regular health check ups	0.26	0.23	0.12	0.53	0.08	0.10	0.20
25	First aid facility	0.21	0.31	0.11	0.52	0.18	0.03	0.24
26	Eye problems	0.05	0.02	0.78	0.05	0.08	0.12	0.04
27	Hearing problems	0.00	0.04	0.83	0.01	0.01	0.08	0.03
28	Dental problems	0.02	0.03	0.81	0.14	0.01	0.07	0.04
29	Frequently getting illness	0.02	0.01	0.74	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.01
30	Sleeping problems	0.02	0.02	0.77	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.15
31	Others are help me, when I was sick	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.05	0.56
32	Skin problems	0.13	0.03	0.69	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.02
33	No other problems	0.11	0.09	0.18	0.26	0.04	0.04	0.48
34	Frequently I share my feeling with others	0.21	0.21	0.10	0.09	0.31	0.07	0.60
35	Others are giving advises to me	0.23	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.27	0.02	0.66
36	When I disappointed others gave support to me	0.22	0.17	0.04	0.04	0.24	0.06	0.59
37	I care about others problems	0.16	0.12	0.11	0.02	0.12	0.16	0.57
38	No violence and discrimination	0.14	0.14	0.06	0.00	0.03	0.29	0.45
39	I take role model from peer group	0.18	0.09	0.01	0.02	0.56	0.22	0.07
40	I share my thoughts and feelings with peers	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.09	0.68	0.15	0.05
41	I frequently help to our peer group	0.18	0.18	0.10	0.15	0.62	0.29	0.12
42	Our peer group help to me	0.12	0.18	0.04	0.32	0.52	0.11	0.23
43	I mingle with my peer group	0.10	0.09	0.05	0.24	0.66	0.09	0.16
44	I take many advises from peer group	0.04	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.63	0.10	0.18
45	We have religious activities	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.60	0.09	0.01	0.04
46	We pray to God	0.15	0.04	0.04	0.67	0.01	0.01	0.01
47	Our organization giving discipline with morals	0.24	0.00	0.05	0.58	0.26	0.12	0.11
48	I believe morals are important in life	0.34	0.07	0.01	0.46	0.29	0.17	0.14
49	I like to obey teachers and elders	0.32	0.23	0.08	0.44	0.30	0.27	0.04

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The street children evaluate their organizational care and support with basic needs, basic facilities, hygienic environment and play-off.

Factor – II includes seven items: compulsory education, educational possessions, Attitude toward school, teachers concerning academics of children, clarifying doubts with teacher and peer group and interest in studies. The highest factor

loading of 0.68 is for attitude towards school and lowest of 0.46 is for clarifying doubts with peer group. The factor has been named as **SCHOOLING**. *The street children assess their organizational support, school, education, teaching, educational belongings and also interest in studies.*

Factor –III has six items: visual problems, hearing problems, dental problems, sleeping problems, skin diseases and general illness like cough, cold fever etc. The highest factor loading of 0.83 is for hearing problems and lowest of 0.69 is for skin diseases. It was named as **HEALTH PROBLEMS**. *It is mainly for health problems of street children.*

Factor – IV contains eight items. These are medical services, religious activities, and inculcating morals in organization. The highest factor loading of 0.67 is for praying god and lowest of 0.44 for respect to teachers and elders. The factor named as **ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES**. *It includes medical services, inculcating morals and religious activities are performing in organization.*

Factor –V has six items. These are sharing feelings and thoughts, helping, mingling, and taking advices and take role model with peer group. The highest factor loading of 0.68 is for sharing feelings and thoughts and lowest of 0.56 is for take a role model in peer group. It is named as **PEER GROUP SUPPORT**. *The street children asses their peer group support in the organization.*

Factor – VI includes five items. These are vocational training, library, and employment after education, education with morals and values, and guidance and counseling center. The highest factor loading of 0.65 is for guidance and counseling center, lowest for 0.46 is for providing vocational training. It is named **ORGANIZATIONAL FACILITIES**. *The street children asses their organizational services in the shelters.*

Factor – VII it has seven items, which are like to take advices and suggestions, sharing feelings, encouraging and bother about with friends, teachers and warden and also violence and discrimination in the organization. The highest factor loading of 0.66 is for take advices and suggestions and lowest for 0.45 is violence and discrimination in the organization. This factor named as **SOCIAL SUPPORT**. *The street children evaluate their social support in the organization.*

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In order to test the assumption that factor analysis may decrease the problem of multi-collinearity, an inter correlation of the seven factors was performed. The results (table- 3) indicate that though, a few relations are significant, the number of correlations are reduced, the mean correlation being 0.33, it is felt that the problem of multi-collinearity was reduced to some extent, and hence a multiple regression analysis with these seven factors could be performed.

TABLE - 3

Inter correlation of organizational care and support factors

<i>Factors</i>	<i>Factor - II</i>	<i>Factor - III</i>	<i>Factor - IV</i>	<i>Factor - v</i>	<i>Factor - VI</i>	<i>Factor - VII</i>
<i>Factor - I</i>	0.52**	0.03	0.63**	0.45**	0.37*	0.38*
<i>Factor - II</i>		0.02	0.47**	0.43*	0.56**	0.38*
<i>Factor - III</i>			0.10	0.02	0.05	0.05
<i>Factor - IV</i>				0.53**	0.41*	0.45**
<i>Factor - V</i>					0.42*	0.46**
<i>Factor - VI</i>						0.37*

*P< .05, ** P<0.01

USE OF THE TOOL

The investigator envisaged the following uses of the tool developed.

- This tool will help in identifying high or low organizational care and support of sheltered street children.
- Provide reasons for low organizational care and support.

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