

Destitute Children in Bangladesh

Institutional Provisions for their Welfare

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Muhammad Shariful Islam



OSDER
PUBLICATIONS

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ISBN: 978-984-91161-2-7

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Cover Design
Md. Shahjahan Kazi

Computer Makeup
Md. Shahjahan Kazi

Published by **Osder Publications**, 131 DIT Extension Road
Dhaka-1000. Bangladesh and printed by Osder Printers.

Printed in Bangladesh, October 2015

Price : Tk. 500.00, US\$ 25

Dedicated to

My
Reverend Grandparents,
Parents and Teachers

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Acronyms

ACD	Association for Community Development
ADM	Additional District Magistrate
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARISE	Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment
ASD	Assistance for Slum Dwellers
BCSIR	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BSAF	Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
CARE	Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere
DFID-B	Department for International Development in Bangladesh
EDM	Enfans Du Mandu
ERPH	Employment Rehabilitation Center for the Physically Handicapped
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
HBELO	Home Based Early Learning Opportunity Center
HBPS	Home Based Pre-school
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ILO	International Labor Organization
KG	Kinder Garten
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MLSS	Member of Lower Sub-ordinate Staff
NGO	Non-government Organization
PCAR	Protection of Child At Risk
PHTC	Physically Handicapped Training Center
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TDC	Tripartite Development Council
UCEP	Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
VERC	Village Education and Resource Center
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary

Agrani Shishu Kishore Sangathon	A non-government organization working for children
Alia	A system of Islamic Education equivalent to general education
Alia Madrasah	An institution of Islamic education equivalent to general education
Alim	A madrasah degree equivalent to HSC
Azimpur	Name of a place of Dhaka city
Baganpara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Balakot Movement	A movement organized against the British and the Sikh Bangladesh Gono
Shasto Sangstha	A non-government health service providing organization Bangladesh Shishu
Academy	A government institution working for the children Bangladesh Shishu
Adhikar Forum	A non-government organization working for Children
Barnali	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Baseradda	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Baya	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Bera	Straw made wall
Bhuban Mohan Park	A historical park situated in the middle place of Rajshahi city
Bidi	Small, thin, hand-rolled cigarettes
Boalia Club	A socio-cultural organization of Rajshahi city
Boro Kuthi	Indigo collecting center .Originally the residence of Zemindar
Brahman Samaj	A Hindu organization for propagating monotheism Chader Hat A non-government organization working for children
Chakla	Land area based on Tax Collection
Camel Jockey	An athlete who rides camels during a race
Chakla Rajshahi	The previous name of Rajshahi city
Chhotomoni Nibas	Shelter house for abandoned babies of under seven years
Dak Bungalow	Rest House maintained by District Council
Dakhil	A madrasah degree equivalent to SSC
Darikharbona	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Darmasova	An association for the Hindu community

	formed in the 19th century
Dars-e- Nizamia	A special method of Islamic learning
Darul Ulum Dewband	One of the largest Islamic education institution of India
Dawatul Islam	An Islamic organization for the propagation of Islamic ideas
Dawra-e- Hadih	Higher stage of Islamic education system
	Dibakalin Shishu
Jatno Kendro	Day care centre Dighapatia
Rajbangsher Kuthi	A Palace of Dynasty of Dighapatia
Eid	Muslim's Festival
Eidgah Math	Prayerground of Eid
Fakir Movement	A movements organized by the Saints led by Fakir Maznu Shah
Fikh	Islamic Jurisprudence
Furqania Madrasah	Primary institution for teaching the holy Qur'an
Phulkuri Ashar	A non-government organization working for Children
Gallamari	Name of a place of Khulna city
Ghoramara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Golap Jotir Mela	A non-government organization working for Children
Halishahor	Name of a place of Chittagong city
Harhogram	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Hifz	Memorize of the Holy Quran Jatiya Shishu
Parishad	National Child Council
Kacha Ghar	Mud made house
Kacha	Not concrete (Mud made)
Kachi Kachar Mela	A non-government organization working for Children
Kadirganj	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Kamil	A madrasah degree equivalent to general master degree
Khas	Abandoned property owned by government
Kashiadanga	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Kazihata	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Khala Amma	Aunt, generally used to address female staff of different shelter home who look after the children

Khela Ghar	A non-government organization working for Children
Khelafat Movement	A religious movement organized to protect the Osmania Atoman Empire
khichuri	Hotchpotch
Kishor Kurir Mela	A non-government organization working for Children
Kitab	Secondary stage of Islamic education system
Kochi Pata Theatre	A non-government organization working for children
Konabari	Name of a place of Gazipur District.
Lakh	One hundred thousand
Lama	Name of a place of Bandarban district
Launch Ghat	Launch Terminal
Lillah Boarding	Hostel for orphan children attached with Islamic Learning Center
Madrasah Math	Madrasah An institution of Islamic education
Mahalla	Field of a madrasah
Maktab	Village
Mastakadighi	Primary school stage of Islamic education system
Masterpara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Matir Bank	Mastaan Terrorist
Marma	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Mohakal Garh	An especial saving system of Quantum Foundation
Mohalla	An ethnic Arakanese group in Bangladesh
Molla Mill	The previous name of Rajshahi Town
Kuthi	Village
Nawdapara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Nizera Kori	Name of a place of Rajshahi city Natore
Operajeo Bangla	Rajbangsher
Paba	Centre for land revenue collection of the Zemindars of Natore
Pucca	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Zemindar	A non-government organization working for children.
	A non-government organization working for children
	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
	Concrete Panch Aani
	The woner of 5/16 of total Zemindari of the

Rajbangsher Kuthii	Raja's of Puthia Pansipara Centre for land revenue collection of the Zemindars of Pansipara
Pathanpara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Paurasova	Municipality Qawmi Madrasha A type of Islamic Education
Quariana	One kind of reciting method of the Holy Quran Rajshahi Zilla Khrira
Sangstha	Rajshahi District Sports Organization
Rampur-Boalia	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Ranibazar	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Rangunia	Name of a place of Chittagong District
Raufabad	Name of a place of Chittagong District
Reaz-us-Salateen	A noted historical book
Sabjeparar Math	A playground
Sadan	Residence of the orphan children
Sadarssram	An association of the Hindu community
Sagorpara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Sallah	Name of a place of Sylhet district
Santoshpur	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Sonadighi	A big pond of Rajshahi city
Semi-pucca	Semi-concrete
Sepoy Mutiny	A movement organized against East India Company rule in 1857
Seroil	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Shaheb Bazar	A market of Rajshahi city
Shalbagan	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Shamoly	Name of a place of Dhaka city
Shastitala	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Chak	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Shishu Mela	A non-government organization working for children
Shishu Palli	Shelter House for the destitute children runs by SOS
Shishu Paribar	Government Shelter House for the parentless children
Shishu Sadan	Shishu park Urban garden for the children Government Shelter House for the parentless children

Sipaipara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
	Tafsir Interpretation of the holy Quran
Terokhadia	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Tikapara	Name of a place of Rajshahi city
Tokai	Street Children
Tongipara	Name of a place of Madaripur District
Union Parishad	Union Council (Lowest unit of local self government administration)
Upashahar	Sub Urban Area
Upazilla	Lower administrative unit of district administration
Waqfa	Charitable or religious endowment under Muslim Law
Zemindar	Landlord Zia Shishu
Sangathon	A non-government organization working for children

Chapter One

Introduction

Background

In spite of occupying only 0.033% of world land area, near about two decades before about 2.80% of the world population was living in Bangladesh (Hossain, 1989: 90). The total population of this country is 13,92,52,643 (BBS,2012:35). Of them, 39% are children (BBS and UNICEF, 2015:3). It is to be noted that according to the Population Census Report 1991, 50.63 % of total population was children (GOB,1994). The children who are around half of the total population would likely be the leader in future. So, the society has the social and political responsibility of establishing the rights of these future citizens. It may be mentioned that United Nations (UN) adopted a children's Rights Charter in 1959, which reflects the needs and rights of children. The charter was framed and adopted keeping in view the UN Children Rights Declaration, 1924 and World Human Rights Charter, 1948. In 1979, UN declared International Year of Children on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Children Rights Charter. As a member of UN, Bangladesh government enacted 'Children Act' in 1974 and set up the 'Bangladesh Shishu Academy' as an institutional framework for the realization of the rights of the children in 1976.

In November 1989, the UN Convention of the Rights on the Child (CRC) was adopted unanimously in the general assembly meeting. Consequently, the convention became a part of the international law in September 1990. Under the convention which contains 54 sections, all sorts of exploitation, discrimination, negligence and repression have been advocated for ensuring the welfare of the children issue in respect of health, education, parent-child relationship, civic rights, child exploitation etc. have been included in the convention. Rights to health, sanitation and medical services, education for proper upbringing, improving the living conditions and arrangement of leisure, cultural activities, protection of the destitute and street children from repression and negligence, expression of opinion and freedom of movement have been categorically mentioned in the convention (Khaled, 2000: 3). As a result, Bangladesh government ratified the CRC on September 2, 1990 and later, the government adopted the National Child Policy in 1994. Moreover, under the Article 44 of CRC, the government of Bangladesh is

committed to submit report to the 'Committee on the Rights of the Child' about the progress of the programs and initiatives taken by the government for the implementation of rights of children. The government of Bangladesh has already submitted its reports in this regard. In addition, it has reflected in the 5th five year plan (1997-2002) about the execution of children rights set by in the world summit on children. It is also specified in the 5th five-year plan about 'National Plan for Action (1997-2002) and Decade for Female Children.' Through these programs, the government has taken necessary steps for the protection of life of children and to ensure their growth. The strategies undertaken in these programs are included: execution of programs successfully through co-operation with government, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and non-government initiatives. For this, two-way strategies have been taken. The first strategy included monitoring the targets of adopted planned projects, data collection and preservation and exhibition and adoption of pilot projects. These activities would be performed under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The second strategy is adoption of direct steps for the various development targets for the children. For this, the ministries and departments involved with child related issues have been proposed to execute programs taken for the welfare of children. These ministries and departments include: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning, Local Government and Engineering Department, Public Health and Engineering Department and Primary and Mass Education Department. It is to be noted here that 10 ministries have been included in the committee on the execution of CRC which is leading the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The main objective of the committee is to monitor the situation of children in the country. *Jatiyo Shishu Parishad* (National Child Council) is the highest authority for making and adopting policies for the development of children (GOB, 2000: 9-10). Despite adoption of National Child Policy, a large number of children have been yet deprived of education, healthcare, nutrition, habitation and other basic needs for shortage of resources. Children of the poor families cannot pursue education at schools for employment and underemployment of their parents. Millions of children die every year of underweight, pneumonia, diarrhoea, tetanus, birth hazards, lime and other diseases. Besides a large number of children are also attacked with blindness for lack of vitamin A. About 40% children drop out before completion of primary level education and most of them get involved in child labor. Of them, a large number of children become detached from their parents, guardian and fall into insecurity. Some of them later on get involved in

crimes. The conditions of these children bring out a challenge to the national child policy of the government.

Today's children are the citizens of the future and later on they become the leaders of the nation. But the scenario of education and healthcare of this important group is very frustrating. In 1991, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows that more than half of the total death was under 5 years old. About 8 lakhs children under 5 years die of different types of preventive diseases like diarrhoea, tetanus, pneumonia, birth hazards, underweight etc. In our country more than 90% children in between 12 to 18 months and 67% children of under five years suffer from malnutrition. Every day around 100 children are affected with blindness for lack of vitamin A. Around 10 lakhs children in between 6 to 72 months of age also suffer from lack of vitamin A and 10% children are affected with goiter due to shortage of iodine.

Although 86% children enroll their name with the schools, 40% children drop out before completion of primary education in Bangladesh (GOB,1998: 171). Another statistics show that out of 1 crore 75 lakhs total children of six to ten years old about 2.5 lakhs (14%) cannot get opportunity to enroll their names with schools and they get involved in child labor. In Bangladesh, 12% of the labor force of the registered industries are children. The number of child labor would definitely be more in the unregistered industries. A survey conducted on street children and found that around 6.75 lakhs children are working as child labor in different cities (Ali, 2004: 12) and of them around 4,45,226 are working in the six divisional cities (GOB, 2005: 10). These street children are deprived of their rights. Out of 6.75 lakhs children 31% are literate, 19% can only write their names and 37% can read and write (GOB, 2004: 27). A study conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and found that, there are about 4,29,813 street children at the six divisional cities in Bangladesh. Of them 2,49,200 (58.8%) are at Dhaka city, 55,856 (12.7%) are at Chittagong, 20,426 (4.7%) at Rajshahi, 41,474 (9.5%) and Khulna, 9,771 (2.2%) at Barisal and 13,165 (1.4%) at Sylhet City (Sabur, 2005: 7).

According to government statistics published in December 1992, there were 3,25,660 child labor in the country. Of them 64,172 were garments labor, 12,802 were *bidi* (small, thin, hand-rolled cigarettes) factory labor, 1,11,225 were at food industry (hotel, restaurant etc.) labor and 99,810 were transport sector labor (Alam, 1997: 5). A study on child labor conducted at national level in 1996 and found that around 60,300 children who are in between 4-15 years are engaged as labor. Instead of going to

school they are working in different industries. If the figure of child labor who are going to school is included, the total number of child labor will be more than that. 83% child labor who do not go to school are in village areas and the number of female and male of them is almost same (BBS, 2004). According to International Labor Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 47.93% child labor of Bangladesh never went to schools before and 42.73% who went to school dropped out and were engaged in child labor (Pelto, 1997: 104). This child labor are engaged in agricultural activities and help their mothers in domestic work in rural areas and work as small vehicle helpers, garments workers, assistants in brick field, shoe polishers, construction workers, sex workers, carpenters, tannery workers, hawkers etc. in the urban areas. These children are totally deprived of their rights declared by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). To ensure the rights of the children they should have easy access to healthcare, food, safe water, secure shelter, social, economic and religious activities. But in spite of being a member of UN, Bangladesh Government cannot fulfill the obligations contained in the child rights of 1989 for establishing rights of children due to constraints of resources and socio-economic and political limitations. 20% of total population is living in urban areas and a large number of them are living under the poverty line. They are miserably poor. Children of these miserable poor families are deprived of basic needs. The children grow up with negligence. Female children of urban areas are also exploited and face repression more (GOB, 1998: 170). According to the child recruitment Act 1938, recruitment of children under 12 years of age is absolutely banned at tobacco factories. According to Motor Vehicle Law 1939, recruitment of children under 20 years is banned at transport sector and according to the Factory Law 1965, recruitment of children under 14 years of age is banned at industries (Hossain, 1989: 113).

We know that a number of government and non-government organizations are working for the welfare of the destitute children in Bangladesh. Particularly, the organizations and institutions like *Shishu Paribar/Shishu Sadan* (Government shelter for the orphans), Physically Handicapped Training (PHT) Centre, *Diba Kalin Shishu Jatno Kendro* (daycare centre), Maternity and Child Healthcare Centre, *Chhotomoni Nibas* (baby home), Safe Home, Drop-in Centre, Juvenile Development Centre, Employment Rehabilitation Center for the Physically Handicapped (ERPH), Shishu Academy (Government institution working for the children) etc. are working for the welfare of the destitute children in the government level. On the other hand, many international, national, local

and regional organizations and institutions like UNICEF, ILO, ERPH, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Red Crescent Society, World Vision, Enfants Du Mandu (EDM), Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), Save the Children, SOS-*Shishu Palli* (shelter for the destitute children runs by SOS), Under Privileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP), Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD), Association for Community Development (ACD), Tripartite Development Council (TDC) etc. are operating various types of programs for the welfare of such children in the country over the years.

Besides, some non-government voluntary organizations such as *Phulkuri Ashar*, *Chader Hat*, *Nizera Kori*, *Khela Ghar*, *Kachi Kachar Mela*, *Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum*, *Operazeo Bangladesh* etc. are also working for the welfare of the destitute children in Bangladesh.

The Christian Missionary Schools and Hostels, *Lillah* Boarding (hostel for orphan children attached with Islamic learning center) attached with *Alia* (a system of Islamic Education equivalent to general education) and *Qawmi Madrasahs* (a type of Islamic Education) are also working for the same purposes. But, as per as we know, there is no in-depth study regarding the role of these organizations in the welfare of the destitute and neglected children especially in the realization of the UNCRC. The study would also focus on the effectiveness of their programs and activities under taken for the destitute children. To what extent the role of the government and non-government agencies that are working for the destitute children is effective would be studied. The research work would focus on these issues in particular.

Rationale of the Study

Children are considered as one of the most important target groups in social work. Bangladesh government is committed to ensure the children rights declared by the UN. For this, Child Rights Week is observed nationally every year since 1992 to create awareness and ensure children rights. Later on the government adopted National Child Policy in 1994. In the fifth five year plan (1997-2002) a number of policies were included to ensure children's rights facilities. In spite of these initiatives the government could not make much headway in improving the conditions of the children. More than 90% children under 12-18 month and 67% children under 5 years of age are suffering from malnutrition and 38% children are facing shortage of iodine (GOB, 1998: 170).

Besides, as many as 10 lakhs children in between 6 to 72 months of age are suffering from shortage of vitamin and are deprived of getting primary healthcare. In addition, about 14% children are deprived of getting primary education. Although 86% children enroll their names with schools, about 40% of them drop out before completion of primary education. A significant number of the dropped children get involved as child labor in income earning activities. It may be mentioned that about 10% people are disabled and most of them are children in the country. Every day, about 100 children are affected with blindness due to shortage of vitamin 'A'. Female children face different types of deprivation. They get fewer facilities than male children in education, health care, security and other sectors. The children of our country are deprived of getting their basic needs due to shortage of resources, illiteracy, superstition and lack of proper policies. There is no enough research work about the activities of the institutions working for the welfare of the destitute children in the country. The 190 governments that convened at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002 pledged to accelerate progress on child development. World leaders unanimously embraced a set of time-bound goals: promoting the best start and healthy lives for children; providing quality education; protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence; and combating HIV/AIDS. These commitments were reflected in a new international compact- 'A World Fit for Children'. Bangladesh is one of the signatory countries. (Bellamy, 2005: 7). For this reason, it is the time to review the activities of such institutions working for the welfare of destitute children outside the family environment. The study would deal with the institutional provisions for the destitute children and recommend measures to remove the limitations.

Operational Definition of Key Terms

Any term used in social research with significant meaning according to the purpose of study. It can be changed into the research objective. So it is need to operation the used term of the research. The operational definitions of key terms used in this study are explained below:

Child

There is no uniform definition of child on the basis of age. Considering age limit, a number of laws defining of child are available in Bangladesh. These laws were formulated at different times responding to different social conditions. According to article 1 of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) a child means every human

being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Accordingly, the laws regarding children in Bangladesh provide differing age limits to signify a child. For example, while the Majority Act, 1875 defines a child as a person who is below the age of 18 years, the Children Act, 1974 defines a child is someone who is below 16.

The labor laws reveal similar inconsistencies. The Children (Pledging of Labor) Act, 1933 and the Employment of Children Act, 1938 set out the minimum age for children at 15 and 12 respectively. The Factories Act, 1965, on the other hand, designates persons below 14 years of age as children. The following table demonstrates the differentiation in minimum age in various legislative enactments:

Table 1.1: Definition of child in accordance with various law of Bangladesh

Acts/Ordinances	Age below which a person is deemed a child
The Majority Act, 1875	18 years
The Mines Act, 1923	15 years
The Children (Pledging of Labors) Act, 1933	15 years
The Employment of Children Act, 1938	12 and 15 years (according to specified occupations)
The Plantations Labor Ordinance, 1962	15 years
The Factories Act, 1965	14 years
The Shops and Establishment Act, 1965	12 years
The Children Act, 1974	16 years

**Source:* Khair, S. (2005). “*Child Labor in Bangladesh: A Forward Looking Policy in Bangladesh*” ILO, Geneva, Switzerland.

In this study the definition of a child declared by the CRC has been considered as child.

Destitute Children

Destitution means the condition of being extremely poor. In other words, it is “a state without friends or money or prospects.” Broadly speaking, destitution is an extreme state of poverty, in which a person is almost completely lacking in resources or means of support (www.wikipedia, accessed on 19.06.07).

However, a person who is destitute is often homeless, unemployed and hungry. So, destitution is a kind of: poverty, poorness, impoverishment the state of having little or no money and few or no material possessions.

After above discussions, it can be said that the children who are homeless, parentless, shelter less, unemployed and hungry are destitute. In Bangladesh, a significant number of such destitute children are available and posing their daily lives with miserable conditions. Destitute children in great number are available throughout the country. In this study, the children who are parentless, shelter less, homeless etc. have been treated as destitute children.

Child Welfare

Child welfare is a term which connotes the general well-being of the child. In all ages this has depended principally on the social valuation of children and the care accorded to them.

Child welfare activities are of many types. In some instances financial assistance is extended to the parent to enable him to continue the care of his own children, usually with some measure of supervision. In other instances aid is rendered directly to the child by providing him with foster care in institution or families either for short or for extended periods.

Child welfare work originally concerned itself primarily with two large age groups, infants and young children, with attention also to children who were employed (Encyclopedia of Social Science, 1930:378).

According to the Encyclopedia of Social Science of India child welfare refers to the total well-being of the child. It therefore includes all services which are needed to ensure the fullest development of the physical, intellectual, emotional and social potentialities of the child. Positive services which aim at the fulfillment of basic needs of all children like health, education, recreation etc., constitute one aspect of child welfare. Services of an ameliorative, curative and rehabilitative nature directed to meet the special needs of the physically, mentally or socially handicapped children constitute the other aspect of child welfare.

Although all activities concerned with human welfare, it would directly or indirectly promote welfare of the child by improving the quality of his social environment. The term child welfare is used here in a narrower and more specific sense, refers to services the primary purpose of which is to promote the well-being of the child (Encyclopedia of Social Work in India, 1968:84).

Institution

Institution is a verbal symbol which for want of a better describes a cluster of social usages. It connotes a way of thought or action of some prevalence and permanence, which is embedded in the habits of a group or the customs of a people. In ordinary speech it is another word for procedure, convention or arrangement. Institutions fix the confines of and impose form upon the activities of human beings.

The range of institution is as wide as the interests of mankind. Any informal body of usage- the common law, athletics, the higher learning, literary criticisms, the moral code is an institution in that it lends sanction, imposes tables and lords it over some human concern. Any formal organization the Government, the Chairman, the University, the Corporation, the Trade Union- imposes commands, assesses penalties and exercises authority over its members (Encyclopedia of Social Science, 1930:84).

According to Sharma Institution has distinct meanings a social institution can refer to a major unit in the analysis of society and experience of participants in social action; it is an established set of ways of behaving. In a more narrow sense an institution refers essentially to a place where provide service (e.g. the poor law institution or institutional care). To wider sense of institution is relevant. To social welfare is at least two ways, first. The major social institutions may generate welfare or detrimental. Second, one general approaches to the growth and place of social welfare stresses its institutional nature (Sharma, 1999:427). Here, in the study, institutions have been treated those organizations which are providing various services for the well-being of destitute children.

Institutional Provision

Provision means the giving or lending of something to somebody such as housing/education provision. Further, it means an amount of something that is provided. In plural provisions' means supplies of food and drink (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1999:934). So institutional provision means those services such as shelter, food, cloth, educational materials, recreation, training, rehabilitation, legal help etc. are provided by the formal institution mentioned above.

Rajshahi City

Rajshahi city is one of the largest cities of Bangladesh. It is located in the north western part of country of Bangladesh. It is the district head quarters of Rajshahi district. In this study Rajshahi city means Rajshahi City Corporation which is constituted with 30 wards.

Objectives of the study

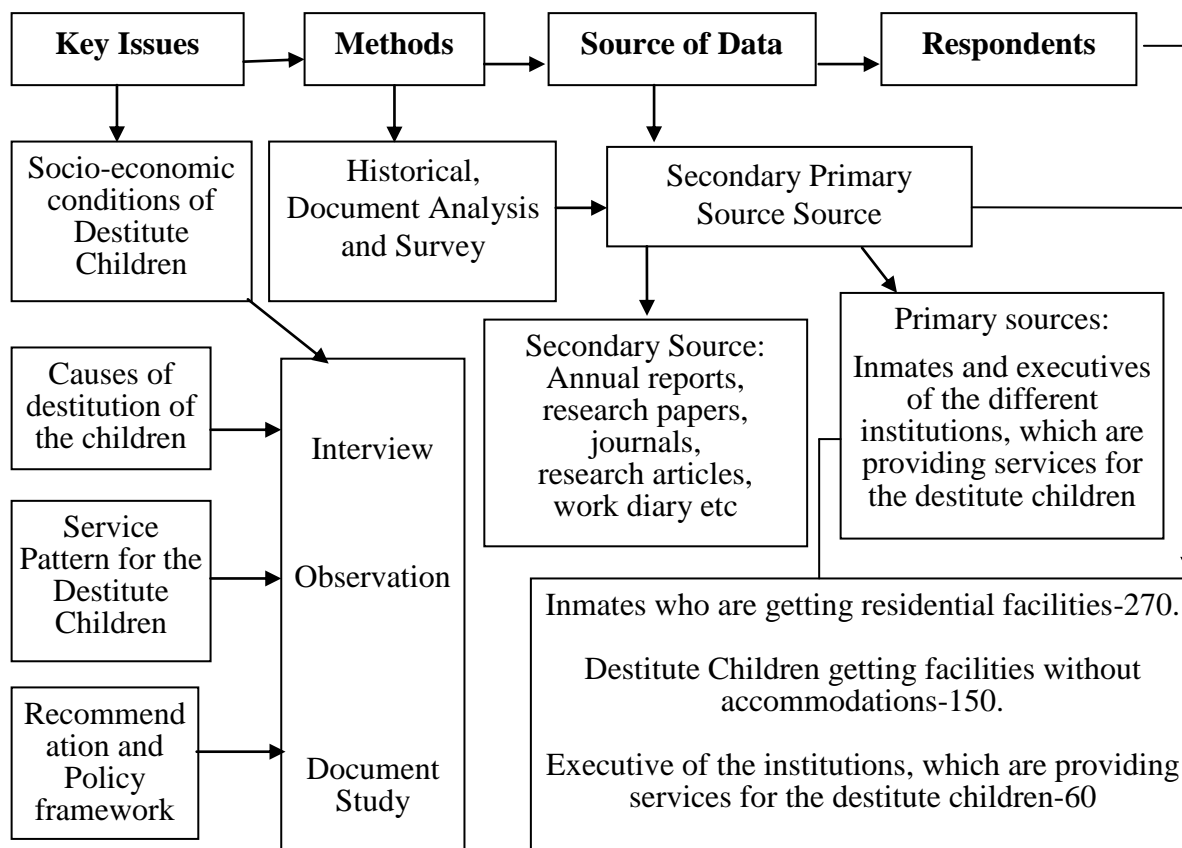
In fact the study would explore the role and functions of the different bodies by obtaining data and necessary information. It would try to focus how the government and non-government institutions are playing their role to establish the rights of the children. The study would have the following objectives:

- i. To know the socio-economic conditions of the destitute and neglected children,
- ii. To find out the reasons behind their destitutions and deprivations,
- iii. To know the service pattern and its standard of government and non-government organizations,
- iv. To identify the limitations of these bodies,
- v. To provide recommendations for removing the limitations and improving their programs.

Research Methodology

To conduct the study social survey method has been used. Data have been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The government and non-government organizations working for the welfare of the children provided data for the study. These institutions are included government *Shishu Sadan/Shishu Paribar*, *Chhotomony Nibas* (Baby Home), PHT Centre, Drop-in Centre, *Lillah* Boarding attached with *Alia and Qawmi* Madrasahs, *SOS-Shishu Palli*, the Christian Missionary Hostels, private sector *Shishu Sadan/Shelter Houses*, UCEP-schools etc.

The Children who are residing in these institutions have been considered as the primary sources of data. The number of respondents was 20% of the population. Besides, at least two executives from each institution have been interviewed. The institutions and the respondents have been selected purposively. Primary data have been collected using interview schedule and secondary data have been collected from annual reports, research papers, journals, research articles, work diary etc. The research design has been presented in the table below:

Table 1.2 Key issues of research design to achieve the objectives

The study has been focused on the destitute children of Bangladesh particularly in Rajshahi city. In this area, those organizations both government and non-government sector are working in the field of destitute children especially *Shishu Sadan*, PHT Centre, *Dibakalin Shishu Jatno Kendra* (day care centre), Drop-in Centre etc. in the government level, *SOS-Shishu Palli*, UCEP, ASD, ACD, TDC, the Christian Missionary Schools and Hostels, *Lillah* Boarding attached with *Qawmi* and *Alia Madrasahs* have been selected as study area.

The study has been conducted on the basis of sample survey. For this reason, sample size was determined by the following sample procedure. As evident from the above discussion, there have been three categories of respondents. These three categories have been selected by purposive sampling procedure. These are as follows:

Firstly: The Destitute Children who are Getting Residential Facilities

There are two types of destitute children who are getting welfare services from the institutions. Those who are getting residential facilities and those who are not getting residential facilities. So, to know the situation, needs and services of destitute children 270 children have been interviewed who are getting residential facilities.

Secondly: Destitute Children who are not Getting Residential Facilities

A total of 150 destitute children who are not availing residential facilities have been interviewed to know about nature and pattern of the services and facilities they enjoyed.

Thirdly: Executives of the Institutions

It is very important to know the experiences, problems and limitations during dealing with the destitute children. So, a total of 60 executives have been selected for interviewing from the concerned institutions. These three categories of sample have been presented in the table below:

Table 1.3 Study sample at a glance

Sample Categories	Sample size (n)
Destitute Children getting facilities with accommodations	270
Destitute Children getting facilities without accommodations	150
Executives of concerned institutions	60
Total (N)	480

Primary data have been collected from the selected sample through face-to-face interview using interview schedule. In addition, secondary data have been collected from relevant documents and officials. There have been separate interview schedule for each of the sample categories mentioned above containing relevant aspects. Structured interview guide has been used for data collection. Instrument has been finalized through pre-test. Trained interviewers had been nominated for data collection under the supervision of the researcher.

Data have been presented through univariate distribution in tables and figures. Some statistical techniques have been used to analysis the data. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20.0 (IBM SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL; USA) has been used for statistical analysis.

Chapter Outline

Based on the objectives and findings of the study the book has been divided into seven chapters. The chapter is introductory chapter that mainly contains background, rationale and methodologies used for the purpose of the study on the destitute children and institutional provisions for their welfare. The second chapter titled as ‘Convention on the Right of Children :A Review of Literature’ presents the different issues related to the convention through surveying literature. Third Chapter concentrates on the historical background of the convention, a Brief Critical Review of UNCRC and Implementation of the various

conventions related to child rights in Bangladesh. Existing Situation of the Destitute Children and Initiatives for their welfare in Bangladesh are discussed in the fourth chapter while the fifth chapter deals with the Institutions for the Welfare of the Destitute Children. The sixth chapter makes a thorough evaluation of Existing Services for the Welfare of the Destitute Children in Rajshahi City based on the findings. The last chapter and concluding chapter summarizes the research outputs and puts forward some recommendations for the wellbeing of the destitute children.

Chapter Two

Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Review of Literature

The States signatory to the CRC is committed to fulfill and establish the rights of children within their respective territory. The government of Bangladesh is also committed to fulfill the Articles of CRC. The government in cooperation with national and international organizations has been implementing various projects and programs for the welfare of children. Besides a number of research organizations are working in the research field and publishing their reports. In these reports, the present conditions of children, limitations, obstacles to implement the CRC and recommendations to remove these barriers have been discussed. The summary of some of these works conducted aiming at establishing the rights of children in Bangladesh may be given below:

UNICEF (1997) has stated about the rights of the children and analyzed the situation of the children of Bangladesh in a report *Bangladesher Shishu O Tader Odhikar* (Children of Bangladesh and Their Rights). The report has been divided into five chapters in addition to a conclusion. The first chapter contains child rights charter covering general principles, execution of charter, observation of member-countries and awareness about charter. The second chapter includes: right to live, life protection of children, control of diseases, health and life protection of pregnant women, health care nutrition and water and sanitation. In chapter three, right to growth, contains the issues are: growth of children in childhood, education and child labor, birth registration, female child, minor-ethnic child, physical and sexual abuses of children, displaced children and child trafficking. In the last chapter, right to participation, respect to the opinion of children, disabled children and children's participation in the development process are discussed. In the report, the overall situation of children of Bangladesh has been explored in light to the CRC. The positive and negative aspects on children issues have also been narrated in the report. The findings of the report reveal that people from all walks of life should participate in the execution and observation process to implement the charter in the life of children in Bangladesh.

Hossain, T. (1989) has described in details about child issues in his book *Shishu: Biswa O Bangladesh Prekkhapot* (Children: World and

Bangladesh Perspective). The book has been divided into three chapters- world perspective, South Asian Perspective and Bangladesh perspective. Each chapter contains a number of issues such as definition of child age, awareness of child rights, urban-rural discrimination, health, disabled child etc in the first chapter. Education, special target group, role of non-government sector, law issues, water and cleanness, slum child labor, drug addiction, early marriage, recreation and sports, social awareness, nutrition of mother, breast-feeding, convention on child rights, etc are included in the second chapter.

In the last chapter- Bangladesh perspective-a number of issues have also been described. The issues include: urbanization, birth rate, life expectancy, conditions of children, malnutrition, education, formal education, destitute child, orphan child, street child, child labor, survey, disabled child, child-care perspective and future commitment. In this chapter, the writer, Hossain (1989), has narrated about destitute children. He says on an average almost all children of Bangladesh are to face different types of obstacles such as poverty, malnutrition, health related problems and access to education. Family, the lowest unit of society, tries to provide all sorts of facilities for children. But beyond the social security, a large number of children remain far from such facilities. These are orphan, street children who are identified as '*tokai*' (street children) in the media even among the elite group people. These children come from displaced/floating family and in many cases from one family. Besides, there are a number of disabled children. These children live beyond the social security.

He says poverty and health-related problems have pushed the children into this position. In addition, natural disaster like flood, drought, and cyclone are also responsible to make them vulnerable in spite of their miserable conditions. He noted that various types of short-term relief activities, in many cases, become blessing for them but for the lack of long term initiatives, the rehabilitation problems persist. In Bangladesh, there are some social-welfare structures to deal with for these destitute children and women. Finally, it may be noted that this book contains a holistic scenario of children.

Rana, A. (1997) states on UN convention on the rights of the child and the situation of children in Bangladesh in his work *Jatisangho Shishu Sanad O Bangladesher Shishu* (United Nations Child Charter and Children of Bangladesh). He has discussed the government initiatives taken for the well-being of children in the country. The government of Bangladesh has taken various projects and programs in accordance with

the CRC for the protection of rights of children. The government has set up various institutions for the children so that they can get the facilities which are needed for their future potential life. The writer also discussed the various programs taken by the non-government organizations (NGOs) for the well-being of children in the country.

The writer noted that about 50% of total population is children in the country. The government is operating different types of programs for their physical and mental well-being to make them good citizen. He has also discussed the UN child charter elaborately in the last chapter of the book.

Sheena, C. (1999) discussed about the child rights situation of the working children in his study *Children's Rights and Children's Work in Bangladesh: A Scoping Study*. The study is carried out for DFID-B in September and October 1999. This study reveals that 90% of the workforce in Bangladesh is employed in the informal sector and over 90% of children who work do so informally; without the benefit of any structure for their protection in work and often at considerable risk of abuse from those forces who are supposed to protect them. It is observed that child work can have a positive effect on children's rights; for example, increasing household income, improving nutrition and access to health care. It can also have a negative effect such as- damaging education opportunities, development, health and well-being. The study also reveals that there are an estimated 50,000 boys and girls working as prostitutes in Bangladesh. Child sex work is caused by a number of factors like extreme poverty, family breakdown, being 'born into' the profession and sexual abuse. The study further found that about 20% of child prostitutes die before, or when just reaching adulthood.

The researcher has recommended that although main streaming children's rights into practice may have highest and long-term impact on children's lives, there is a pronounced need to work towards immediate impact in some areas of rights violations or ignorance. This is particularly in relation to aspects of work, protection and participation. The researcher also says there are numerous ways on which work in support of the CRC could be taken forward in Bangladesh. It is further noted that the priority should be to enhance protection for children and to encourage them in ethical and appropriate participation for their own development and towards alternative livelihood strategies for productive citizenship.

Save the Children (2004) discussed the development of child rights situation in the report "*Bangladesh-e-Shishu Odhikar Sanad*

Bastabayaner Agragati Parjalochona” (The Latest Review of the implementation of the CRC in Bangladesh) The report was prepared by the committee on the 'Rights of the Child' constituted by the government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is one of the 22 States that signed the convention and ratified it. The report was prepared in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the charter. The charter proclaims that State parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in this convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members and so on. The review reports were prepared in accordance with these principles. The committee reviewed the latest situation of the implementation. The government of Bangladesh has taken various initiatives for the well-being of children including legal protection. The government has also taken various projects and for the improvement of living conditions and protection of their rights. The report also made observations on which the government has not taken any steps. Various difficulties and obstacles have also been discussed in the report. These included the articles of the CRC in its last part. The report is the government document and it is submitted to the committee on children of the UN.

GOB (1999) seeks response from international and regional conventions regarding children and their rights in the report *National Plan for Action for Children 1997-2002*. It presents a policy review of the situation of children in Bangladesh in the light of regional and international declarations with proposed program interventions in a number of fields. This includes provision for their wholesome living opportunities and schooling, elimination of all forms of trafficking and abuse and the strict enforcement of current child labor laws. Through this a perception of the child as a distinct personality in his/her own right will be developed. It is narrated in the National Plan for Action that Bangladesh has ratified : CRC (ratified (1990), world Declaration on Survival, Protection, Development and Participation of children from the world summit for children (1990), Rawalpindi Resolution of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (1996) and National Children Policy 1994.

In this report a 'Child' is regarded as a person below 18 years of age in line with the CRC. In 1997, 49.67% (6.175 crore) of Bangladesh's population of 12.43 crore people fitted into this category. Statistics reveal that 66 lakhs despite 1.183 crore are unemployed adults. 300 types of work have been recorded, 47% of these deemed as highly hazardous. 5% are in the informal economy, with the vast majority in the informal economy. It is argued that child labor has increased due to an increase in the country's population, a persistently impoverishing situation in rural areas and migration from rural to urban areas due to poverty, erosion of land, inheritance laws and the breakup of families, working children in Bangladesh are exposed to violence and other abuses. It is also argued that child labor is both an economic and social problem. In the Action plan, the government sets goals for the elimination of children engaged in hazardous occupations by 2000, and elimination of all forms of child labor by 2010. To achieve the goals, the government has taken various strategies which include : to encourage the establishment of day-care centre for children of working mothers, increased provision of education with an improvement in school conditions, create greater awareness about child labor issues, poverty alleviation as poverty is the main reason for the high incidence of child labor, reducing vulnerabilities, encourage NGOs to open up employment credit and skill training facilities for the parents of vulnerable children.

The National Plan for Action looks good, paying hip-service to international and regional conventions that promote the best interest of the child. Strategies and goals are varied, some realistic, others quite unrealistic and unattainable. But it is possible to begin to evaluate the success of these policies.

GOB (2000) analyze the achievement of various initiatives to ensure the rights of the children in the report *Achievement of Specified Targets Fixed at the World Summit on Children: National Report 2000*. In 2000, the government of Bangladesh has submitted a report on the situation of children of the country to the UNICEF. This report was prepared in accordance with the specified targets which were set at in the World Summit on Child held in 1990. In the summit, a number of issues were fixed which should be addressed by the State party for the well-being of children of the country. Accordingly, the government of Bangladesh has taken various initiatives and project to achieve the goals. The report has been divided into six chapters, excluding graphs, table and references. In the first chapter, the back ground of Bangladesh and World Summit on Child has been discussed as well as the achievement of the first-five years

also discussed. In the second chapter, the achievements of last decade in this regard are discussed. In the chapter three, the initiatives taken at national and international level have been discussed. In the chapter four, the initiatives taken for the protection of the rights of the children and their growth have been discussed. In the chapter five, the attained experiences gathered during, the implementing period at different times have been discussed. Finally, in the report in the last chapter, the issues what should be done in future are discussed. In the chapter a 7- point issue has been discussed for the well-being of children. It is a government official document in the sector of children. It reveals that Bangladesh has achieved remarkable improvements in respect of developing the condition of women and children particularly in education, health and sanitation, nutrition, water supply etc. with the help of NGOs and donor organizations.

Sarwar, S. (1996) in his research work *The State of Floating Children: A Study of Working Children in Rajshahi City*, has tried to assess the causes behind the existence of floating children, the violation of their rights and the reasons for their involvement in labor. It is a case study oriented unpublished research work. The findings of the study reveal that, according to the 1993 estimated by the WHO, there were 10 crore world wide floating children. 75% floating children in the survey areas came from villages and 25% came from other towns. The survey was conducted on 100 children. Of them 80 were male and 20 female. According to the findings, a number of floating children were used as carriers of smuggled goods or as prostitutes, citing that they earn double to what they would be working as a porter. Some 20% had taken part in political rallies, half of which was for remuneration in cash or food.

The study also recommended some suggestions for considerations by GOB or NGOs. The suggestions include: to arrange job/income generating opportunities for migrant guardians, initiatives for income generating opportunities in rural areas to stop migration, arrangement to vocational education and training and implementation of national child policy.

Salahuddin, K. (2001) has discussed child issues in his study *Child Labor in Bangladesh*. The study report was published in 1981 and the second impression of the report was published in January 2001. In the report the researcher says in Bangladesh, the use of child labor is on the increase and it is gradually being recognized as a multi-dimensional

social problem. The problem of child labor in the country is mainly the creation of extreme poverty aggravated by the attitudes of the tradition-bound agro-based society.

The findings of the study reveal that an overall view of the children's employment situation in Bangladesh clearly and unmistakably indicates that child labor which involves exploitation exists in an extensive form in all the sectors of our economy. It is observed that the lack of education and recreation, together with hard labor, are likely to cause immeasurable mental and physical harm to the working children. It not only prevents their social advancement, but also can deprive the society of the creativeness of their fully developed talents in the coming years.

The researcher suggests that both the national government and the international community should adopt suitable policy measures to deal with this problem both on a long term as well as on short term basis. The main objective of our long term planned efforts should be to bring about appropriate structural changes in the socio-economic arena which would increase economic well-being of the population and establish justice in distribution in the society. The short term measures should aim at improving the existing conditions of work and living of these young working groups as well as devising some ways so that these unfortunate tiny workers may have access to educational and other facilities.

King, M. A. and Knox, R. L. (2003) express the miseries of the working children in their research report *Working Children in Bangladesh*. It is an extensive research work published in 2003. Mr. Matthew A. King and Ryan L. Knox have conducted the study. They divided the study into the three broad chapters. In the first chapter, they made an overall review of their work. The chapter is also divided into five sub chapters. Here the researchers observe that there are different types of the living conditions of working children and the working aspects are also different. They observe that poverty and pressure of insecurity are the common features for such conditions. They also found such social-structure where poverty and discrimination persist.

In the second chapter, they made a review on the research works conducted in different times on sexual harassment of children and child trafficking. In this chapter, different issues such as sexual harassment of children, different type of sexual harassment and its wideness, child trafficking, its reasons and consequences and made their observations. They found that there is a relation in between rural poverty and sexual harassment of children. They also found that in Dhaka about 89%

children who are involved in sexual activities come from outside the town. Generally, it is thought that children who come from rural areas get involved in trafficking and sexual harassment. Because, the victims do not know the network where they can get help. As a result, they become victim of trafficking and sexual harassment. The researchers reveal some statistics that there are about 10,000 prostitutes in Bangladesh and 50% of them are youth. There are about 13,000 child sex-workers. Also, there are about 3 lakhs Bangladeshi sex-workers in Indian brothels and 2 lakhs in Pakistan brothels.

In the last chapter, the researchers made a review on the earlier two chapters as well as summarize the research works conducted on working children in Bangladesh at different times.

Actually, the 'working children in Bangladesh' is a compilation of research works along with their review and evaluation.

Khair, S. (2005) in her study *Child Labor in Bangladesh: A Forward Looking Policy Study* considers the detrimental impact of hazardous working conditions on the development of children and addresses the socio-economic consequences of child labor in the context of Bangladesh. The study's recommendations stress the need to pursue a multi-pronged approach to address the attendant problems and identify some key areas for policy intervention.

In Bangladesh, the issue of working children has been addressed by the Government through various plans, policies and laws at different times. She has made a review exercise that focuses on selected issues pertaining to child labor in Bangladesh in an attempt to gauge the extent to which the issue has featured in the development plans, policies, programs and laws of the country. The study further maintains that while work from an early age affects children's health it safety and impedes their intellectual development in ways that jeopardize their future welfare and ability to generate an income. Child labor also has several economic consequences, which is exploitation in terms of wages and working conditions.

He has stated that although the issue of child labor has been addressed by various Governments, it has received only generic treatment in policy formulations. Devoid of concrete guidelines and adequate budgetary allocations, these exercises lack vision and sensitivity. Although education is considered vital in eliminating or reducing child labor, many of the documents of the government do not elaborate how education can be made more inclusive for under privileged children for whom the cost of

attending schools continues to be steep. He has also stated the sheer lack of enforcement seriously undermines the utility of many of these government initiatives. The study stresses the necessity to explore a multitude of approaches and engage a host of actors in order to effectively deal with the problems of child labor. Research in this context, is deemed crucial for planning, monitoring and evaluating policy measures and providing policy makers with a basis for policy development and program implementation. Accordingly, the study suggests possible future directions for policy and research. The key areas that have been emphasized include: (a) developing policy and legal measures (b) strengthening institutional capacity (c) promoting quality education (d) addressing the gender dimension (e) ensuring children's participation and (f) market linkages and forging alliances.

Pelto, B. (1997) has tried to understand the sufferings and emotional lives of the working children in his book *Daily Lives: Working Children in Bangladesh*. It is a case-study oriented work. This study is not an attempt to count the number of working children in Bangladesh. The focus of this study is rather on the daily lives of children, without trying to pass judgment on employers.

The findings of the study reveal that nor do the case studies provide solutions to the question, "Can child labor be eliminated in Bangladesh?" Rather these sketch the children's daily lives in their different occupations and help formulate ways in which the rights and future of these children could be better protected. It also reveals that like children everywhere, their emotional lives are complex and volatile.

The report, however, has been divided into twelve chapters and discussed different issues in different chapters.

From the case studies presented throughout the report, it should be clear that the working children in Dhaka, as well as those in other cities and towns in Bangladesh, have many different living arrangements. Only two-thirds of them live with their parents. A significant number of the children live with their employers, either in the employer's homes or in the shops where the children are employed and their percentage is 20. Also many of the children sleep in public areas like footpaths, railway stations, market areas, hat areas, under truck and other vehicles or in the buses and trucks that they work in. These children are particularly exposed to physical and mental difficulties. They must pay a 'toll' to *mastaans* (terrorists) or else they are harassed. They are also harassed by

the police. Both male and female children are subject to sexual abuse when they sleep in unprotected public areas.

However, this study is mainly based on some case studies highlighting the children's working situation in Bangladesh. Particularly, the situation of the destitute children has been elaborately analyzed in the study.

Shamim, I., Huda, M.N. and Mahmud, S. (1995) have tried to determine the dominating causes for children's participation in domestic work in their report *Child Domestic Work in Dhaka: A Study of the Exploitative Situation*. It is largely a quantitative study of child domestic workers in Dhaka that offers a lot of data about the child workers but excludes qualitative information. The findings of the study reveal that poverty and landlessness are the dominating causes for children's participation in domestic work. Child domestic workers are more capable than adults. Children are good workers and can do odd jobs, children are obedient, hard working and easy to train. Some child workers are as young as 5–7 years old. Few children are found to be suffering from ill health. There is no specific or organized way of recruiting child domestic workers. Most parents of child domestic workers had low-income jobs and their mothers were often housewives, 88% of employers were satisfied or very satisfied with their child domestic workers 92% of girls and 87% of boys said in their interviews that they were satisfied in their present work situation. Some said they were not given good food, were overworked and physically or verbally abused. Girls workers were often promised a good marriage and the boys a good job in the future. The large majority of children are unaware of child rights and their legal rights.

The researchers recommended that the government could introduce identity cards for child domestic workers facilitating protection and education provision. It is concluded that rather than banning children from working in the domestic environment, employers should be sensitized to their needs and rights through advocacy.

Khair, S. (2004) has drawn upon perceptions and experiences of child domestic workers and their employers in an attempt to explore the situation of children in domestic service in her study *Child Domestic Workers in Dhaka City: Situation Analysis*. The study reveals girls and women predominate in domestic service. There is evidence that girls are often engaged in worst forms of child labor on account of prevalent discriminatory treatment that relegates them to an inferior status within society.

The child domestic workers in the present study were predominantly female which 78% of total domestic workers. It was found that about 74% of the total child domestic workers in the sample were unable to read or write. The study also reveals that the child domestic workers are found to have begun work from a relatively early age. The average age at which the children in the study sample first took up work for money was 10 years approximately. For the male children the average age at which they began to work was 9.5 years approximately and for the females, it was 10 years approximately.

Economic imperatives play a vital role in compelling poor families to engage their children in domestic service, 76% of the child domestic workers have taken up domestic work to support their families.

In any of the given situation, a contract of employment is nonexistent in domestic service. As a result, the work-hour is not limited, weekly rest is absent, wages are not adequately paid, freedom of movement is curtailed and interaction with outsiders is restricted. Moreover, the majority of child domestic workers do not have their duties and functions defined clearly. As such, they are expected to function efficiently within a whole gamut of occupations connected with the household. But it is virtually impossible for any child domestic workers to leave the job of his/her own free will. The Study reveals that the child domestic workers do work nearly seven days a week, on an average of 6.99 days per week. Now only do children work through the week, they also work for exceedingly long hours. Despite hard work, it is common for child domestic workers to have their meals regulated and intake of food monitored. Although there are instances when children are offered improved diet, this occurs mainly during special occasions, like *Eid* (Muslim's festival).

Employers do not perceive the payment of remuneration as essential so long domestic workers are fed, clothed and sheltered. If children are paid at all, it is generally a very nominal sum.

Employers' perspectives were examined for a comparative analysis of the situation of child domestic workers in the study, while analyzing the socio-economic condition of the employers, the majority of the employers were found to be middle class educated people. The employers revealed a disproportionate preference for girls over boys. 58.7% of the employers responded that they had no particular difficulty with their child domestic worker while 41.3% admitted that they often had problems in dealing with them.

The study provides adequate information on child labor situation in domestic service in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka City.

Chowdhury, A. F. H. and Islam, M. Z. A. (2005) have tried to understand the deprivations and miseries of the working children in their research *Child Labor Situation in Match Industry in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Bandarban Districts*. This survey combines dual goals firstly, to develop a database on the households having child labor working in the match factories. Secondly, to obtain pertinent information on the prevalent child labor situation.

The survey conducted in Dhaka and Narayanganj cities and identified 855 (49.94% males, 50.06% females) children aged 5-17 years were working in the match factories of 611 households.

In Dhaka and Narayanganj, the researchers found that 94.48% child workers usually were working in the factory filling match stick into the matchbox. They also found that children spent on an average of 11-hour a day in match producing activities and earned daily income on an average Tk. 47 working in Narayanganj and Tk. 57 in Dhaka. The child laborers are found to suffer poor health and encounter some common injuries and illnesses such as fire and chemical burns, skin diseases and coughing. The survey in Dhaka reveals that nearly 88% of the children and their families have to dwell in the slum areas of Dhaka and Narayanganj. The biggest burden of their households is the cost for daily food. Nearly two-thirds of them reported that their households would not afford food or rent if they were withdrawn from the match factories. Most of them get their job of match production through their relatives and or friends from the owners. The survey found that 85.48% had to work overtime in order to maintain their families.

The port city, Chittagong is the recipient of a large number of displaced, unskilled migrants from resource-scarce regions of the country. Like other industrial plants, the match factory in the area also took a considerable share not only of adult unskilled workers, but also of their minor children. From the standpoint of the working families, the basic survival need is the main factor for pushing their children to engage in highly hazardous work in the match factory.

During the survey period, in Chittagong, out of the four presently operating match factories, two are located within the Chittagong City Corporation. The largest of the four is located in a multi-cultural as well as multiethnic setting on the fringe of Bandarban district. In the factories the female child laborers, aged mostly between 6 and 14- year were

found to be involved in match production. The child laborers are paid on an average of only Tk. 13 for 8 hour in a day. Trapped in a cycle of poverty, these children are the victims of malnutrition, diarrhoea and unhygienic conditions. The numbers of child labor from the *Marma* (an ethnic Arakanese group in Bangladesh) community were found to be the most.

The survey in Chittagong found that the parental concern for the proper development of their children is extremely indifferent, rooted possibly in their lack of education and resources. The immediate gain from the child labor seems to predispose the heads of household to involve their children in hard and risk-prone income generating activities.

The findings of the survey give clear evidence that until and unless the poor families are able to cross the poverty line for the better, the elimination of the worst forms of child labor will not be satisfactorily achieved.

Karim, A.H.M.Z. *et al.* (2004) have express the indispensability of elimination of child labor in their report *Baseline Survey on Child Labor Situation in Bidi Industry in Kushtia, Tangail and Rangpur Districts*. Over the past decade, Bangladesh has made significant progress in strengthening its foundation for the prevention of child labor. The attitude of the general public and the government has been notably changed from viewing child labor as a traditional and inevitable phenomenon for a poor country to a condition that would perpetually keep the country in the trap of poverty. In 2001, the Government of Bangladesh ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 (1999) on worst forms of child labor, which marked a significant step toward addressing the issue of child labor.

The researchers conducted the survey to find out the number of children working in *bidi* sector and the underlying reasons compelling the parents to send their children to the work place of *bidi* factories. They sent their children for supplementing their low and irregular family income at the cost of their potentialities for being the successful and dynamic member of their family and of society as well. The researcher conducted the survey on a total of 21,217 children working in 62 *bidi* factories. Of them, a total of 17,344 children were from Rangpur, 1,577 from Tangail and 2,296 from Kushtia district. Among the total child labor, 15,231 are identified as working in the worst forms, 12,447 in Rangpur, 866 in Tangail and 1918 in Kushtia. The findings of the survey also show that among the worst forms of child labor, 61.59% are boys and 38.41% are girls. Most of the working children are in the age group

of 5-12 years, about 66% of the total number of working children, followed by children at the age group of 13-14 years (about 20% of the total number of children) and 15-17 years (about 13% of total number of children).

The findings of the sample survey indicate that the preponderant majority of the sample population is illiterate. Even children registered as beginners in schools are soon found dropouts, the main reason being poverty and the schools are too far from their home. The study reveals that majority of the parents obtained their job of *bidi* production by themselves from the owners. They have to work longer hours in addition to the assumed normal limit of 8 hour in a day. They are paid on the basis of unit of quality production of *bidi*, not on the basis of the span of time. The employers have no preference in regard to age, sex and marital status of workers to be employed as they have to pay on the basis of work quota only. The most common illnesses found among the workers were headache, fever and coughing, vomiting, physical weakness, etc. Most of them reported that their work place did not have enough space to sit.

The study found that the male parent is more dominant in making decisions regarding family activities than their spouse.

Shamim, I. and Kabir, F. (1998) have drawn their attention to assess the child trafficking and to explore the strategies for the prevention of trafficking in their study *Child Trafficking: The Underlying Dynamics*. The survey was conducted through Fads and interviews with key informants of communities Jessore and Satkhira, interviews with families that have had experience of trafficking and traffickers.

The findings of the study reveal that the central concern point of trafficking are poverty, the inferior status of women and girls and increasing trend of sexual exploitation on a local and global scale. It is argued that the main cause for trafficking is poverty which inevitably affects women and children most severely leading to exploitation in the wake of rural-urban migration; the poor are particularly vulnerable to the lure of traffickers. The findings also reveal that the traffickers maintain a lot of mechanisms for trapping children. These include: the allurements of better jobs, an affair with a Lover, the promise of marriage, false marriage, tourism and kidnapping. Some of the major trafficking routes and sites are outlined in the report. It happened through organized gangs work maintaining a network of agents. The study noted that NGOs are

increasingly working on the issue of trafficking, some through advocacy and other through rescuing, rehabilitation and repatriation. Details of their activities are provided in the study.

The researchers recommended tackling endemic poverty, set up a national database of vulnerable children and their exploiters provide support to local NGOs, community groups and development partners to assist them in their initiatives to combat trafficking.

Chapter Three

International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Position in Bangladesh

Historical Background of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1989

Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 is one of the most important Conventions of the United Nations regarding child rights. There is a long history regarding evolution of this Convention. During the First World War (1914-1918), a large number of children became orphan and shelter less. The miserable conditions of these children upset the world leaders. Consequently, in Geneva in 1924, the League of Nations declared that Children are entitled to get every right which is deserved by all human being (Barua, 2005.33). Again, during the World War II (1939-1945), many urban and rural areas of Asia, Europe and Africa were devastated. Atom bombs were also used during the war. As a result, children were displaced, shelter less and become orphan. They also fell into serious risk of life. Therefore, December 10, 1948, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In the declaration, the issues of children rights and their security were given special importance. In 1952, the International Union for Children Welfare proposed to observe 'International Child Day' every year for their welfare in a specific day. In response to the call, for the first time, a total of 40 countries all over the world observed 'International Child Day' on October 5, 1953. In 1954, in the General Assembly of the UN adopted the resolution to observe the 'International Child Day' all over the world with the continuation of previous efforts and activities. On November 20, 1959, a 10-point issue of children rights were adopted unanimously at the UN General Assembly and declared it. In the light to the declaration, right to live, safe environment and right to growth and so on issues are ensured as rights of children.

Later on November 20, 1989, in accordance with the 10-point rights of children, the UN Committee finalized a 54-full fledge Child Rights Article and adopted it as 'Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)'

which is signed by the member country of the UN in September 2, 1990 and it is considered as an International Instrument (Barua, 2005: 33-34).

For the readers, the whole convention taken from UNICEF (1989) are presented in the Annex A.

A Brief Critical Review of UNCRC

The CRC consists of 54 Articles in addition to a preamble. The CRC has been divided into three parts. In the Part One, Articles 1 to 41 contains the provisions dealing with the general obligations of the state Parties and the specific rights guaranteed to children. In this part, four categories of rights have been described. The categories include: (1) protection for rights of children (2) survival rights of children (3) prevention from harmful acts and (4) rights to participation. In the Part Two, Articles 42 to 45, the implementation procedure of the Convention has been stated and finally in the last section, Part Three, Article 46 to 54, contains the clauses relating to ratification and accession, entry into force, reservation and amendments. The Convention includes a wide range covering all the human rights-civil, political, economic, social and cultural of children. Articles 2, 3, 5, 6, and 12 enshrine the key provisions of the Convention for the children. The Article 2.1 of the Convention focused on non-discrimination. It states, "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in this Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status." It has also been specified in the Article 2.2. It states, "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, of family members." Under these Articles, all children are entitled to equal rights, opportunities and facilities. Article 3 of the Convention has given due emphasis on the application of the rights guaranteed. It deals with the principle "the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." In Article 5, it states that States Parties would provide appropriate direction and guidance for children. In Article 6, it states that every child has the inherent right to life and State Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child. In Article 12, it deals with the right to express the views. Besides, the Convention also provides with various rights including the right to preserve identity, right not to be separated from his or her parents against his or her will, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of

association and assembly, right to privacy, right to be free from physical or mental harm and neglect including sexual abuse and exploitation, right to the highest attainable standard of health, right to social security, right to adequate standard of living, right to education on the basis of equal opportunity etc. (Hannan and Habib, 2006:26-27).

In the Part Two, the Convention contains the provisions on the implementation of the Convention. In this section, under the Article 43, there is a provision of establishing the Committee on the Rights of the Child (The CRC Committee) to monitor the progress in implementing process of the CRC made by the States Parties. The CRC Committee helps States in structuring their own domestic legislation relating to the CRC. Besides, the CRC Committee promotes public accountability through creating awareness of important issues like child labor and prostitution.

The Convention, which is the outcome of a long process of negotiation initiated by the Government of Poland in 1978, protects the dignity, the equality and fundamental rights of children (Dulti,1999:216)

Implementation of the Various Conventions Related to Child Rights in Bangladesh

As a member State of the UN, Bangladesh signed the "convention on the Rights of the Child" which is adopted by the UN General Assembly. Bangladesh has not appeared suddenly in the implementation process of the rights of children. But it has long been implementing various welfare-oriented programs taken by the government for the well being of children and their mothers. Even during the British regime in Bengali, an Act titled "Penal Code" (Act No-XLV of 1860) was enacted for the first time for ensuring the rights and position of children. Through the enactment of "The Divorce Act, 1869" (Act No IV of 1869), the government had taken initiatives to prevent sexual harassments and repression of children which had been occurred in early marriage of female child. Further, through the Acts, "The Contract Act, 1872" (Act No IX of 1872), and the "Evidence Act, 1872" (Act No I of 1872), the government has paid the importance of eligibility of children to make contract and as a witness. In 1875, in the "Majority Act" (Act No IX of 1875), a minimum age has been fixed to be an adult and the "Guardians and Wards Act, 1890" (Act No VIII of 1890) was enacted for the protection of property rights of children below the age eighteen.

Children badly need vaccination. Immunization through vaccination is a basic precondition to unhampered development of a child.

Laws connected with it are enriched in the vaccination Act. The government through the enactment of the "Code of Civil Procedure, 1908" (Act No of 1908), ensured the rights of children's capacity for prosecuting or defending a suit through a person. On the other hand, the government had enacted an Act through which the children could get relieved from attending the court for prosecuting purposes until maturity. The Act is "The Limitation Act, 1908" (Act No IX of 1908). The Child Labor in the mine had been prohibited through the Act "The Mine Act, 1923 "(Act No IV of 1923). To prevent and ensure child rights, child marriage had been prohibited and for this the government had enacted an Act with punishable articles. The Act is "The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929" (Act No XIX of 1929). Through the enactment of "the "Partnership Act, 1932", the government ensured the benefit of partnership of children in any distribution of share and resources. The government enacted "The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933" (Act VI of 1933) and "The Children (pledging of labor) Act, 1933"(Act No II of 1933) for the protection of rights of children. In these Acts, detains any female under the age of 18 for prostitution against her will; and the making of agreements to pledge the labors of children below the age of 15 years have seen treated punishable offence. According to the Act, "the Payment of Wages Act, 1936", the right of imposing compensation on child below the Age 15 years has been prohibited. In the "Employment of Children Act, 1938"(Act No XXVI of 1938), labor of child below the age of 12 year has been prohibited in the risk-prone areas. The "Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act,1939 "(Act No VIII of 1939) provides that women are entitled to obtain a decree for the dissolution of her marriage arranged by her father or other guardians before she attained the age of 15 years. Through enactment this Act, the right `expression of opinion` of female child has been ensured. The government enacted The "Maternity Benefit Act, 1939" (Act No IV of 1939) for the benefit of working women. This Act regulates the employment of women for certain periods before and after child birth and to provide for payment of maternity benefit to them. The "Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941"(Act No XIX of 1941) also regulates the same benefit for women. The" Motor Vehicle Act, 1993" prohibited giving licensee to children as driver. According to the "Vagrancy Act, 1943", especial arrangement had been made for vagrant children from others at the vagrant centre.

In Pakistan period, The "Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961" (Ordinance No XXXIX of 1961) prohibits payment of wages at a rate

below the minimum rate of wages. It is treated punishable offence. The "Shops and Establishments Act, 1965"(East Pakistan Act No VII of 1965) regulates the holidays, payment of wages, leave, and hours of work. According to Act, labor of the child below the age of 12 year has been prohibited. The "Factories Act, 1965" (East Pakistan Act No IV of 1965) made provisions for setting up 'day care centre' for children of working-women.

In Bangladesh period, The Bangladesh Abandoned "Children (Special provision) Order, 1972" (P.O No 124 of 1972) provide provisions of guardianship for abandoned children and through "The Children Act, 1974"(Act No XXXIX of 1974), the government has been empowered to set up child court the Act also provides for establishment of Juvenile Courts and other institutions for care and protection of destitute and neglected children. In addition, in 1976 the "Bangladesh Shishu Academy Ordinance" (Ordinance No LXXIV of 1976) was declared. The Ordinance has empowered the government to establish an Academy to be called the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. The objectives of establishing the Academy is to make arrange for publishing of children's literature, promotion of cultural, scientific and recreational activities for children and for painting and dramas by children in Bangladesh, (Rahman, 1994:13-25)

Later, in 1994, the government adopted a National Child Policy and constituted a 'National Council for Children' in 1995 for making policies, rules and regulations for the protection of rights of children. The government also adopted a "National Plan for Action 1997-2002". Besides, the government has been providing stipend for female students up to class ten in first phase and in the second phase up to twelve class considering special welfare and education. Food for education and special initiatives to bring the children into schools are also other programs of the government for the welfare of children. The government also adopted "Women and Children Oppression Prevention Act, 2000," observation of the "Child Decade from 2001-2010" for the welfare and protection of the rights of the children.

Chapter Four

Existing Situation of the Destitute Children and Initiatives for their Welfare in Bangladesh

Analysis of Current Situation

According to the population census 2011, the numbers of children are 5,43,0854 in the country (BBS and UNICEF, 2015:3). A survey conducted on children by *Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum* (BSAF) reveals that every day on an average two children are being killed, two female children are being raped, one child is being irritated to kill him/her self, two children are being kidnapped, two children are missing, one child is being trafficked, two children are being killed in road incident and four children are being faced to unnatural death (BSAF; 2005:19).

In fact, under the circumstances the government with its limited resources is not capable enough to fulfill the fundamental rights of children. For this, the government in cooperation with national and international organizations is trying to meet the basic needs of children. Besides, the government of Bangladesh as a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 of the UN in 1990, is committed legally to fulfill the fundamental rights. With many limitations, the government is working on priority basis to ensure the rights of children. The priority sectors are birth registration, education for all, prevention of child trafficking, protection of children born in brothels, eliminating child labor, healthy environment, children health, intellectual disability, reduction of suffering of children in custody and protection of children from HIV/AIDS etc. These issues are discussed below comparatively:

Birth Registration

According to the Article 7 of the CRC, the birth registration of a child is compulsory. Through this, it is easy to count age, which helps to get legal facilities in every sphere in life. Moreover, the birth registration is very essential for ensuring and protection of rights of children whether he/she is below 18 year or not. In fact, it is regulated under the "Birth, Death and Marriage Registration Act, 1886" in Bangladesh. Under the Act, the parents are supposed to inform to the authority concerned for children's

birth registration. At present, *Union Parishad* (lowest unit of local self government administration) at rural areas and *Paurosova* (Municipality) at urban areas are the authorized bodies for children's birth registration. According to the survey report of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) at present, about 12% of total children after birth are registered in the country (BSAF, 2005:24). It was only 3% in accordance with the survey conducted in 1997 (Chowdhury and Rahim, 1997).

Child Health Malnutrition and Child Mortality

It is a common feature of death of children for malnutrition throughout the world. A total of 11 million children below 5 year die due to malnutrition all over the world every year. The death rate of children below 5 was 144 in Bangladesh in 1990. It was controlled and the rate reduced to 77 in 2003 (BSAF, 2005: 86). Another report on nutrition status of the children in Bangladesh reveals that the severe malnutrition rate of children below 5 year was 68% in 1995-96 and 58% children aged between 6 months to 6 years were under weight. Consequently, the normal growth rate of 51% is being hampered and of 24% is being hampered severely. (BBS,1997). According to government statistics, about 70% children below 5 year are the victims of malnutrition. Of them, 11% are the worst victim of malnutrition. One child out of 7 dies before 5 days of birth in Bangladesh (GOB, 1998:170). Another study shows that at present, the rate of severe under weight is 3%, which was 13.1% in 1990 (BSAF, 2005:88). It is to be noted here that malnutrition of mother is one of the main reasons for under weight of children during birth-time. There is no available credible data on pregnant mothers regarding their malnutrition. But, a survey was conducted on both non-pregnant women and male aged between 11 years to 48 years in the rural areas. The findings of the survey show that a total of 70% female are suffering from anemia (Haider,1996). On the other hand, 49% children have come under the practice of having oral saline, which was 61.3% in 1991. But 1997, the rate came down to 37.33%. Consequently, the rate of diarrhoea-affected children below 5 year came down at 5% in 2003, which was 12% in 1990. On the way of making Polio Free Bangladesh, at present, 97% children have come under the programs of polio vaccination, which was 77% in 1990 (BSAF, 2005:88)

Healthy Environment

In the Article 24 of the CRC due importance is given for ensuring healthy environment and primary health care for children. Besides, nutrient food,

supply of pure drinking water and pollution free environment are also essential for this. A survey conducted on street and disabled children shows that the diseases of 50% children of such conditions are preventable and 12% are the victims of different types of incidence (BSAF, 2005:76).

In rural and urban areas, a large number of children are deprived of getting healthy environment especially children of slums are suffering from different types of diseases due to environmental pollution. They use polluted water for bath and other home works. A study says that, a total of 91% people in urban areas use safe water while the rate in rural areas is 63%. Majority of the population do not have the facilities for sanitary latrine. In rural areas, the rate of usage of sanitary latrine is 39% only and the rate in urban areas is 87% while the rate in slums areas is 67% only (BBS and UNICE, 1996-97).

It is to be noted here that it is found in different research studies, there are one crore people in Dhaka city. Of them, 50% population lives in slum areas. So, a huge number of populations are living in the slum areas throughout the country. This is why, these people are compelled to live in polluted environment such as air pollution, water pollution, sound pollution and so on. Children involved in labor are the victims of such polluted environment. Children engaged in *bidi* factory, match factory, transport sectors, brick-field, dyeing factory, tannery factory and printing press sectors are the direct victims of such polluted environment.

Disabled Children

In the Article 23 of the CRC, the rights of disabled children and the responsibility of state and society to them have been discussed. Especially, arrangement of employment including security, status, education, training, recreation and participation in cultural activities are given due importance for the children. According the CRC, every State according to its ability is committed to provide such facilities for the children. But there is a serious problem in Bangladesh. A report published by WHO reveals that about 10% of total population of Bangladesh are the victim of physical disability, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, visual impairment and speech and communication disorder. It is thought that ignorance and wrong beliefs, scarce of resources and lack of proper initiatives are responsible behind such disabilities. It is very difficult to say the exact figure of disabled children in Bangladesh. But according to a survey conducted on 10 thousand children, 1.6% children are the victims of disability. Of them, the figures

of disability were more in the intellectual disability category followed by visual impairment and epilepsy. Of them, female children than male and urban children than rural are more affected with these disabilities. The ratio of all types of disabilities including slight, moderate and severe was 6.9% (Zaman, 1992). The report of multiple classes survey (MICS) conducted by BBS and UNICEF in 1996-1997 reveals that, 3% were disabled below 5 years and 5% were disabled below 10 years during the period of 1996-97 in the country (UNICEF, 1997:32). In fact, children disability is a serious problem in our country. But in many cases, the disabled children are being humiliated, socially neglected, discriminated, sexually abused and deprived of all types of their rights, dignity and justice.

Education for All

To get education is one of the fundamental rights of children which brings the opportunity to get other basic needs. It is also stated in the Article 28 and 29 of the CRC. In the Article 28, full free and compulsory primary education is stated. Besides, increasing the attendance rate at school, reduction of dropout rate, innovation of modern teaching technique and creating facilities for those children who are qualified for higher education are also given importance in the Article 28. In the Article 29, ethics and values have been treated as the foundation of effective teaching methods. Especially, it has been discouraged to impose theme of education on children. Rather, eagerness and demand of children are given importance in this regard. A study findings express that, attendance of students at schools is declined and the rate of drop out is increased if the standards of teaching methods are declined. A total of 38% male and 37% female children drop out due to the low quality of teaching method in our country (BSAF, 2005:34). According to the study report, a total of 81% male and 84 % female children enrolled their names at the schools (BSAF, 2005:38). It is to be noted here that the rate of enrolment of both male and female children was 79% in 1996 (UNICEF, 1997:80).

Street Children

At present, there are a large number of children, moving here and there and sleeping at footpath, bus terminal, *launch ghat* (launch terminal) railway station and they are also the victims of severe natural disasters and they have no identity of parents. They are also ignored by their other near relatives. Such types of children are called street children. There is no exact figure of such children in the country. But some survey reports

conducted on divisional towns and districts reveal that the figure of street children is not so small. According to a government's survey report, there are 4,45,266 street children at the six metropolitan cities of the country (GOB, 2005:10). This was conducted in cooperation of the UNDP in 2001. Another survey report conducted by BIDS on 11 big towns of the country in 2004 reveals that, there are a total of 4, 29, 813 street children. Of them, 3, 89, 892 children (90.7%) are of 6 divisional towns and 39, 921 children (9.3%) were of 5 district towns (Chowdhury, 2005:15). The distribution of these street children is shown in the following table:

Table 4.1: Distribution of number of street children in eleven urban areas

Name of Cities Surveyed	No. of Spots Surveyed	Estimated no. of Street Children		Age Group wise % of Street Children		Ratio of Boys & Girls among the Street Children	
		No.	%	<10 years	11-18 years	Boys	Girls
Dhaka	382	249200	58.8	49.2	50.8	74.3	25.7
Chittagong	203	55856	12.7	57.7	42.3	74.3	26.4
Khulna	66	41474	9.5	45.2	54.8	73.6	16.6
Rajshahi	57	20426	4.7	29.5	70.5	83.4	6.7
Sylhet	48	13165	3.0	30.4	69.6	93.3	6.7
Rangpur	36	11490	2.6	26.2	73.8	93.3	2.7
Barisal	58	9771	2.2	23.6	76.4	97.3	6.6
Narayanganj	57	8402	1.9	51.1	48.9	93.4	23.3
Jessore	44	8270	1.9	42.5	57.5	76.7	12.7
Mymensingh	47	6715	1.5	67.0	33.0	87.3	9.9
Comilla	37	5044	1.2	44.8	55.2	90.1	16.4
Total	1035	429813	100	46.7	53.3	78.6	21.4

***Source:**GOB(2004), *Souvenir, Child Rights Week -2004, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Dhaka*

The above table shows that among the divisional street children, 2, 49200 children (58.80%) were in Dhaka, 55, 856 children (12.70%) in Chittagong, 20,426 children (4.7%) in Rajshahi, 41, 474 children (9.5%) in Khulna 9,771 children (2.2%) in Barisal and 13,165 children (1.4%) in Sylhet (GOB, 2004:19). According to the BIDS report, the total figure of street children would be 6, 82, 882 children throughout the country. It is to be noted here that such types of children of different cities in the country are undergoing much hardship in their day to day life. They are also compelled to engage various in types of crimes particularly, snatching, smuggling, pilfering, prostitution, stealing and so on In the

light of above discussions, it may be stated that despite of one of the signatories to the CRC, the conditions and situation of children in Bangladesh are not so well. A miserable condition persists here.

Child Labor

Child labor is strongly prohibited in the charter of children rights. But a large number of children in Bangladesh are engaged in different painful jobs. There is no specific figure of children involved in labor. But many research studies reveal its wideness and painful scenario. A report published by the government in 1996 reveals that, about 66 lakhs children are engaged in child labor during the period. The children were at the age between 5 years to 14 years. The percentage of the child labor was 19.10%, which was 18.3% of total children of Bangladesh (GOB, 1996:26). A research report published by BSAF, quoting ILO shows about 48.50 lakhs children aged between 10 years to 14 years in Bangladesh are engaged in economic activities. Of them, 23 lakhs are female children and 25.50 lakhs male children. The percentage of child labor aged between 10 year to 14 year is 28% (BSAF, 2005:68).

Quoting UNICEF, BSAF in its report (2000) noted that there were about 2 lakhs 25 thousand female children engaged in domestic labor in Dhaka city. Of them, 90% were aged between 9 to 16 years (BSAF, 2000:47). Two surveys were conducted in cooperation with ILO on child labor engaged in *bidi* and match factories. Another survey report says that, a total of 21, 217 children were working at *bidi* factories in Rangpur, Kushtia and Tangail in 2004. Of them, 11, 561 (54.49%) were male children and 9.656 (45.51%) female children. They worked at the worst form of working environment (Karim, et al, 2004:35). According to another survey reports (2005) about 855 child labors were engaged at match factories in Dhaka and Narayangonj areas. Of them, 427 (49.94%) were male children and 428 (50.06%) were female children. Similarly, some 653 child labors were working at match factories in Chittagong and Bandarban districts, which was 44% of total labor. Of them, 44.50% were male children and 55.50% were female children (Chowdhury et al, 2005:13-15).

On the other hand, National Child labor Survey quoting BBS statistics reveal that a total of child labor age between 5 years to 17 years are 32 lakhs. Of them, 25 lakhs are male and the rest is female. The survey was conducted during 2002-2003 period (Khair, 2004:01). These children are deprived of getting education, one of the fundamental rights. This is strong violation of the rights of children and all types of

conventions as well as rules and regulations. These children are engaged in tannery, chemical industry, transport sector, work-shops, ship-breaking, dyeing factory, shopping mall, shrimp and hatchery and such 200 types of occupations. Of these occupations, 39 occupations are very risk-prone and they are to work there for 8 to 10 hours but get wages half of a adult labor. Another survey report, which is conducted in 2002 by BSAF reveals that, there are about 430 types of occupations in the country. Children are engaged in these sectors. Of them, about 67 types of works such as ship-breaking, prostitution, shrimp hatchery, brick-field, slaughter, smuggling political violence are very risk-prone where the children are engaged, (BSAF, 2005:63). Children of rural areas help their poor parents in the agricultural activities and they also works as day laborers (Khair, 2005:7). Matthew A King in his study 'Working Children in Bangladesh' quoting "Social and Economic Enhancement Program-2001" noted that about 65% of total child labors is belonging to the agriculture sector (King, 2003:30.)

Child Trafficking

According to the Article 35 of the CRC, every State is committed for taking necessary steps to prevent child kidnapping, trafficking and selling. Besides, as per the "Women and Children Repression (special) Act, 1995" child trafficking is prohibited in Bangladesh. But the rate of child trafficking is increasing in our country. The official records of the Ministry of Home Affairs and district administration says that, about 708 women and children were the victims of trafficking during the last four years. Of them, 470 were rescued. Generally, male child aged between 2 years to 12 years are trafficked for 'camel jockey'(an athlete who rides camels during a race.) in the Middle East and female child aged on an average 16 years are trafficked and sold for prostitution at the brothels of India and Pakistan (BSAF, 2005:48). But another study reveals different scenario regarding trafficking, kidnapping and missing. According to the statistics of Centre for Women and Child Studies (CWES), a total of 3514 children were kidnapped or reported missing during the period January 2000 to June 2003. Of them, 1109 children were kidnapped and the rest were missing and among them, 641 kidnapped children were rescued and only 35 of missing children were also rescued from different parts of the country. On the other hand, among the missing children, 1209 were male and 1196 were female children and among the kidnapped children, 412 were male and 784 were female. It is to be noted here that during that period, 967 children were trafficked. Of them, 510 were male and 457 were female children. Another analysis shows that among the

kidnapped children (1109), a total of 732 were from rural and 255 were of urban areas. Among the trafficked children, 339 were of rural and 331 were of urban areas (BSAF, 2005:50). This seems to be violation of child rights and a challenge to implement the CRC.

Suffering of Children in Custody

There are a number children suffering in various prisons in the country and many are held in police custody waiting for trial. The number of such children is not so small. According to a report, there were more than 300 children kept in various jails and custody of the country (Khan,1996). Another report shows at least 1200 children were kept in jails throughout the country in 2003 (BSAF, 2005:43). It is a clear violation of the children rights convention. According to Bangladesh Penal Code, any activities of children below 7 year will not be considered as offence and the same provisions exist for the children age between 7 to 12 years. For them, juvenile development Centre has been set up for correction of their offence. But it is not maintaining satisfactory in the country.

Plight of Brothel Children

In the Article 34 of the CRC, it is stated to protect children from all types of sexual abuse and in the Article 19 of the CRC also stated to protect children from violence, injury, ignorance and exploitation especially sexual abuses even under the supervision of parents and other guardians. Here other guardians mean uncle, aunt, grand-father, grand-mother and teachers. But a study finding reveals that a number of children are sexually abused by such guardians. The findings of the research titled "Non-commercial sexual abuse of child" were published in 1997 (UNICEF, 1997:61). But a number of children are the victims of sexually abused at brothels in the country. A number of children are born at brothels every year in Bangladesh. According to UNICEF report, a total of 10,000 girls are engaged in prostitution. They are at the age between 12 to 17 years old. Another report reveals that, there are 18 registered brothels in the country and now about 25-35 thousands prostitutes and their child stay there. Besides, there are floating prostitutes and the figure including child will be not less than one lakh. Police administration of Bangladesh thinks there are about 15 to 20 thousands female children engaged in prostitution as floating (BSAF, 2005:56). So the children born at the brothels are to face various types of circumstances and unhealthy situation from their babyhood. So, ignorance, negligence and sexual harassment become part and parcel of their life. Outside the brothels; they also face such situation, which hamper their physical and mental growth.

Under these circumstances, the female children are compelled to engage in prostitution at adolescent age and the male children who have no social identity involved in crimes.

Children Affected With HIV/AIDS

Attack by HIV/AIDS on children is a panic for the children of Bangladesh. According to a report of the National AIDS/STD programs (NASP), about 91 % adolescent youth of Bangladesh have no idea about sexually transmitted infection diseases. As a result, about 50% adolescent is under risk of the HIV/AIDS. In Bangladesh, a female realizing minimum 18 year is legally allowed to get married while it 21 years for male children. This is the official age limit for male and female in Bangladesh. But about 75% female below 16 years are got marriage and of them 27% become mother and 6% female are found carrying baby. According to a study conducted on HIV/AIDS affected children, 55% of HIV/AIDS affected are below 24 years. It is stated that polygamy and pre and extra marital behavior are the reasons for carrying this disease. A survey conducted on adolescent shows that, about 31% female were mothers of the age between 15-19 years. And another 4.6% were pregnant. So one-third (35.6%) of adolescents started child bearing before the age of 19 years. Another survey conducted on 465 HIV/AIDS affected patients report shows the affected patients were aged between 15 to 24 years. Another study report reveals that 45% unmarried adolescents had no idea about safe sexual practice and 58 percent had pre-marital sex with sex workers (BSAF, 2003:101-102). It seems that a large number of adolescents are under the risk of HIV/AIDS and their children are likely to be affected with such chronic disease.

Initiatives at Various Levels

The government of Bangladesh is committed to meet the basic rights of its citizens as Bangladesh is constitutionally a welfare-oriented State. Apart, the government is also committed to implement the CRC, as Bangladesh is one of the 22-countries which supported the CRC at the time of inception (Siddique, 2004). Moreover, the government has taken various types of programs for children for ensuring safe shelter, healthy environment, nutrient food, education, recreation, unhampered growth and right to express opinion freely. To achieve the objectives, the government has set up administrative arrangement under various ministries, departments and institutions. These include: the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Department of Social Service of the

Ministry of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Ministry of Health and Family welfare etc. The government is implementing the children welfare oriented programs in cooperation with non-government national and international organizations like UNICEF, ILO, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNESCO, WHO, FAO, Red Crescent Society, Save the Children, EDM. SOS-*Shishu Pally*, World Vision of Bangladesh etc. Here the activities initiated by government as well as non-government national and international organizations for ensuring the rights of children are discussed in brief below:

Government Sector

Despite various limitations, the government of Bangladesh has under taken many initiatives to ensure the rights of the children. Among them, the most well known programs are briefly discussed below:

i. Shishu Sadan/Shishu Paribar

The institutions established for the destitute children especially for the orphan which were developed by Government initiatives or social generous people, is now known as *Shishu Sadan/Shishu Paribar*. These institutions arrange necessary programs for education, training, recreation, food and so on. These institution operated under the Ministry of Social Welfare are called government *Shishu Sadan* or *Shishu Paribar*. These institutions were set up in accordance with "The Orphan and Widows Act, 1943". These institutions transformed into *Shishu Sadan* when these came under the Department of Social Services. These types of institutions operate their activities with the support of generous people and volunteers before 1961. These institutions later transformed into *Shishu Paribar* so that the children can be brought up with motherly environment in a homely atmosphere. There are 74 institutions of such types. Of them, 23 institutions were transformed into *Shishu Paribar* under the Forth-Five Year Plan. Generally, the children below 5-9 years are admitted through a admission committee and they stay here till they attain 18 years of age. There were 9600 children at 74 institutions till 2005. The children are provided with food, lodging, educational materials at the free of cost. Sometimes, the meritorious students in order to give extra care are kept outside the *Sadan* (residence of the orphan children) Complex and are provided with educational facilities and the students comparatively less meritorious are given training and employment oriented education and provided with rehabilitation. According to

government official record, 3141 children were rehabilitated through employment, 4, 389 through marriage and 30, 100 children through different jobs from 2001 to 2005.

It is to be noted here, according to 2004-05 fiscal year, apart from government *Shishu Sadan*, there are 2457 non-government orphanages where a total of 33, 333 children have been staying. The government allocated Tk. 16 lakhs for these orphanages in that fiscal year (GOB, 2005: 36).

ii. Chhotomoni Nibas (Baby Home)

Aiming at bearing up the child aged between 0-7 years with motherly affection such type of institutions were set up by the government in 1962. The children stay here who are abandoned and have no relatives to look after them. The first *Chhotomoni Nibas* with 25-bed accommodation was set up at Azimpur in Dhaka (Rana, 1997: 55). At present, there are 6 centers at 6 divisional towns with 525 accommodations. The children of these centers later on were transferred to *Shishu Sadan* and *Shishu Paribar* after reaching a certain age. A total of 989 children were benefited through these centre from 2001 to 2005 (GOB, 2005: 14).

iii. Diba Kalin Shishu Jotno Kendro (Day Care Centre)

For bearing up the children aged between 5-9 years within motherly environment, whose mother engaged service, the government established a *Diba Kalin Shishu Jotno Kendro* at Azimpur in 1962. At present there are 50 seats at the centre. Eight thousand children have been benefited from its inception (GOB, 2005: 15) .

iv. Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Destitute Children

For the destitute children aged between 6-14 years for their training along with general education the Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Destitute Children were set up. For the first time it was set up at Konabari of Gazipur district. Later, two more centre-one at Rangunia of Chittagong district and another at Tongipara of Gopalganj district- were set up. The Tongipara Centre is set up only for females. There are 750 places at the three centers. A total of 2570 children had been benefited from these centers till 2005 (GOB, 2005: 15).

v. Juvenile Development Centre

A number of children below 18 years get involved in different types of crimes due to family disturbance, strict domination or very liberal attitude of parents, ignorance of parents, evil company, divorce, lack of

constructive recreation, poverty, wrong beliefs and availability of illegal drugs and fire arms. Two institutions one at Tongi of Gazipur district and another at Pulerhat of Jessore are working for the correction and development of such juvenile offenders. In 2002, one juvenile development Centre for female was set up at Konabari of Gazipur district. In these centre, the residents are imparted technical education and training along with general education for their rehabilitation. A total of 10,254 juveniles were benefited from these institutions from 2001 to 2005 (GOB, 2005: 24).

vi. Integrated Eye-Impaired Educational Activities

In 1974, the activities Integrated Eye-impaired Educational Activities were operated at 47 general schools and their own campuses. The objectives to run such activities were to impart the eye-impaired children with general students. Later, the activities were extended to 64 districts during the period of 2001-2005. Some 1022 students had benefited from these schools (GOB, 2005: 29).

vii. Institution for Mentally Disabled

For providing health care, education, technical training and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled children the institute was set up at Raufabad of Chittagong city in 1995. A total of 100 mentally disabled children are being taught technical education and providing training alongside general education. The activities of the institute are running under the supervision of the Department of Social Service of the Ministry of Social Welfare (GOB, 2005: 29).

Viii. Employment Rehabilitation Centre for (the Physically Handicapped, Tongi (ERPH))

The ERPH centre was established in 1981 and this being the only centre of its kind in the country with a capacity of training 105 physically handicapped per year. The objective is to train and rehabilitate the physically handicapped through wage and self-employment and inculcate in them self-reliance and self-respect which would open a new horizon. The project was implemented in joint collaboration with the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) through the Swedish Free Mission and the Department of Social Service. The different types of rehabilitative and protective services provided to the disabled at the centre are: mechanical workshop training, training in handicraft, duck and poultry farming, nursery training, mobility training, music training, games, sports and physical training, rehabilitation grant, industrial

production unit, hearing Centre, Braille press, health clinic, hostel accommodation etc. (Bhuiya and Hossain, 2003:172). A total of 405 disabled children were benefited from 2001-2005 from this institute. (GOB, 2005: 33).

ix. School for Blind and Deaf-Dump

To provide training and education for the visual-disabled children a total of 5 schools for blind were established at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal. They are taught in Braille method. Besides, seven schools-located at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Faridpur and Chandpur were set up for the speech and communications disordered children. An especial education system has been taken up for them. The children admitted into these schools are provided residential facilities along with other facilities.

x. National Especial Educational Activities

The government has taken different types of programs for visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally disabled children so that they become human resources rather than burden for the society. National Especial Educational Activities are operating at Mirpur in Dhaka city is one of these steps. There is separate school and hostel for visually impaired hearing impaired and mentally disabled children. It has rehabilitation program for the trained children also. There is a training facility for non-residential students of such categories Reserving a number of seats for them. Besides, there is a training school and hostel for the teachers engaged in training programs. The institutions came under the National Disabled Foundation through announcing an ordinance by the government in January 2001.

xi. Safe Home

To protect the imprisoned women, juvenile and children from unhealthy environment of jails and to provide legal help the government began the activities of Safe Home during the fiscal year of 2002-2003. For this, motivation and moral training are given to them. There are 6 Safe Homes at 6 divisional towns with 50 seats in each. All expenditures are maintained by the management of the institutions. (GOB, 2005: 27)

xii. Protection of Child at Risk (PCAR) Project

In 1999, the project titled "Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE)" was started and its activities began with the financial support of UNDP for providing education, physical and mental health care, accommodation facilities and skill development of

street children. Activities of the project are operated through 9 selected NGOs. In 2007, activities of the project are running under as "Protection of Child At Risk (PCAR)" with the financial support of UNICEF. Under this project, training programs, psychological counseling and legal help are provided to the street children by establishing a 'Drop-in Centre'. A total of 40,500 street children were benefited during the period of 2001-02 fiscal to 2004 from this project (GOB, 2005:43-44)

xiii. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre

For ensuring health care of pregnant mothers a total of 64 centers have been set up at district town throughout the country. These facilities are provided for the pregnant mother till their delivery. Regular medical checkup of pregnant mother, post-natal care of newborn baby and mother are provided by this Centre. It needed hospital services are also made available at these centre.

xiv. Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled-Bangladesh (SWID-Bangladesh)

Under this program about 40 non-government schools have been set up all over the country. These are operating under the supervision of the Department of Social Services. A total of 442 teachers, officers and employees are working and the government provides 80% of their salary. According to the government official record, one crore fifty six lakhs fifty thousand Taka were allocated during the period of 2001-02 to 2004-05 fiscal (GOB, 2005: 55).

xv. Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihood of the Socially Disadvantaged Women and Their Children

This project is running under the Department of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Welfare with the financial cooperation of UNDP for the socially disabled and disadvantaged women and their children so that they can get relief from this curse of life. Providing basic education, pre-formal education, non-formal education, providing assistance to admit local schools, accommodation facilities, technical training, health care and arrangement of employment are the major program of this project. About 48,970 disadvantaged women and children were benefited from 2001-02 to 2004-05 fiscal (GOB, 2005: 45).

xvi. Bangladesh Shishu Academy

For the growth of physical, mental, cultural and latent talents of children Bangladesh Shishu Academy was set up in November 1976. It is an autonomous institution. At present, there are 64 branches of the academy at every district. Different types of competitions (about 62 types) are arranged nationally every year. Children from rural and urban areas participate at the competition. Recitation of poems, essay writing competition, debate, painting, speech, dance, singing song, scientific, invention are the major type of competitions. About 5 lakhs children took part in such competitions over the years. Besides, observance of different National Day, cultural and training programs, *Shishu mela* (a non-government organization working for children), seasonal competition, international painting competition, exhibition of child film, exhibition of books, child museum, establishing child library, publishing books on children, arrangement of study tour are also the activities of Shishu Academy.

xvii. National Child Council

For the protection of interest and rights of children a National Child Council has been constituted in Bangladesh. The council has been constituted with the Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs as its head. Ministers and secretaries of the ministry involved in the activities of children and representatives of organizations working for the children are members of the Council. The council is the highest authority for making any rules and regulation to ensure the rights of children. The council is also responsible to look after the implementation of the CRC.

Apart from the child welfare program of government level, there are hospitals, *Shishu* parks (urban garden for the children) and other types of services for the children. A number of international, national and local organizations are working for the children in Bangladesh. Activities of some organizations are discussed below:

Non-government Sector

To ensure and improve the child right situation a large number of non government international and national organizations are working in Bangladesh .Of them some notable organizations and their activities are narrated briefly below:

International Organizations

i. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

After the World War II, in 1946, UNICEF was established by the General Assembly of UN, giving due importance to the need of food, medicine and cloth for the children of Europe and China. Children of all developing countries came under the UNICEF in 1950. UNICEF has been working to protect the rights of children and boom up their latent talent. For this, it provides funds and advices regarding child and maternal health, formal and non formal education and responsibility of parents to their child. Besides, it provides supports to the sector of immunization, breast-feeding and nutrition. UNICEF is workings in these sectors in Bangladesh as it is one of the member States of UN. In addition, UNICEF is establishing maternity and child welfare centre at different parts of the country as well as creating rural health workers, nutrition survey, setting up tube well for supplying pure drinking water, distribution of biscuits and milk, textbooks and other educational materials, providing training for women in sewing and boutique for earning and it is also publishing research works for the protection of interest of children.

ii. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

It is also a sister organization of UN and working in the child education sectors in Bangladesh. The organization is providing financial supports and technical assistance to implement the programs 'Education for All' in Bangladesh.

iii. World Health Organization (WHO)

It was established in 1948 and since then it has been working for the welfare of children. In Bangladesh as a supporting organization of UNICEF it works particularly in the field of EPI, Polio free Bangladesh, health care for mother and children and their nutrition, family planning, monitoring of standard of medicine, assistance in research in the field of health etc.

iv. International Labor Organization (ILO)

Established in 1919, it had been working for protecting the rights of labors. It is also working to prevent the child labor in developing countries. ILO is working in Bangladesh to prevent child labor with the

financial support of UNDP. Besides, it is working for the protection of rights of women workers by which it helps the children indirectly.

v. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

It is also a sister organization of the UN. Bangladesh became member of it in 1974. Since then, this has been working for increasing nutrition of children and mothers, food production, modernization in agricultural activities, preservation of food and developing the standard of living style of people of Bangladesh.

vi. Red-Crescent Society

Sir Henry Dunant, citizen of Switzerland, established the society at Geneva in 1863. The society was established for the services of war-affected people who were the victims of the war occurred between Italy and Austria in 1859. During the war, more than 40,000 people were affected. In 1949, it began its activities as “Red Cross Society” in Bangladesh and again as “Red Crescent Society” in 1988. It is providing health services on regular basis among about 50 thousands children through 21 maternity and child welfare centre in Bangladesh. The society is running an orphanage with 100 accommodations for the destitute and parentless children in Dhaka.

vii. SOS- *Shishu Palli*

Professor Herman established the organization with only 9 babies in 1949. Since then, it has been working for the destitute, parentless, abandoned, rootless, floating and street children. They are brought up with motherly affection. At present, thousands of children in 97 countries throughout the world are living and working at different sectors with dignity. After Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, this organization began its activities in the country for the destitute children. At present, 4 branches of SOS are working in Bangladesh located at Shamoly in Dhaka, at Terokhadia in Rajshahi, at Gollamari in Khulna and at Haliashahor in Chittagong. At present more than 680 children are bringing up under the supervision of this organization.

viii. *Enfans Du Mondu* (EDM)

EDM is one of the international organizations working for the children in Bangladesh. In Swiss Language, ‘*Enfans Du Mondu*’ means ‘children of world’. It began its activities during the Liberation War in 1971 of Bangladesh. Since then, it has been working for the destitute, street

children, orphan and abandoned children. It works for their rehabilitation. It is operating two 'Boys Homes' one at Naogaon and another at Brahmanbaria for the shelter less boys in the country.

ix. Save the Children

It is a leading independent organization creating lasting change in the lives of children in need in more than 110 countries of the world. In 1919 as aftermath of the World War I, Eglantyne Jeeb, a well-known activist established the Save the Children Fund in England to provide aids to young survivors in war-ravaged Vienna. This organization expanded overseas activities when it comes to the aid of children in England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Finland during World War II. It initiated its individual child sponsorship programs to help war-affected children in Europe. In 1977 the International Save the Children Alliance was formed to link and coordinate efforts of Save the Children organizations in Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, Norway and the United States. In Bangladesh, it started its activities in 1972.

In our country, it is engaged in child education and health activities. In the child education sector it runs two core programs early childhood development and primary education. The early childhood development program runs in the name of Home Based Early Learning Opportunity Centre (HBELO) and Home Based Pre-schools (HBPS). On the other hand, the Primary Education runs Program for both in and out of school children in the range of 6-15 years. The School Health and Nutrition program of Save the Children targets school going children to improve their health and nutrition status. For this purpose, health education on sanitation, hygienic behavior, nutrition, and reproductive health issues are provided to schoolchildren. To create a safe and healthy learning environment and a supportive learning atmosphere programs for arsenic free water and sanitary latrines are also being conducted.

x. Village Education and Resource Centre (VERC)

It had been working for the welfare of children in Bangladesh since 1977 as a supportive organization of Save the Children. It provides services through 482 centre concerning education among dropout school children, fundamental primary education, training, counseling among the illiterate children aged between 11-14 years about health care, nutrition, family planning etc. It also provides counseling among parents about education of their children.

xi. World Vision of Bangladesh

Robert Bob Piars, citizen of US, established this organization in 1950 at Port Land in Orison State of USA for the welfare of children who were the victims of Korea war. It began its activities in Bangladesh in 1970 when massive massacre was occurred during the cyclone in the coastal areas of the then East Pakistan. At first, it began its activities in the country through assistance programs among affected people. In 1973, it began its activities for the welfare of children directly. It is working in the sectors like primary education and health care; provide micro-credit for improving living standard of children and their mothers. Generally, destitute children aged between 4-6 years are enrolled with the pre-schools institutions, which are operated by World Vision. They are taught up to class three from KG. It is also providing informal education for the dropout students. World Vision provides financial supports to build up new school building, repairing of old building and supplying of educational materials among the remote localities. For the street children, World Vision is operating especial programs at Dhaka, Bogra, Khulna, Gazipur and Faridpur. Under the programs, fundamental education, training and rehabilitation programs are operated for street children. There are many programs for child health specially distribution of vitamin-A capsule, immunization, preventing mortality rate of children. Besides, World Vision arranges workshops, recreational activities, training, and education and establishes centre for dealing with juveniles delinquencies (Islam, 2005: 90-92).

xii. Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)

Mr. L.A. Cheyne, a citizen of New Zealand, was working at an engineering firm in Pakistan. He came in East Pakistan in 1970 with a relief committee to distribute relief materials among the people who were affected by the then cyclone and other natural disaster. Visiting different parts in the East Pakistan, he was encouraged to begin educational activities among the destitute and disadvantaged children. He began his activities in full swing after Liberation war of 1971, when East Pakistan became an Independent country as Bangladesh. Later in 1973, he managed a 3-year duration project with the financial support of Denmark government. In the year, 1973, he opened a part-time school at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of the University of Dhaka. The educational activities began with four teachers and 50 children. His objective was to provide education, training and rehabilitation for the destitute children so that they can get education along with their daily work. Later the activities of the organization were extended and a 6-

month duration course was offered from class one to class eight. The total duration of this course was 4-year. After completion of class eight courses, the meritorious students can pursue one-year technical training at different trades and arrangement is made for the successful trainings for their employment. At present, there are 14 general and two technical schools in Dhaka, eight general and one technical school in Chittagong, 6 general and one technical school in Khulna and 4 general and one technical school in Rajshahi (Zaman *et al*, 2000: 7-9).

xiii. Co-operation for American Relief Everywhere (CARE)

Since 1948, it had been working all over the world through providing relief, poverty alleviation, and development of infrastructure and disaster management. In Bangladesh, it began its activities in 1948. It is working in the sectors of poverty alleviation, creation of employment opportunities, income generating activities, education, health care and environment. Under these programs, CARE Bangladesh has started a project titled "Child Health Initiative for Sustainable Development". It has the similarities with a project taken by the government in 1991 for the children below 6 years regarding children and reproductive health of women. Immunization, control of diarrhoea, family planning, distribution of vitamin-A capsule etc are activities under the project.

Local Organizations

i. Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

BRAC is one of the national level organization working for the destitute children organizations in Bangladesh. Fazle Hasan Abed established this organization in 1971 for the welfare of the war-ravaged peoples in the country. It began its activities at Sallah village of Sylhet through rehabilitation programs. At present, it is one of the largest non-government organizations in the country. Among its activities, it provides non-formal education among the rural children. It also provides professional and technical training among the parents of the children so that they become self-reliant. At present, these organizations are operating 30,500 schools where about 9 lakhs 15 thousand children are being taught throughout the country, (Mia and Hossain, 2005: 144).

ii. Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD)

In 1988 this organization was established by a group of NGO professionals and social workers to address the basic problems for the urban slum community. Later, it also extended its development program to rural areas with a view to combat rural-urban migration. ASD works

under funding collaboration of Govt. UN and other international agencies. It is working to empower slum dwellers through improving their quality of life. It also runs advocacy programs to influence public opinion for creating general awareness regarding recognition of the slum dwellers. It works to reduce the rural-urban migration, create the opportunities in the rural areas. The poor communities are also its another target group. It provides education, information, training, counseling, employment opportunities, residential and partial food facilities for the children (ASD, 2006: 5).

In addition to the international and national organizations working for the children in Bangladesh, there are some other organizations, which are working for the welfare of the children of the country. These include: *Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, Aparajeo Bangla, Bangladesh Gono Shasto Sangstha, Nejara Kori, Phulkuri Ashar, Khela Ghar, Kachi-Kachar Mela, Chader Hat, Agrani Shishu-Kishore Sangathon* etc. These organizations have been working for the welfare of children along with creating awareness about their rights. They also arrange programs so that children can participate and flourish their latent talent.

Chapter Five

Institutions for the Welfare of the Destitute Children in Rajshahi City

Introduction to Rajshahi City

Rajshahi is the largest city in the northwestern part of Bangladesh. It is the central point of Rajshahi Division and also the district-headquarters of Rajshahi district. Still, it is unknown how and in what context, the city originated and grew. The historical background, location, historical places, educational institutions, socio-cultural organizations, populations, religion, occupation, communication system, city administration of Rajshahi city is briefly narrated below.

Historical Background and Location

The historians have not reached to the consensus in this regard. But it is learnt after reviewing different types of literature that *Mohakal Garh* is the previous name of the city. It is also learnt that there was no existence of the present type of locality before arriving of Hazrat Shah Makhdum Rupash in 1289 AD. Munshi Golam Hossain Saleem in his book '*Read-al-Salateen*', which is written during the Mughal Empire Shah Jahan has noted in Bengal 'Rajshahi' in the name of '*Chakla*' (Samad, 1999: 2). The historians reached a consensus on the issue that the entire Bengal region was divided into 13 parts for collecting revenue during the regime of Nawab Murshid Kuli Khan in 1700-1725. Among the 13 parts, '*Chakla Rajshahi*' was one of them.

During the period, Hindu Zemindar (Landlord) Udai Narayan collected revenue from '*Chakla Rajshahi*', Later, in 1714. Zemindar Ramjeebon of Natore was nominated collector of this region. And in the next time, it came to under rule of Rani Bhabani of Natore and it expanded with more areas. Some historians made opinion of that Murshid Kuli Khan was pleased on Raja Udai Narayan and named the region as 'Rajshahi'. But Akshay Kumar Maitreya says Rani Bhabani herself named the '*Chakla*' as Rajshahi. Mr. Grant that '*Rajshahi*' is called the zemindari of Rani Bhabani and it is named after '*Rajshahi*' during the partition of '*Chakla*' (Ali, 1995: 13).

Rajshahi City is located on the bank of Padma, one of the largest rivers in the country. Kashiadanga is located in the western side of the

city and Santoshpur stands of northern side and Maskatadighi of eastern side. There are 30 wards consisting of 136 *mohalla* (village) within a 96.72 sq.km. of the Rajshahi city.

Historical Places

Rajshahi city blessed by the river of the Padma, has rich heritage with famous educational institutions, socio-cultural and development organizations. The city has made great contributions in various social and political movements.

The Shrine of Hazrat Shah Makhdum Rupash (R) is one of the heritages in Rajshahi city. His *mazar* (shrine), mosque and pond have now become a visiting place as remarkable heritage. This is located at the Pathanpara of the city. A number of peoples visit this area everyday for spiritual inspiration. There is a *madrrasah* (an institution of Islamic education) named as Jamia Islamia Shah Makhdum (RH) Madrasah. Hazrat Shah Makhdum Rupash (R) is one of the most famous and renowned preachers of Islam. He preached the teaching of Islam of Islam from 1287-1331 A.D. in the region. The '*Boro Kuthi*' (indigo collecting center. Originally the residence of Zemindar) just located to the east side of Shah Makhdum Mazar, is another historical heritage of the city. The Dutch merchants built it as the Centre of sericulture and indigo planting. It was built on the bank of the Padma, one of the largest rivers in the country. The two-storied building (indigo-factory) came under the capture of East India Company in 1833. Later, in 1953, it became the residence of the vice-chancellor of the University of Rajshahi. Now, it is being used as the city branch of Rajshahi University Club.

Besides, *Dighapatia Rajbangsher Kuthi* which was then office and residence of the European indigo-planters in Bengal, now the Office of Detective Branch at Ghoramara, the place of the *Raja's of Puthia* who was the owner of 5/16 of total zemindari (alias *Panch Anee Zemindar*), the residence and office of Raja of Puthia, now Shah Makhdum College at Sheikher Chak, the *Natore Rajbangsher Kuthi*, residence of Raja of Natore, now Rajshahi City College, the *Pansipara Rajbangsher Kuthi*, the then residence of Raja of Pansipara area, now Boalia Club and the *Dak Bungalow* (rest house) built in 1906, now used as the office of Rajshahi Metro-Politan Police, are the major historical places being heritage of Rajshahi city.

Educational Institutions and Socio-cultural Organizations

The noted and famous educational institutions are: *Boalia English Medium School*, now Rajshahi Collegiate School, *English-Bangla School*

established in 1847 by Lokhnath Maitreya, a Zemindar of Shitai of Pabna district, now Lokhnath High School, Rajshahi Academy built in 1898 which was later named after Bholanath Biswesara Hindu Academy, Rajshahi Government High Madrasah which was established in 1874 in the name after *Dars-e-Nizami* Senior Madrasah, PN Girls' High School which was established in the name after Raza Prasanna Nath (P N) Roy Bahadur in 1868, Rajshahi Mission Girls' School which was established in 1862 by Reva Behary Lal Singh who was representative of Free Church of Scotland, Kolkata and Rajshahi College which was established in 1873. Besides, the University of Rajshahi established in 1953, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, which was established as Rajshahi Engineering College in 1964 and Rajshahi Medical College (RMC), which was established in 1958 are the largest educational institutions in Rajshahi city. Moreover, Rajshahi City College established in 1952, Rajshahi Mohila (women) College established in 1962, New Degree Government College established in 1966, Rajshahi Poly Technique Institute established in 1966 are also among the largest educational institutions in the city.

There are also some institutions, which are providing educational services among the people of the city. Rajshahi General Library established in 1884 with the initiatives of Raza Promoda Nath Roy, Zemindar Roy Bahadur Kedar Nath Prasanna Lahari, Raza Chandra Nath Roy Bahadur, Shah Makhdum Academy which was established in 1929 as Muslim Club, Varendra Research Library which is now Varendra Research Museum of Rajshahi University was established in 1910 with the initiatives of Zemindar Kumar Sharat Kumar Roy, Historian Akshay Kumar Maitreya, Rajshahi Divisional Library established in 1983 and Islamic Foundation Library established in 1979, are such types of noted educational institutions.

In addition, there are many others socio-economic and cultural organizations in the city. These organizations include: *Sadassram* (an association of the Hindu community) established in 1854 with the initiatives of Zemindar Roy Bahadur Chandra Shibeswar Roy of Taherpur, Rajshahi City Church established in 1862 with the initiatives of Reverend Behari Lal Singh, *Brahman Samaj* (a Hindu organization for propagating monotheism) established in 1859 and *Dharmasova* (an association for the Hindu community formed in the 19th century) established in 1864 with the initiatives of Zemindar Chandra Shekhareswar of Taherpur, Rajshahi Association established in 1872, *Anjuman Hemayet* established in 1891 with the initiatives of Mirza

Muhammad Yusuf Ali and others, Bengal Islam Mission Society established in 1899, Rajshahi Mohammedan Association established in 1884, Verendra Research Society established in 1914, the Rajshahi Muslim Club established in 1929, Young Men's Association established in 1936 and *Khademul Islam Society* established in 1926. Among the sporting organizations, the noted are: Victoria Club established in 1882, Boalia Club established in 1884, Mohammedan Sporting Club established in 1906, *Rajshahi Zila Krira Sangtha* (Rajshahi District Sports Organization) established in 1896 and *Bhubon Mohan Park*.

Socio-political Movement

Rajshahi City had played important role during different mass-movements including Liberation War in 1971. The movements were: the *Movement of Fakir* during 1763-1787, the Movement of Indigo during 1859-60, *Balakot Movement* in 1831, *Revolt of Sepoy Mutiny* of 1857 and *Peasant Movement* during 1883-88. Besides, in the Partition of Bengal (Banga Vhanga) in 1905, *Khelafat Movement* during 1914-18, Pakistan Movement in 1940, Language Movement during 1947-52 and in the Liberation War in 1971. For these movements, *Panchanir Math*, *Sabjeparar math*, *Bhubon Mohan Park*, *Madrasah math*, central *Eidgah math*, street of *Shaheb Bazar* and the field of Rajshahi College were used much for gathering and rally to achieve the goals of the movements.

Population

According to the census 1869, there were only 18,497 people in the city. Of them, 9884 were male and the rest 8913 were female (Miser, 1965). In the passage of time over 150 years, the volume of population size has increased along with the expansion of area of the city. At present, there are more than 8 lakhs people (www.wikipedia, accessed on 03.09.2015).

Religion and Occupation

Most of the populations of the city are Muslims and it is about 96%. Besides, 3% are Hindu and 1% are Christians, Buddhist etc. (www.wikipedia, accessed on 03.09.2015).

The major profession and occupation of the people of the city are service and business. Besides, a large number of people are employed in silk industry, jute mill, sugar mill, etc. Moreover, a number of people are also involved in rickshaw pulling and transport sectors.

Communication System

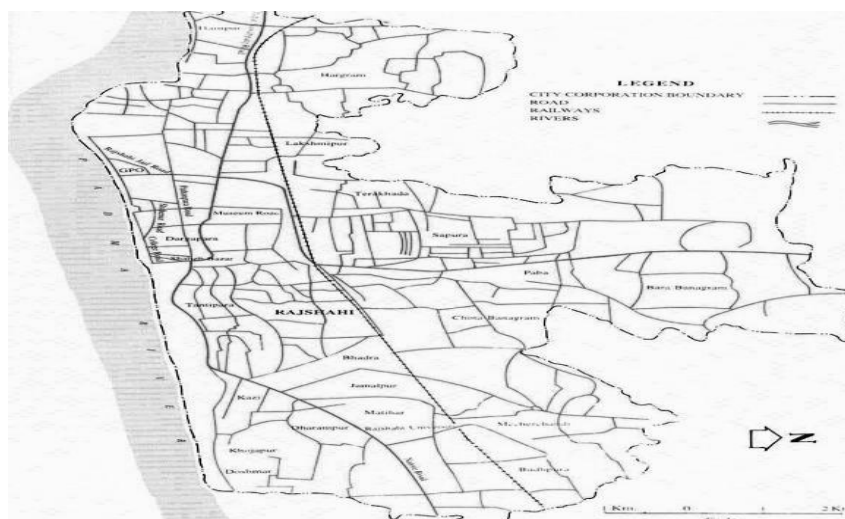
It is known that water way was the main communication system in the long past with Rajshahi city and others parts of sub-continent. The

Padma, one of the largest rivers in the sub-continent, was the main water way as it goes away beside the Rajshahi city. But, at present, there is a massive reform in the communication system in the region. There is an airport named as Shah Makhdum Airport, Modern Railway Station, Dhaka bus terminal located at Seroil, inter-district bus terminal at Nawdapara areas of the city.

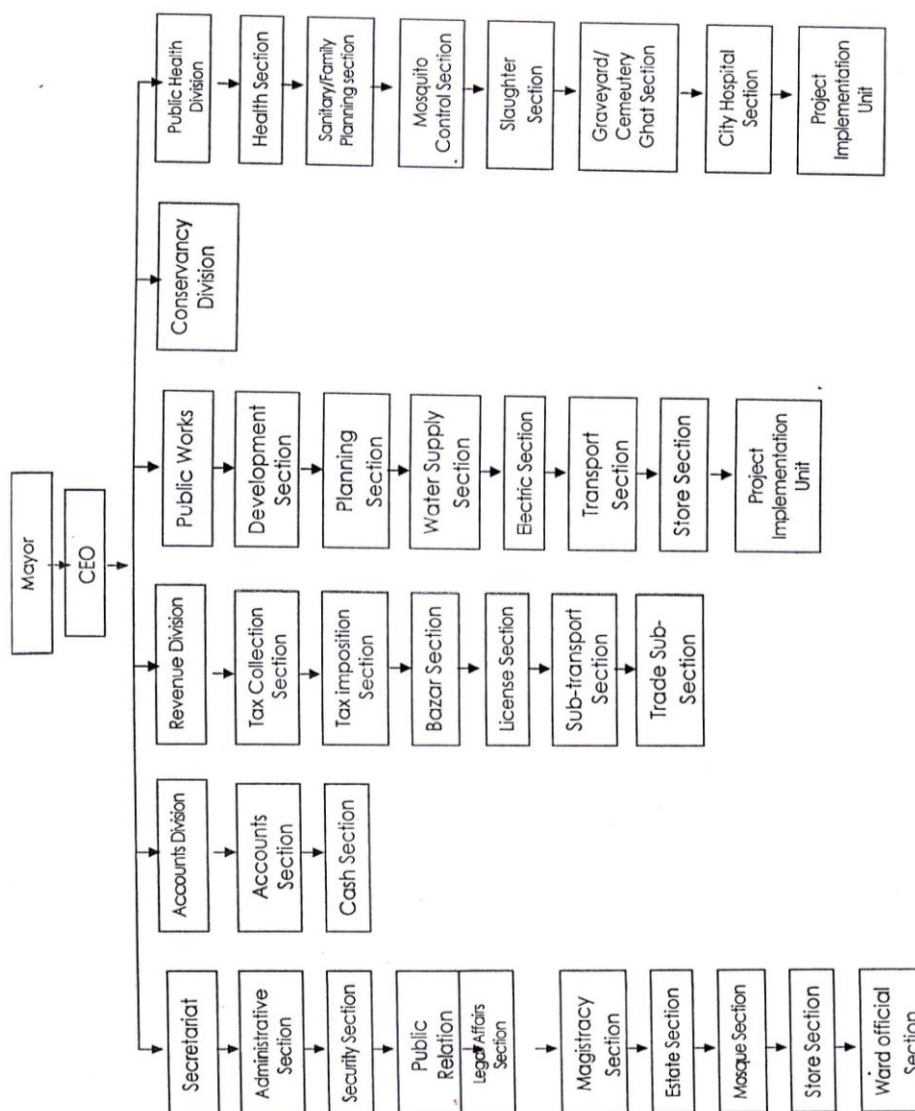
Rajshahi City Administration

With a total of 10 thousand populations, Rajshahi begins its journey as a municipality (*Rampur-Boalia Municipality*) in April 1, 1876. Rajshahi municipality begins its activities with two rooms constituted with tinshed in the *Bhuban Mohan Park*. Later, it transferred into a large room of Rajshahi College. The administrative activities of the municipality were begun by a 7-member committee which was constituted with Mr. Har Gabindha, the then Principal of Rajshahi College, as its chairman. The members of the committee were nominated by the government. Later the committee brings various reforms in the election procedure and in 1884; a 21-member committee was constituted in accordance with the section 3 of Municipality Act. Of them, two-third members were elected and the rest members were nominated by the government. In 1921, the municipality was shifted to the bank of Sonadighi from Rajshahi College. In 13 August, 1987 the municipality was upgraded to Poura Corporation and later in September 11, 1988, it was further upgraded into City Corporation. Presently, Rajshahi city Corporation is situated on 96.72 Sq. Km. (Ana, 2004: 130). At present, one elected Mayor and 40 elected ward commissioners including 10 women ward commissioners (who are elected in reserved seats) are performing their jobs as people's representatives and conducting administrative activities.

Map of the Rajshahi City



Organogram of Rajshahi City Corporation



Source: Rajshahi Mahanagrer Katha, (The History of Rajshahi) Anarul Haque Ana, October-2004.

Welfare Services for the Destitute Children

A large number of government and non-government institutions and organizations are working for ensuring the rights of destitute children. For this, they have undertaken various types of programs of these institutions. Of the non government organization some are operated by Christian Missionary, some by religious personalities with the support of local, national and international donation and some are also runs by voluntary leaders and social activists. These institutions vary in nature. Some of them are providing education, food, clothing, training, recreation, and rehabilitation with their accommodation facilities. Some institutions are providing education, food, clothing, and training only. They do not provide accommodation facilities. For this, we would like to divide these institutions into two sections for facilitating discussion and evaluation. These are below:

- i. Institutions providing various services with accommodation facilities,
- ii. Institutions which are providing various services without accommodation facilities

Institutions Providing Different Services with Accommodation Facilities

More than 30 institutions are providing various services with accommodation facilities for the destitute children in Rajshahi City. The city dwellers know about these institutions in various ways. These institutions are known as government, non-government, Christian Missionary and Islamic learning institutions. The brief introduction of these institutions is given narrated below:

Institutions in Government Sector

Many organizations are working with the destitute children in various forms in the government sector. Three of them provide lodging, food, clothing, education, vocational training, and rehabilitation. So, it is to be noted here that these organizations are treated as targeted institutions in this study. These government institutions are as follows:

i. Shishu Sadan

More than one hundred *Shishu Sadan* and *Shishu Paribar* (Children Family) are operating activities for providing education, training, protecting rights and rehabilitation for the orphan and destitute children in the country. These institutions are operating their activities under the Department of Social Services in accordance with the Orphan and Widows Act, 1943. The *Shishu Sadan* is located at Baya in Rajshahi City and situated on 10 acres of land. The building is a two-storied and providing its services from 1985. *Shishu Sadan* is providing educational facilities from class one to class ten. Besides, it arranges sports and cultural activities regularly and observes national and international days. At present there are 110 residents in the *Shishu Sadan*. The administrative activities of the *Sadan* are operating under the leadership of deputy director who is also known as superintendent of the institution. Moreover, there are 9 teachers, 15 employees including one office assistant and 1-part time physician in institution.

ii. Chhotomoni Nibas (Baby Home)

The children aged one day to seven years which are abandoned are bearing up with mother affectionate in the three *Chhotomoni Nibases*—located in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Rajshahi. These institutions are

operating under the full support of the Department of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Welfare. In 1962, the institute began its activities with as many as 25 babies in the Dhaka city. At present, there are about 250 children are bearing up in these institutions.

In Rajshahi, the *Chhotomoni Nibhas* is located at the greater road, Barnali, area. It is situated on 0.69 acres of land. It began its activities in Rajshahi in 1981. It is a two-storied building with well protected surrounding concrete walls. Here at present, 33 children are residing. Of them, 9 are male and 24 female. There are one deputy- superintendent, two teachers, five employees, one physician and three 4th-class employees to look after the children and other activities of the organization.

iii. Physical Handicapped Training Centre

In 1962, the government set up four centers in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna under the Department of Social services for blind and deaf and dumb children. These centers were set up aiming at providing education, training and rehabilitation for such physically disabled children. There are facilities for about 50 students of each school. In Rajshahi, the centre is located at Shashtitala in city. It is situated on 1.84 acres of land. There are one school, two hostels and one mosque. There is also an wide open space which in used as play ground. At present, there are 65 children. Of them, 45 are male and 20 female. Among them, 30 are deaf and 35 blind. At the centre, there are one assist director which is known as superintendent, four teachers, 7 employees and one MLSS to look after the disabled children and other activities.

Institutions in Non Government Sectors

In Rajshahi City many non government institutions are also working for the welfare of the destitute children in many fields. Of them only a few are working by providing lodging, food, clothing, education, training, and rehabilitation. These private sector institutions under study are as follows;

i. SOS-Shishu Palli

It is a private, non-political non-denominational child welfare organization. Professor Dr. Hermann Gmeiner, citizen of Austria, started its activities for the poor children. During its starting period, he had only BDT 600/- as capital to run the organization. At present, more than one branches of SOS are working at 131 countries all over the world. The activities of SOS are running with the financial support of more than 6 lakhs friends and other donors throughout the globe. There are five

branches of SOS in Bangladesh. These are located at Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna and Bogra. The Rajshahi branch of SOS began its activities in 1979. It is located at Terokhadia area of the city and situated on 5 acres of land. At present, there are 15 child families at the 15-brick-build tin-shed building. There are also one administrative, one training centre and one reading rooms. Each family is constituted with one-mother and 10 children. There are 152 children in 15 families. Of them, 70 children are male and 82 female. To look after the organization, there are one project director, 15-mothers, two youth educators, one social worker, one assistant director, one accountant and four aunts (*Khala Amma*) to look after its activities.

ii. *Dawatul Islam Shishu Sadan, Rajshahi*

The institution is set up with the initiatives of some religious personalities, teachers, physicians, retired government officers and local people's of Seroil areas. It is a non-political and non-profitable organization and its main objective is the well-being of people. A trust named as '*Dawatul Islam*' which began its activities at a rented house located beside Seroil bus terminal. At present, its activities are operating at a two-storied building built on 0.08 acre of land at Molla Mill area adjacent to Seroil bus terminal. There are 26 children who are staying here and studying at different schools of the city. One house parent, three house tutors and three employees are engaged to look after the children and other official activities.

iii. *Shishu Sadan, Quantum Foundation, Rajshahi*

The *Shishu Sadan* is running by Quantum Foundation, Rajshahi branch since January 2005 which is a sister concern of '*Jog Foundation*'. It is located at Sipaipura adjacent to Rajshahi Medical College. There are 10 children at present here. The children's age is between one to four years. It is operating its activities aiming to make the neglected, orphan and destitute children as enlightened. There are one director, 9 mothers, one employee and one cook at the *Shishu Sadan* to look after the children and other activities. The expenditure of the organization is maintained with the financial support of local elites and from the money of '*Matir Bank*' (an especial saving system of Quantum Foundation) a savings project of Quantum Foundation.

iv. *Shishu Kanan, Quantum Foundation, Rajshahi*

It is the second campus of *Shishu Kanan*, located at Lama in Bandarban run by the Quantum Foundation, a sister concern of '*Jog Foundation*'.

Shishu Kanan, Rajshahi began its activities in 2005. At present, 9 destitute children are residing here and studying at different educational institution in the city. The accommodation arrangement has been done at the third floor of Quantum Foundation office, Rajshahi. There are two rooms for accommodation. One pro-organizer, 3 teaches, one part time physician and two MLSS(member of lower sub-ordinate staff) are working here to manage its all activities. The expenditure of it is maintained with the financial helps of those peoples who are involved with Quantum Foundation.

v. *Jamia Islamia Shah Makhdum, Dargahpara, Rajshahi*

Jamia Islamia Shah Makhdum *Qawmi* Madrasah is located on the bank of Padma, the adjacent area of Shah Makhdum Rupash (R) Mazar in the Rajshahi city. The madrasah is designed as 'L' pattern and it is a 3-storied building. It began its activities through '*Hifz*' (memorize of the holy Quran).class and '*Maktab*' (primary school stage of Islamic education system). class in 1975 and later '*Kitab*' (secondary stage of Islamic education system) class section was begun in 1987. At present, a total of 15 students in *Hifz* class, 70 students in *Maktab* class and 140 students in *Kitab* class are studying respectively. It is a residential religions-based educational institution and a total of 225 students stay here. Of them, a total of 35 students who are destitute maintain their educational expenditure with the financial support of the authority of Madrasah. There are 21 teachers, one office assistant and two cooks at the madrasah. The resident students sleep on floor at night at 18 rooms which are used as class-room also.

vi. *Madinatul Ulum Kamil Madrasah, Islampur, Kajla, Rajshahi*

It is the only residential '*Kamil*' (a *madrasah* degree equivalent to general master degree). *Madrasah* in the Rajshahi city. The institution was established with the initiatives of some teachers of the University of Rajshahi and local educationists in 1984. The academic activities of '*Dakhil*' (a *madrasah* degree equivalent to SSC) class began in 1988, '*Alim*' (a *madrasah* degree equivalent to HSC) class in 1996, '*Fazil*' (a *madrasah* degree equivalent to graduation) class in 1998, and *Kamil* class in 2002. '*Fikh*' (Islamic jurisprudence) and *Tafsir* (interpretation of the holy Quran) courses are taught at *Kamil* class. At present, a total of 800 students are studying here from class one to *Kamil* classes. There is a dormitory for accommodation of about 100 students. A total of 15 destitute students stay here and maintain their educational expenditure with the financial help of the *madrasah*. The *madrasah* is situated on 1.37

acres of land and there are 31 rooms including 23 class rooms. A total of 33 teachers, three office assistants and 8 fourth-class employees are working at the *madrasah*.

vii. Talaimari Darul Ulum Dakhil Madrasah, Badurtala , Rajshahi

This *Dakhil* madrasah was established with the initiatives of religious personality in 1973 as '*Furqania Madrasah*' (primary institution for teaching the holy Qur'an). Later, it turned into *Dakhil* madrasah and got approval of the government in 1986. A *Lillah Boarding* was opened in 1991 for the destitute students who are studying here. At present, a total of 450 students are studying here from class one to *Dakhil*. A total of 25 students are staying at the hostel under the supervision of a hostel in-charge. Of them, 10 students are destitute and their educational expenditures are maintained by the management of the institution. The 2-storied madrasah building is situated on 38 acre of land and there are 17 class rooms. The *Lillah Boarding* is made by tin-shed with five rooms for residential accommodation. A total of 16 teachers, one office assistant and 3 employees are working at the madrasah.

viii. Rajshahi Mohila Fazil Madrasah, Rashompatti, Ghoramara, Rajshahi

It is the only the government approved Islamic religion-based higher educational institution for women in the city which was established in 1979. The academic activities of *Dakhil* class began here in 1990, *Alim* class in 1998 and *Fazil* class in 2006. At present, there are 350 female students are studying at the madrasah. It is situated on 0.19 acre of land. It is also a 2-storied building with 15 rooms. A total of 22 teachers, 2 office assistants and 6 employees are working here. A total of 50 female students stay at madrasah hostel. Of them, 30 destitute female students maintain their educational expenditure with the financial support of the madrasah management.

ix. Al Jamia Al Islamia Allama Muhammad Mia Quashemi (R), Sultanabad, Ghoramara, Rajshahi

It is one of the largest *Qawmi* madrasahs in the city. In 1973, late Allama Muhammad Mia Quashemi established the institution as '*Rajshahi Islamia Madrasah*' following the full academic system of the world renowned '*Darul Ulum Dewband Madrasah*'. It is now known as Al Jamia Al Islamia Allama Muhammad Mia Quashemi (R). The 2-storied madrasah building is situated on 0.50 acre of land. It is well protected with brick-built wall. At present, a total of 35 students in *Hifz* section, 45 students in *Maktab* section and 120 in *Kitab* section are studying here

respectively. As many as 45 destitute students out of 200 students stay at *Lillah Boarding* at free of cost. They also study at free of cost. Their all types of expenditure are maintained by Madrasah management. A total of 19 teachers, one office assistant and 3-employees are working here. There are 22 rooms which are also used as class rooms and residential accommodation.

x. *Jamia Siddiquia Madrasah, Chandipur, Rajshahi*

The Madrasah was established at the city in 1988. Three religion personalities- Maulana Hazi Fazal Uddin, Mr. Azgar Ali and Mr. Abdus Samad took initiatives with the cooperation of local peoples to establish the madrasah. A total of 70 students in the three sections- 15 in *Hifz* class, 30 in *Maktab* class and 20 in *Kitab* class are studying here. The teaching method is followed in accordance with the syllabus of *Darul Ulum Dewband Madrasah*. The academic activities of the madrasah are operating at 6 rooms which is made by tin-shed and surrounded by *Bera* (wall of straw). It is situated on 0.25 acres of land. Of the students, 35 students are fully destitute and their all expenditures are maintained with the help of madrasah fund. A total of 6 teachers and one cook are working here.

xi. *Madrasah Isha'atul Islam Assalafiya, Ranibazar, Rajshahi*

It is located at the central point of the city and situated on 19 acre of land. It is one of the largest religion-based educational institutions in the city which was established in 1976. At present, it has been upgraded up to *Dawra-e-Hadith* (higher stage of Islamic education system). A total of 105 students-- of them 20 in *Hifz* section and 85 in *Kitab* section-- are studying here. They stay at the *Lillah Boarding* of the madrasah. A total of 25 students out of 105 are fully destitute. They are studying with the financial support of madrasah authority. The academic activities of the madrasahs are running on the 1st and 2nd floor of Ranibazar Madrasah Market. There are 18 rooms of which 15 rooms are used as class rooms and residential rooms. A total of 13 teachers, one office assistant and four employees are working here.

xii. *Jamia Osmania Hosainabad (Bakhrabad), Katakhal, Rajshahi*

It is one of the largest *Qawmi* madrasahs which is located at eastern part of the city. It was established under the direct supervision of late peer Alhaj Hazrat Mawlana Muhammad Idris (R) of Sandip, in 1992. Since then it is running smoothly. The madrasah situated on 2.31 acres of land has 16 rooms. At present, a total of 270 students under the three sections-*Hifz*

class 60, *Maktab* class 70 and *Kitab* class 140 are studying here. Of them, 35 students are fully destitute. Their educational expenditures are born by the madrasah authority. A total of 20 teachers, one office assistant and employees are working here to manage all activities of the madrasah.

xiii. Rajshahi Darul Ulum Madrasah O Etimkhana, Malopara, Rajshahi

Establishing in 1958 its activities began at small scale under the direct suppression of the then Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Captain Abdur Rob. At first, its activities began on the 1st floor of a mosque. With the starting of the academics activities of *Hifz* class and *Maktab* class in 1960, it turned into an institutional shaped. At present, *Dawra-e-Hadith* is also teaching here. It is situated on 0.384 acre of land locating at the central point of the city. With a two-storied building with 10 rooms, here a total of 130 students in the three sections- *Hifz*-40, *Maktab*-50 and *Kitab*-40- are studying with residential facilities. Of the resident students, 32 are fully destitute and they are studying at the free of cost with the residential facilities. A total of 15 teachers and 2 employees are working at the *madrasah*.

xiv) Rajshahi Darul Ulum Madrasah and Orphanage, Upashahor, Rajshahi

It is a *Qawmi* madrasah located at *Upashahor* (sub urban area) of the city. The madrasah was established in 2005 with the initiatives of Alhaj Hafiz Muhammad Abdus Samad. It is situated on 0.6 acre of land with 3 rooms. A total of 30 students in two sections -10 in *Hifz* class and 20 in *Maktab* class section-are being taught here with full residential facilities. The academic activities are running under the supervision of two teachers. A total of 20 students out of 30 are destitute and their all types of expenditures are maintained by the madrasah authority.

xv. Railway Jamia Rahmania Madrasah, Seroil, Rajshahi

It is a *Qawmi* Madrasah and located at northern side of railway station in the city. It was established in 1994 with the initiatives of Mawlana Muhammed Abdul Zabbar and some other educationists of the areas. It is situated on 0.37 acre of land. At first, the land was pond. It was filled up and ledged for 10 years. Later, the time of ledge was extended for more 5 years. But during the eviction period operated by the present caretaker government, the madrasah structure was also evicted. Consequently, it is shifted to on the roof of a mosque adjacent to railway colony and continues its activities. There are 200 students in the three sections-35 in *Hifz* class, 45 in *Maktab* class and 120 in *Kitab* class. They study here

with the accommodation facilities. Of them, a total of 40 students are severely destitute. They study at the free of cost. A total of 18 teachers, 2 office- assistants and one employee are working here to look after the students and other official activities.

xvi. *Al Marquajul Islamia Assalafee, Nowdapara, Rajshahi*

It is one of the largest government approved *Alia* -cum- *Qawmi* madrasah located at the northern side of the city. It also runs with the help of donor's financial support. Here the examination of *Dakhil* is being arranged in accordance with the syllabus of general madrasah. The management of the madrasah is trying to upgrade it up to *Kamil* class. The madrasah authority receives financial support from a foreign organization "Revival of Islamic Heritage, Kuwait. It also receives grants from the government. At first, the academic activities of the madrasah began as *Maktab* in 1979. Later, it upgraded into *Alia* madrasah in 1989. Presently the madrasah offers courses up to *Fazil* classes. The madrasah is situated on 3.21 acres of land with 76 rooms. There are 330 students in the three sections- 30 in *Hifz* class, 250 in *Maktab* and 50 in *Kitab* class in the madrasah. They also enjoy residential facilities. Of the students 54 students are destitute. They study at the free of cost. A total of 18 teachers, two officers, 2 employees and five supporting employees are working at the madrasah.

xvii. *Al Jamiatul Arabia Al Qawmia Al Emdadia, Kashiadanga, Rajshahi*

It is a *Qawmi* madrasah and located at the western side of the city which is situated on 0.48 acres of land. It was established with the initiatives of Mr. Syed Nurul Huda Shamsuzzaman, Deputy-Director of the then Local Self Government of Rajshahi, Mr. Abdus Sabur, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and present principal Mawlana Rezaur Rahman. At present, 15 students in *Hifz* class and 30 students in *Kitab* class are studying here with residential facilities. Of them, 10 students are destitute and their all expenditures are maintained from the fund of the institution. The academic activities of the madrasah are operating at three rooms under the supervision of three teachers.

xviii. *Talimunnessa Khadizatul Qubra (RH) Girls Residential Hafizia and Quariana Madrasah, Sepoypara, Rajshahi*

It is a largest *Qawmi* madrasah for girls in the city which is located at the southern side of the city and situated on 0.6 acres of land. It was established in 1985 when Alhaj Abul Hossain made 'waqfa'(charitable or religious endowment under Muslim Law) his land for this purpose. The

3-storied building has 7-rooms. A total of 55 female students in *Hifz* class and 30 in *Quariana* (one kind of reciting method of the holy Quran) class are studying here with residential facilities. Their all expenditures are maintained from the fund of the institution. A total of 7-teachers both male and female and 6 employees are working here. Umme Salma is performing as head at the madrasah.

xix. Hazrat 'Maa' Amena (R) Girls Hafizia Quariana Qawmi Madrasah Lillah Boarding (orphanage), Mohishbathan, Rajpara, Rajshahi

It is the second largest *Qawmi* girls' Madrasah in the city. Quari Alea Bewa established the madrasah with the assistance of local people at a rented house with 3 rooms in July 1, 2006. At present, 45 female students are studying here with residential facilities. All the expenditure of the students are maintained by the madrasah authority. Four female teachers and four employees are working here.

xx. Khurshid Jahan Hafizia Quariana Mohila Madrasah, Kajihata, Rajshahi

Mrs. Mala Begum with the assistance of local people of Kazihata area established this *Qawmi* madrasah in 2004. Since then, the academic activities of this madrasah are operating at a rented house with three rooms. A total of 18 destitute female students are being taught, with providing all facilities including residential accommodation, food, cloth etc by the authority of the madrasah. A total of 2 teachers and 5-employees are working here.

xxi. Ummul Quara Hafizia and Quariana Madrasah, Harhogram Natun Para, Rajshahi Court, Rajshahi

Hafiz-Quari Muhammad Belal Uddin established the *Mohila Qawmi* madrasah with the assistance of local peoples of Harhogram areas of the city in 1997. It is situated on 0.40 acres of land with brick built building. A total of 22 destitute female children are being taught with providing all facilities including accommodation food, cloth etc. There are two rooms for their accommodation. Two female teachers and 3-employees are working here.

xxii. Christian Missionary School Girls' Hostel, Bolonpur

It is established with the initiatives of the Christian Protestants for the destitute female students. It was set up with the initiative of Church of Bangladesh, Rajshahi Court and under the supervision of Bishop B.D Mondal in 1974. It is a storied building and well-protected area and

situated on 0.88 acres of land. At present, 60 female students are residing here and studying at different schools of the city. One project in charge, one administrator three part-time tutors and two security guards are working here and it is running under the supervision of the church of Bangladesh.

xxiii. Shanti Rani Convent, Baganpara, Dingiduba, Rajshahi

It is set up by the Catechist Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Marry, an especial community of Christian religion to preach speech of Christian religion and education. It also aims to provide medicals service and to give shelter of destitute people. It was established in 1990 for visiting the Christian devoted families. It is located at Baganpara area of the city and situated on 1.25 acres of land. It is a two-storied well protected building. There are two separate hostels- one for physically disabled women and the other for destitute women. These two hostels are supervised by two sisters. There are two cooks and one gate keeper. The destitute female children are studying at different schools of the city.

xxiv. Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD)

ASD is a national organization that works for the destitute children. The Rajshahi Office of the ASD is located at Boro Kuthi para, Ghoramara, Rajshahi. In Rajshahi, it is running two Drop in centre under its ARISE (Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children Improvement) project funded by Department of Social Services and UNDP. One is for the boys a street child which is located at Sapura and the other is for the girl street children which is located at Darikharbona of Kadirgang. In each drop-in-Centre 50 children stay according to their need in the day or night. ASD provides these children skill training, employment opportunities, information, education, counseling services and also food facilities by partial paying

xxv. Association for Community Development (ACD)

It is a non profitable non government organization which emerged in 1989 by a group of social activist in response to the chronologically growing needs and aspirations of the people, especially of landless, destitute women and children. To provide support to the disadvantaged woman and children to enhance their own initiation and collective action at the aim of achieving quality life and for their empowerment is the inherent commitment of this organization. The working area of ACD is 1250 villages of 57 Unions under 15 *Upazilla* of the districts of Rajshahi, Chapai-Nowabganj and Naogaon. Its Head office is located at Sagorpara

in Rajshahi. ACD organized three Drop-in Centre one for the girls' street children and the two others for the male street children. Of the two drop-in centre for the boys- one is located at the Masterpara and the other is at the Seroil. Only the Drop-in Centre for the girls street children in at the Sagorpara. In each Drop-in centre near about sixty children of different areas of the city stay here at the day according to their need. A few of them also stay here at night.

There are sixteen personnel on each Drop-in Centre. Of them, one is centre in-charge, four educators, two social workers, one job placement officer, one child councilor, one child advocate, one paramedic, two guards, one cleaner, one cook and one temporary M.B.B.S doctors serves here.

xxvi. Tripartite Development Council (TDC)

It began its activities in March 17, 1998 for the well-being of disadvantaged people groups especially children and women in the society. To achieve their objectives, the management of the TDC has taken various programs including providing education, information, creating social awareness and development of skill for the disadvantaged group so that they become self-reliant. TDC has been providing various developing and rehabilitating activities with the financial support of British Council, Danida and TDH- Netherlands. With the continuation of its programs, TDC is running a program titled 'Protection of Street Children's Rights in Rajshahi' for the street children from October 2004. It is running its activities for the well-being of street children through 23 local NGOs forming 23 child organizations at 7 Upazillas of Rajshahi district and 16 other districts of Rajshahi Division. There is a dropping centre in the city which is operating its activities under full supervision of TDC. The dropping centre is located at the northern side of Seroil Rail Station. This is made by tin-Shed and concrete building. At present, there are 50 children. However, one manager, two residential caretakers, two centre mothers, one animator and one psycho-social counselors are working here.

Institution Providing Different Services without Accommodation

A number of institutions and organizations such as UCEP, *Phulkuri Ashar*, *Kishor Kurir Mela*, *Golap Jotir Mela*, *Zia Shisu Sangathon*, *Kochi Pata Theatre* etc. are working for the welfare of the Children without residential facilities in Rajshahi city. Of them UCEP plays a major role

for welfare of the destitute children especially for the working children. Brief information about UCEP activities is narrated below.

In Rajshahi, UCEP runs four general and one technical school. These general schools are located at Tikapara, Baseradda, Shalbagan and Harhogram. In these schools at 9-grade a total of 2,663 students are studying from play group-to class eight. The technical school is located at Santoshpur under Paba Upazilla. In the school, a total of 240 students are studying at five trades. The five trades are: Auto Mechanics, Machinist, welding and fabrication, Industrial electric and electronic Control, Tailoring and Dress Making.

In each general school of UCEP, there are one school administrator, one assist administrator, teachers, assist teacher and one MLSS and one guard. In the Technical School, in each trade, there are one unit administrator, one assistant administrator, teachers, Instructors, two MLSS, one guard and one cleaner.

The students engaged in training are provided scholarship amount Tk.200 per month. After completion of their training, they are also provided with employment opportunities.

Chapter Six

Existing Services for the Welfare of the Destitute Children in Rajshahi City

Pattern of Service for the Destitute Children

In Rajshahi, a number of government and non-government institutions and organizations are working for ensuring the rights of the destitute children. Of the non government organizations some are operated by religious personalities with the support of international, national and local donations. Some are also run by voluntary leaders and social activists. So the services provided by these institutions and organizations vary in nature. Of them some are providing accommodation, food, clothing, education, training, recreation, and rehabilitation facilities. Some institutions are providing food, clothing, education, and training only. They do not provide any accommodation facilities. In this chapter it has been tried to know the socio-economic conditions and he causes of destitution of the destitute children. It has been tried to analyze the nature and type of the services provided by these institutions and organizations in Rajshahi.

Socio-economic Status of the Destitute Children

Socio-economic condition is an important factor of any people. Every developmental work depends on socio-economic condition of the concerning people. According to the social stratification, it plays a vital role in the society. Especially, it is considered with due importance to explore information in any social research. So we should know the socio-economic status of the destitute children to shape their position in society. On the basis of collected data the socio-economic statuses are explained below.

Table-6.1: Age based sex distribution of the respondents

Sex Age	Characteristics	Male	Female	Total
0-6 (years)	Frequency	6		6 1.4%
	Percentage within sex of respondent	2.3%		1.4%
	Percentage of total	1.4%		
6-12 (years)	Frequency	223	138	361
	Percentage within sex of respondent	86.8%	84.7%	86.0%
	Percentage of total	53.1%	32.9%	86.0%
12-18 (years)	Frequency	28	25	53
	Percentage within sex of respondent	10.9%	15.3%	12.6%
	Percentage of total	6.7%	6.0%	12.6%
Total	Frequency	257	163	420
	Percentage within sex of respondent	100.0%	100%	100%
	Percentage of total	61.2%	38.8%	100%

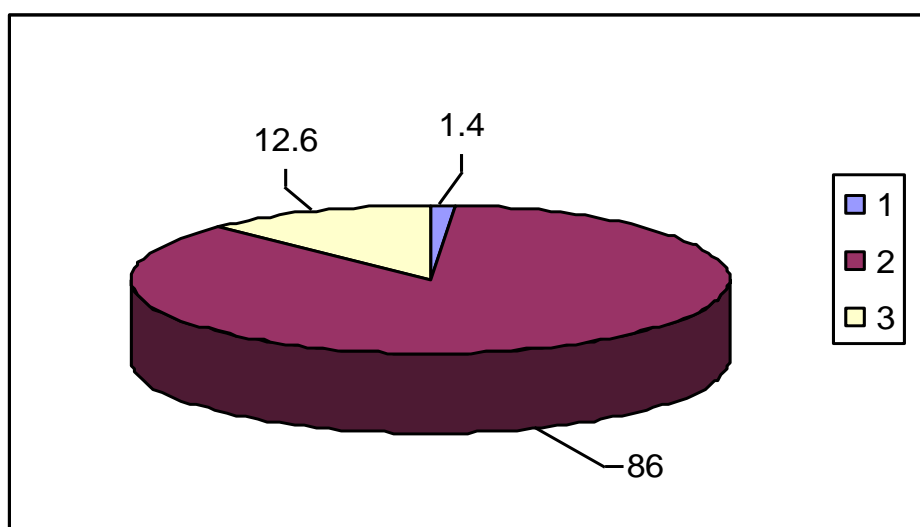


Diagram No.1

Age and sex are vital characteristics of a person. Maturation, perception, socialization etc increase with the growth of age. So we cannot ignore the age and sex profile of the respondents. The table reveals the distribution of age and sex of the respondents. The largest number of (86%) destitute children belongs to 6-12 years age level. Based on the information found through observation, the age of the respondents ranges from 3 to 18.

On the other hand, the male children are large in number and female children are small in number. Although the male and female child ratio (52.54 : 47.46) are nearly equal in national level (GOB, 2003:51), the service providing agencies cover 61.2% male and 38.8% female. It can be said from the data that a remarkable portion of the destitute female children are remaining beyond the services for destitute.

Table 6.2: Educational status of the respondents

Educational Status	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	2	0.48
Signature	19	4.52
Primary	178	42.38
Junior secondary	132	31.43
S. S.C	37	8.81
HSC	5	1.19
Hifz	44	10.48
Pre-school age	3	0.71
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.00

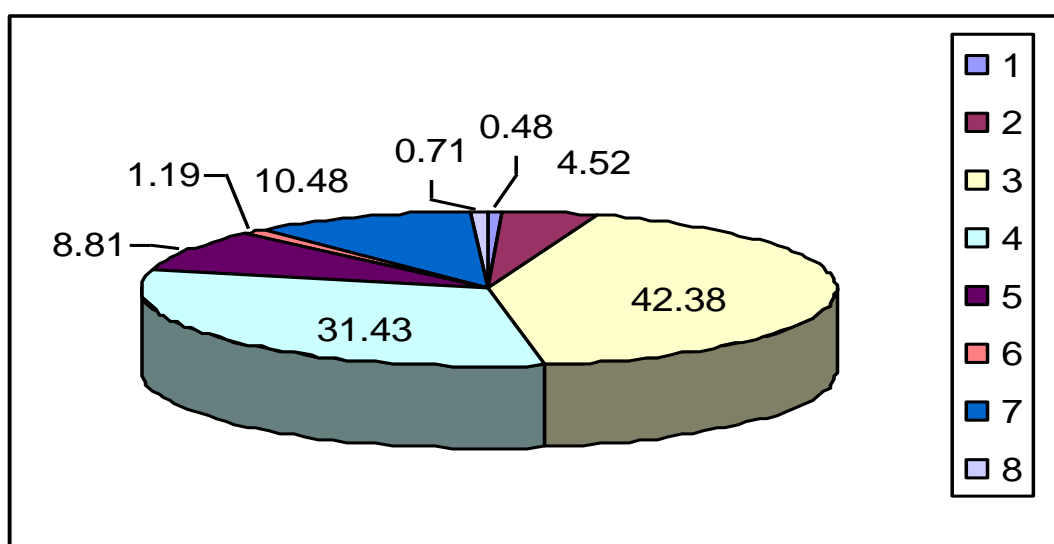


Diagram No.2

Education is a vital factor indicating awareness of a person. All the institutions are providing education to the destitute. The table indicates that most of the destitute children (42.38%) are the students of primary section. Second highest of destitute children are (31.43%) in junior secondary level. The lowest number (0.48%) of destitute children is illiterate. Data reveals that some destitute children are remaining in pre-school age. It can be realized that service receiver of the institution of Rajshahi City are schooling children.

Table 6.3: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation of respondents	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Student	304	72.38
Laborer	40	9.52
Student as well as laborer	72	17.14
Pre-school age	4	0.95
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.00

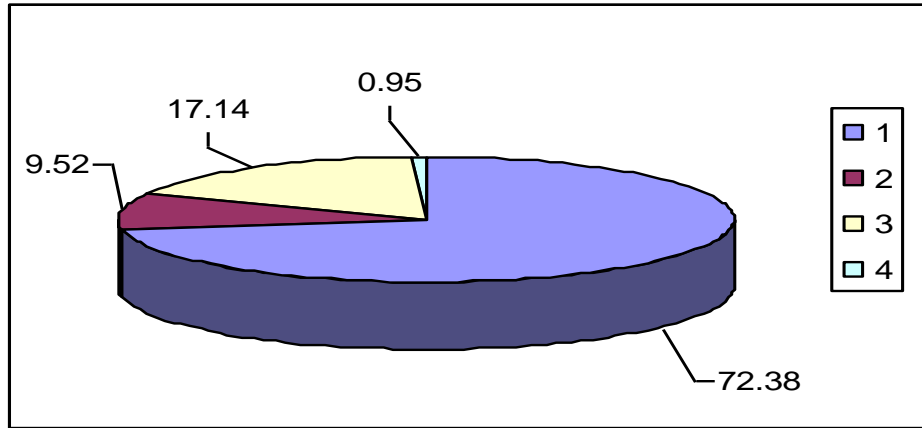


Diagram No.3

The above table explains the occupation of the respondents. Among the respondents 72.38% are students, 9.52% are laborer 17.14% are students as well as laborers, and 0.95% are unable to respond. It indicates that the institutions are providing educational service. A significant number of laborers reside in the institution. So it may be understood that these institutions provides services not only to the students but also child laborer, particularly a disadvantaged and deprived group of our society.

Table 6.4: Number of family members of the respondents

Family members	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
2	4	0.95
3	46	10.95
4	98	23.33
5	122	29.04
6	65	15.48
7	44	10.48
8	23	5.48
9	9	2.14
11	1	0.23
Information not available	8	1.92
Total (N)	420	100.00

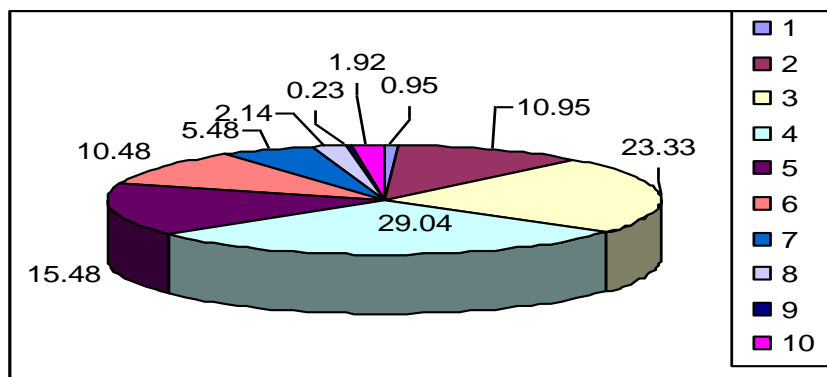


Diagram No.4

The above table demonstrates the size of family of the respondents. Respondents of and SOS in many Baby Home cases cannot reveal any information regarding family as they are abandoned by their family. Respondents show that most (64.77%) of them come from big sized families that have 5 or more than 5 members.

Table 6.5: Occupation of the respondents' head of family

Types of occupation	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Support service stuff	37	8.81
Farmer	85	20.24
Day labor	97	23.10
Rickshaw puller	54	12.86
Petty business	91	21.67
Hair dresser/carpenter	19	4.53
Others	13	3.10
Unavailability	24	5.71
Total (N)	420	100

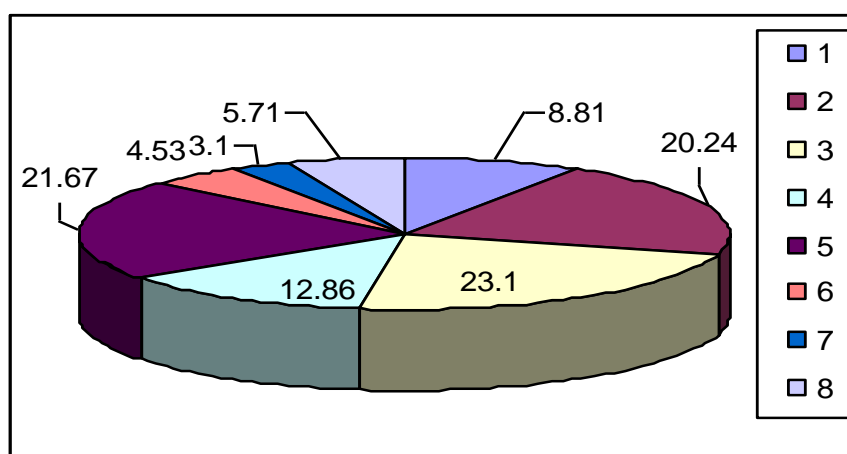


Diagram No.5

Occupation is a major indicator of socio-economic condition. The above table describes occupations of family heads of respondents. Majority of (23.10%) family respondents are day laborer. Next to these, children of (21.67%) and (20.24%) have come from petty businessmen and farmers are in institution. Other occupations include rickshaw pulling (12.86%), support services in government and semi-government offices (8.81%), hairdressing (2.14%), carpentry (2.39%). There are some inmates who were abandoned or where family was traceless. In that case occupation of 5.71% family head of respondents could not be specifically known. We can say that majority of the respondents are from such families that are dependent on uncertain income.

Table 6.6: Monthly income of the respondents' fathers

Amount (in Taka)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
0-2000	197	46.90
2000-4000	175	41.67
4000-6000	16	3.80
6000-8000	5	1.19
8000-10000	1	0.24
10000+	2	0.48
Unavailable	24	5.71
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.00

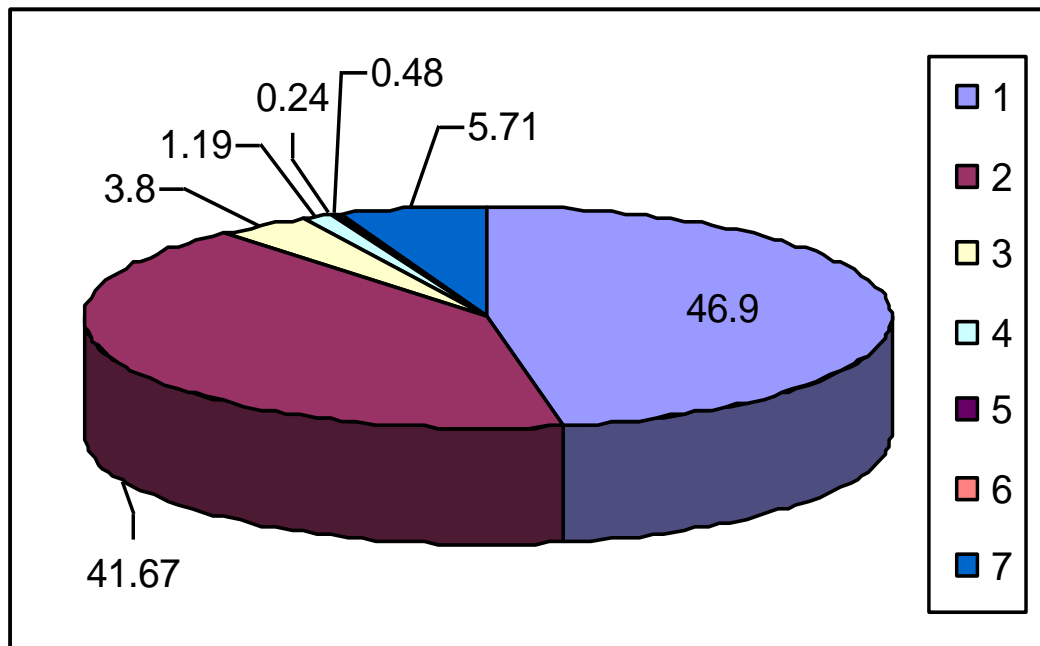


Diagram No.6

The table explains the monthly income of respondents' father. This information is highly important to know the causes, pattern of destitution. Besides, what economic background is responsible to be the destitute. The average income of respondents' father is $\bar{x} = 2638.2$ Tk. Majority of the respondents' fathers income fall below 2000 Tk. 41.67%, 3.8%, 1.9%, 0.24% and 0.48% respondents' father income is in the range of Tk. 2000-4000, 4000-6000, 6000-8000, 8000-10,000 and up to 10,000 Tk. respectively. About 5.7% respondents do not know their family income. It can be said that most of the destitute children have come from family of low economic background.

Table 6.7: Location of house of the respondents

Location of house of respondents	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Own land	270	64.30
Khas land	30	7.14
River side	9	2.14
Bazaar	4	0.95
Private own land	35	8.33
Slum	19	4.52
Others	29	6.90
Unknown	24	5.71
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.00

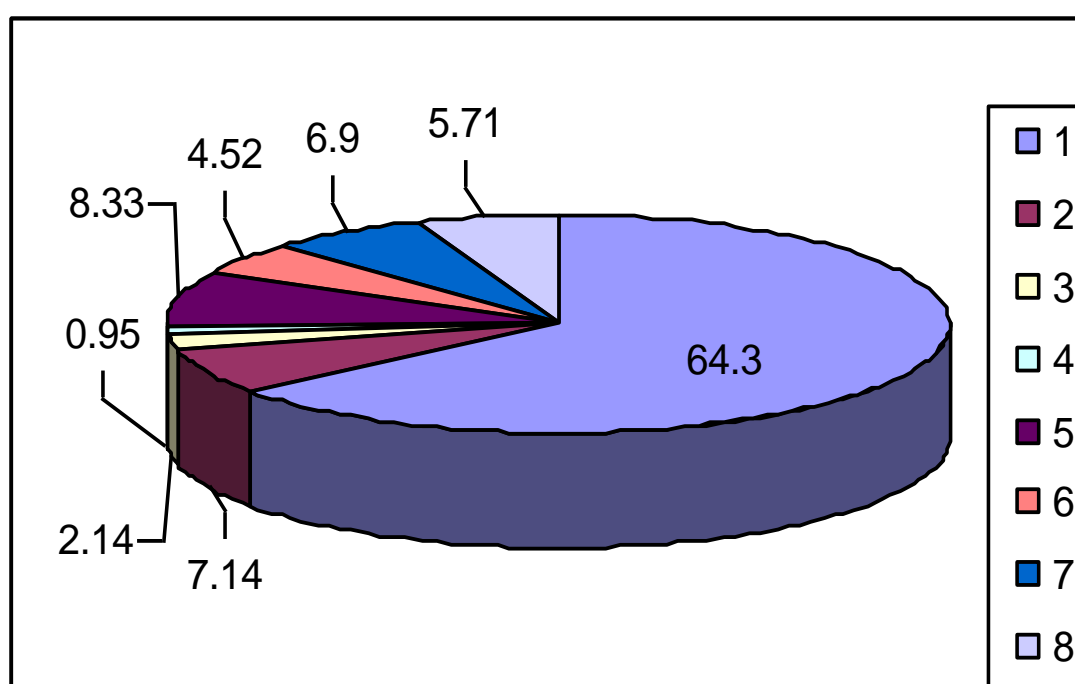


Diagram No.7

Location is very much important for every man to get the various facilities like - electricity, recreation and other services. It is highly co-related to the development of a child. The table demonstrates the location of house of the family member or parents of destitute children. It indicates that 23.09% parents of destitute children have no land of their own. They live in *khas* land, slums, riverside, another persons' land, bazaar and so on. It can be said that a significant number of respondents have become destitute due to lack of permanent residence. They come mostly from landless families.

Table 6.8: Pattern of residence of the respondents

Condition of households	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Pucca	40	9.52
Semi pucca	119	28.33
Kacha	70	16.67
Tin	36	8.57
Fencing	31	7.38
Mud	84	20.0
Straw	12	2.86
Information not available	28	6.67
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.0

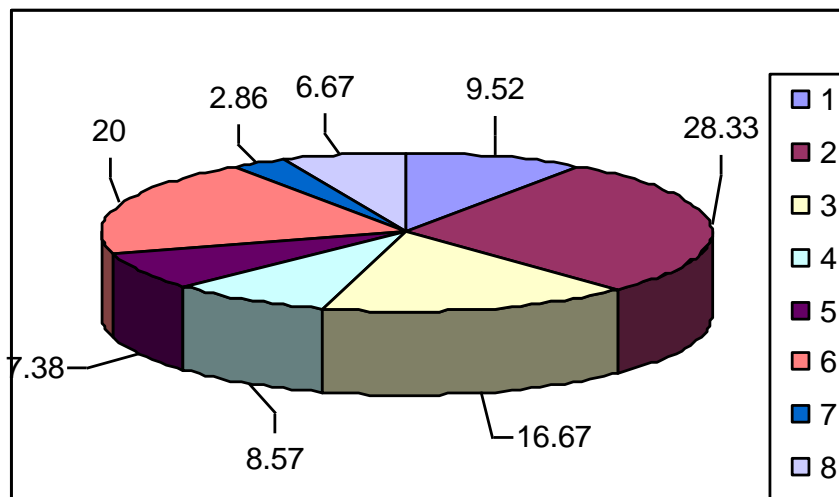


Diagram No.8

The table reveals the household condition of the destitute children. Only 37.85% households of the destitute are of *pucca* and semi *pucca* houses. Among them 16.67%, 20%, 8.57%, 7.38% households of destitute are belonging to *kacha*, mud and tin-roofed respectively. A significant number (6.67%) of destitute children cannot give any specific information about their households. So we can say that a significant number of respondents have come from those families who have no households of their own.

Reasons for their Destitution

Children become the victims of destitution for various reasons in Bangladesh. The reasons responsible behind the destitution are loss of parent, ignorance and neglect by parents, trafficking, sexual abuses, social negligence, physical and mental disability, river erosion, cyclone and other natural disasters, and extreme poverty of the families. The children under the study area are also victims of such situations. In this

chapter, an attempt is made to explore the reasons of destitution of the respondents.

Table 6.9: Causes of destitution of the respondents

Causes of Destitution	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Father less	80	19.05
Mother less	21	5.00
Parents less	21	5.00
Mother's divorce	13	3.10
Abandoned	8	1.90
Victims of trafficking	8	1.90
Asset less/extreme poverty of family	241	57.38
Ignored by family	31	7.38
Negligence from relative	29	6.90
Physically/disability of head of the family	11	2.62
Others	20	4.76
Total (<i>N</i>)	483*	

* N=420, more than one answer remain

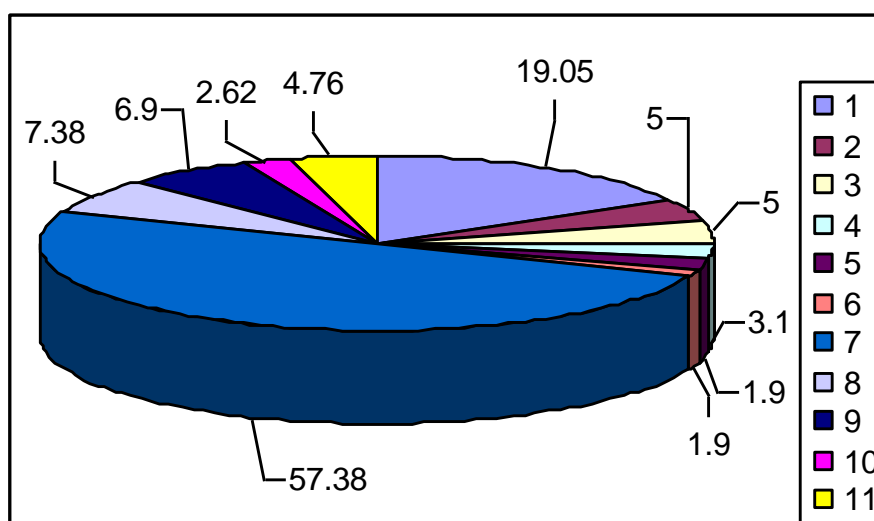


Diagram No.9

Destitution is such situation, which can happen to anybody at any stage of life. Respondents of this study had to face such situation at the very early stage of their life. Most of the inmates of the study institution are from families with extreme poverty (57.38%). A significant portion of respondents had lost their father or mother or both (29.05%). A portion of respondents were ignored by their family and neglected by near relatives (14.28%). There are some inmates who were abandoned by their parents (1.90%). The destitute children living in the institutions would have

earned their livelihood by themselves, if they had not enrolled in the institutions. Poverty is the major cause of destitution of the respondents that compelled them to be enrolled with the institution.

Table 6.10: Objectives for enrollment in the institutions

Objectives to come	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Interested for education	236	56.19
Take shelter after being deprived of family	65	15.48
To get better facilities	226	53.81
Others	17	4.05
Total (<i>N</i>)	544*	

*N= 420, more than one answer remain

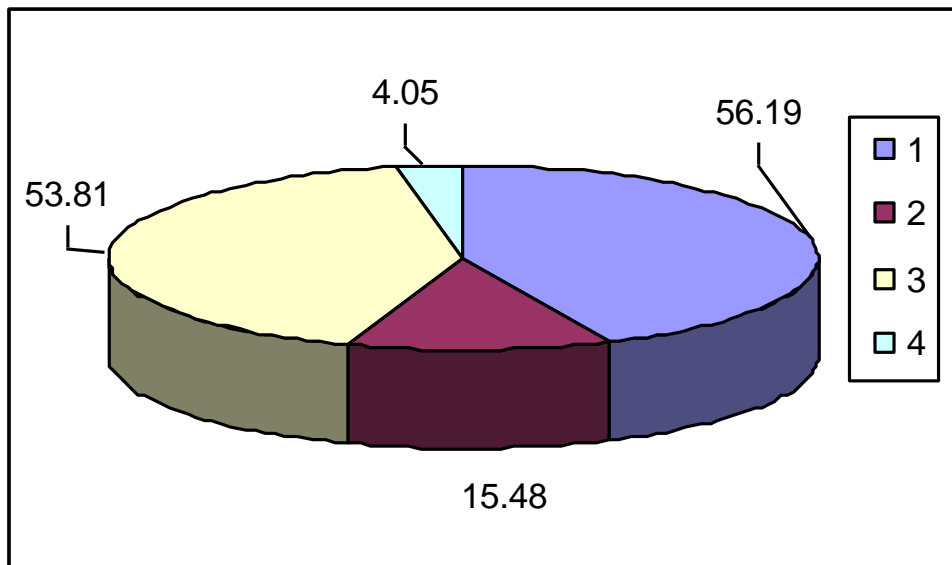


Diagram No.10

The above table reveals the objectives of inmates to enroll with the institutions. According to data, 56.19% destitute children got enrolled in the institutions for education. On the other hand about 53.81% children said they were enrolled for getting better facilities such as food, cloth etc. 15.48% inmates said they had to enroll with these institutions after being deprived of their family. Analyzing the data, we can say the inmates have enrolled with the institutions for education as well as better facilities.

Service Pattern for the Destitute Children

There are various types of institutions, which are providing services in many fields. The service providing institutions comprise of government, non- government, international and UN systems. In addition, a number of religious institutions especially *lillah Boarding* attached to *madrasah* are providing various types of services for the betterment of destitute

children. Moreover, some Christian missionary institutions are also working for same purposes. Most of these institutions provide food, cloth, shelter and educational materials for the destitute children fully or in some cases, partially. But a few institutions especially, UCEP provides only education and training for the destitute children. UCEP does not provide residential facility. The following tables indicate the service pattern of the institutions working in Rajshahi city.

Table 6.11: Living arrangement of inmates per bed

Living arrangement per bed	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
1	143	52.96
2	55	20.37
3	15	5.56
4	15	5.56
Flooring	42	15.56
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

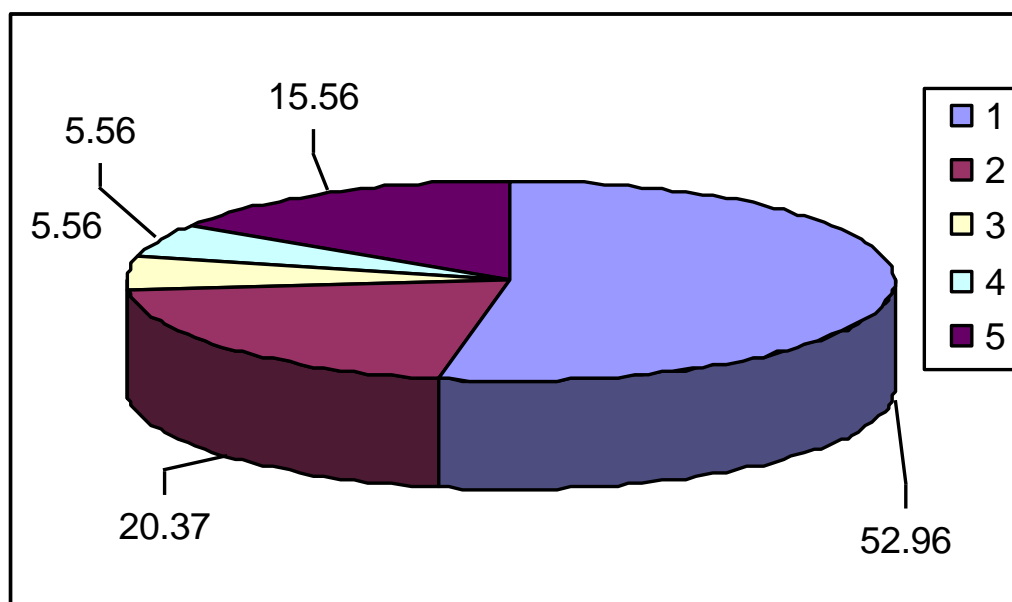


Diagram No.11

A sound environment for sleeping especially bedding arrangement is essential for the proper growth of a child. The table reveals the arrangement of bed for the destitute children. Data indicate that most of the inmates (52.96%) get the good arrangement of bed facilities i.e. per bed per inmate. More than fifty percent destitute children do not get the proper bed that means they sleep with doubling, tripling arrangement and so on. Even 15.56% of them sleep on the floor. So it is seen from the table that sleeping arrangement of the institution is not satisfactory in case of a significant number of inmates.

Table 6.12: Arrangement of separate reading table for the inmates

Responses	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Not exist	200	74.07
Exist	70	25.93
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

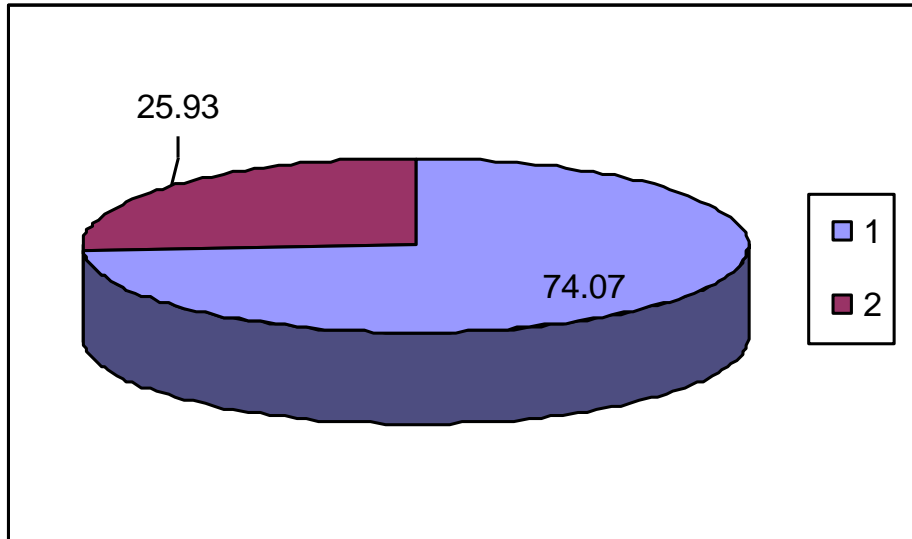


Diagram No.12

The table demonstrates the arrangement of separate chair table of the inmates for their study. According to collected data, about 72.38% inmates are students (Table-6.1.1.3). But this table indicates that 74.07% inmates have no separate chair-table. Which is not at all helpful for proper study. So we can say that the academic facility of the institution is not suitable.

Table 6.13: Food facilities in the institution by menu and time

Item	Rice and Curry		<i>Khichuri</i> (Hotchpotch)		Bread and Banana		Meat and Fish		Total	
	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency(<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Time	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency(<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Morning	53	19.6	160	59.3	12	4.4	45	16.6	270	100
Noon	265	98.2	2	0.70	-	-	3	1.10	270	100
Night	253	93.7	3	1.10	-	-	14	5.20	270	100

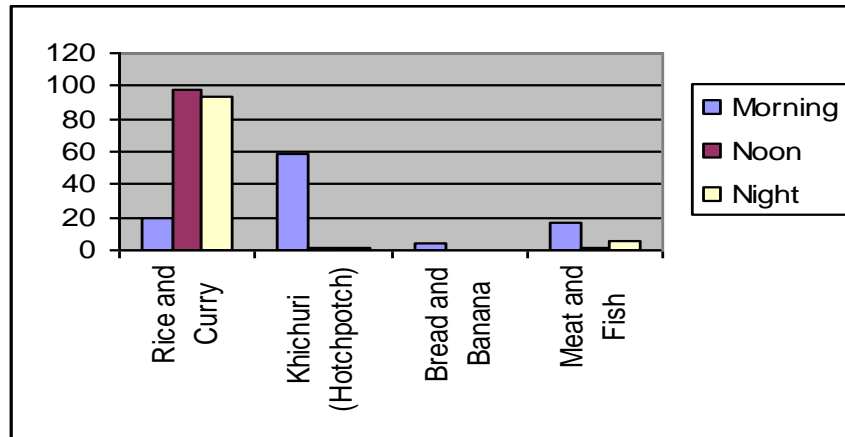


Diagram No.13

The table shows the food facilities on the time schedule. Menu and time of taking food are fixed. In the morning the institution provides 19.6%, 59.3%, 4.4% and 16.6% rice and curry, *khichuri* (hotchpotch) and curry, bread and banana and meat/ fish/milk/egg respectively. It also provides the inmates rice and curry (98.2%), mixed rice and curry (0.7%) and meat and fish (1.1%) as lunch. At night, the inmates take rice and curry (93.7%), mixed rice and curry (1.1%), meat/fish/milk/egg (5.2%) as supper. It indicates that most of the time, institution provides the inmates very simple dish like, rice and curry, mixed rice and curry and so on. It can be said that they do not provide the sufficient balanced diet such as egg, milk and fish and so on for the inmates.

Table 6.14: Provision of food menu in the institutions

Provision of food menu	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	89	32.96
Yes	181	67.04
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

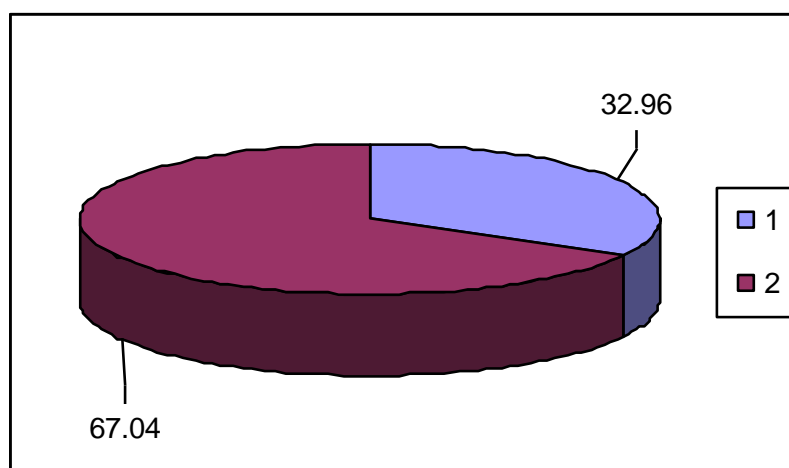


Diagram No.14

In the above table, the existence of menu in the institution has been shown. 67.04% of the inmates of the institution responded that they are supplied food in accordance with scheduled food list. But 32.96% inmates said that the institutions have no fixed menu. In those institutions nature of food depends on the availability any food items in the market. In these situations there is possibility of giving the same menu repeatedly.

Table 6.15: Sources of supplied seasonal fruits for the inmates

Sources	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Fund of the institution	122	45.19
Donation from others	54	20.00
Own garden of institution	42	15.56
No	52	19.30
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.0

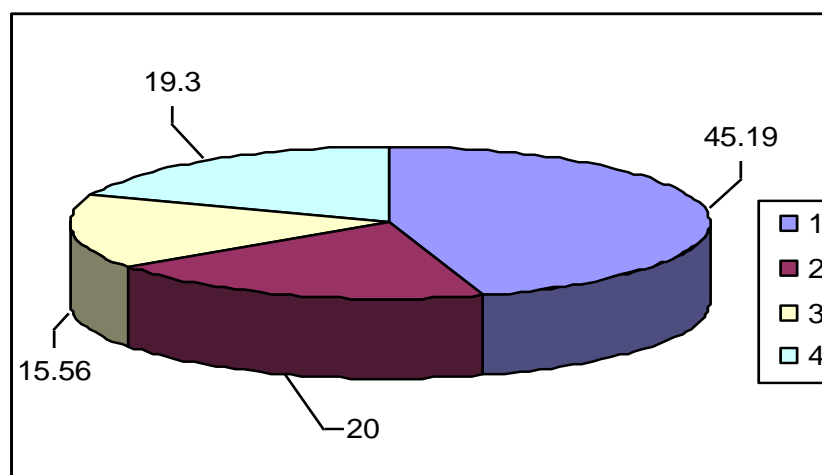


Diagram No.15

Fruits are very much liked by the children. Every child likes the seasonal fruits like mango, banana, guava, jackfruits etc. The above table shows the sources of supplied seasonal fruits for the inmates. About 45.19% inmates said that they get seasonal fruits supplied by their institution. And 19.3% of respondents do not get seasonal fruits. But about 20% of them said they get fruits only whenever fruits are donated by others. So it is seen that the provision of supplying seasonal fruits for the destitute children are not well.

Table 6.16: Provision for supply of dress

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	60	22.20
Yes	210	77.80
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

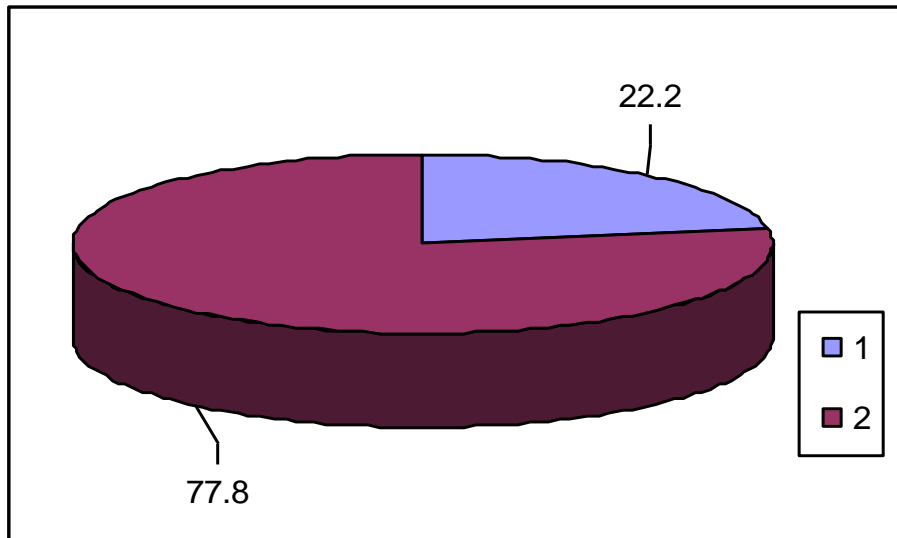


Diagram No.16

The above table shows information about dress of inmates residing in the institutions, which are providing services for the destitute children in the city. Upon analyzing the data, it is found that 77.8 % respondents have said that they are provided dresses by their institutions although it is expected that all the destitute children should be provided dressed by the institutions. But data shows that 22.2% of inmates are not provided dresses by their institutions.

Table 6.17: Bedding facilities for the inmates

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	104	38.52
Yes	166	61.48
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

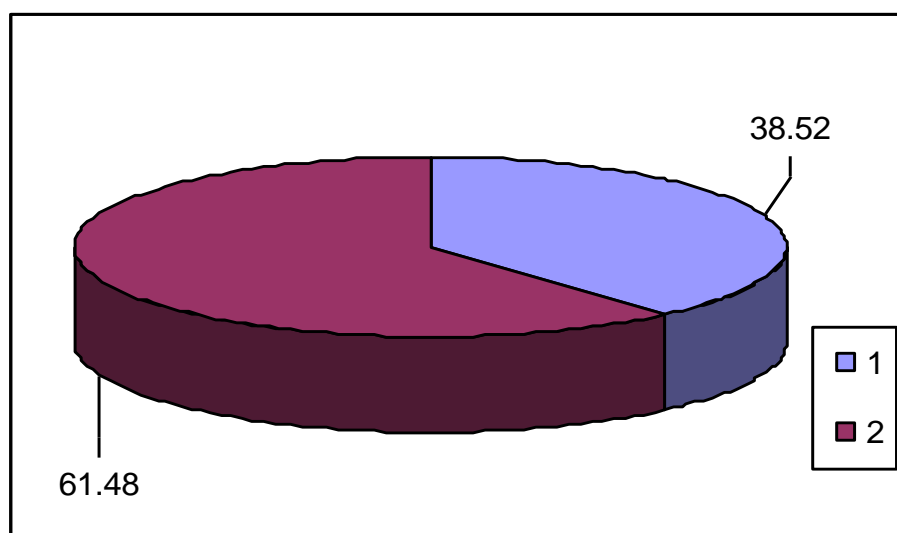


Diagram No.17

The above table shows provision of bedding materials. 61.48% inmates of different institutions responded that they are supplied bedding facilities while 38.52% inmates get no bedding facilities from the institutions and somehow they manage by their own initiatives. Though it is expected that the institutions should supply necessary bedding materials but a significant number of inmates are deprived of this.

Table 6.18: Nature of educational institution attended by the respondents

Nature of educational institution	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
General education	31	11.48
Religious (<i>Qawmi</i>)	28	10.37
Technical education	6	2.22
Religious and technical education	40	14.81
General and technical	101	37.41
Religious and general (<i>Alia</i>)	53	19.63
Others	9	3.33
Not applicable being pre-school age	2	0.74
Total (N)	270	100.00

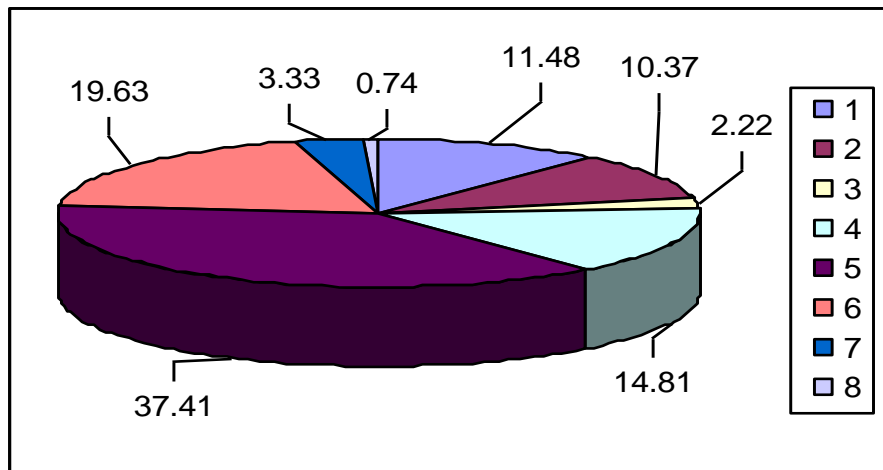


Diagram No.18

The above table demonstrates the categories of education provided by the institutions. There are various categories of education provided by institutions to the destitute children. According to the collected data, it is seen that 37.41 % institutions provided general and technical education, 11.48 %, 10.37 %, 14.81 %, 19.63 %, 2.22% and 3.33 % provides the general education, religious education, religious and technical education, religions and general education, technical and others education respectively. Here others means tailoring, block boutique etc. The lowest number of (0.74%) inmates is not provided any sorts of education due to their minor age.

Table 6.19: Supply of educational materials

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	17	6.30
Yes	251	92.96
Not deserving	2	0.74
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

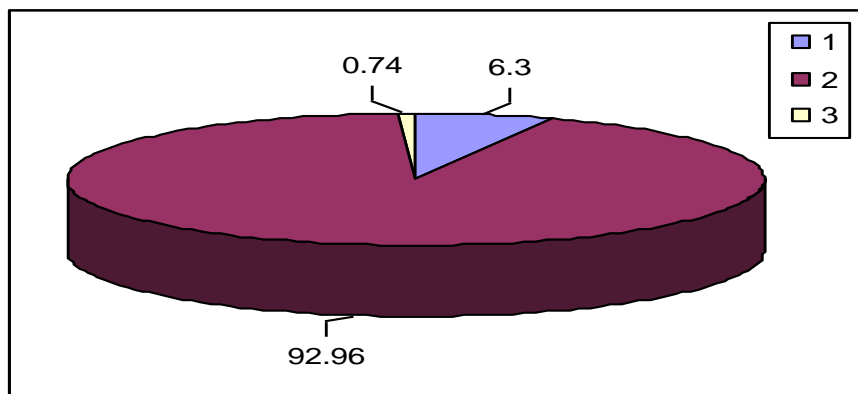


Diagram No.19

The above table demonstrates the information regarding problems of educational materials. 92.96% of inmates are provided with educational materials. So it can be said majority of inmates get educational facilities supplied by the institutions.

Table 6.20: Library facilities for the respondents

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	261	96.67
Yes	9	3.33
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

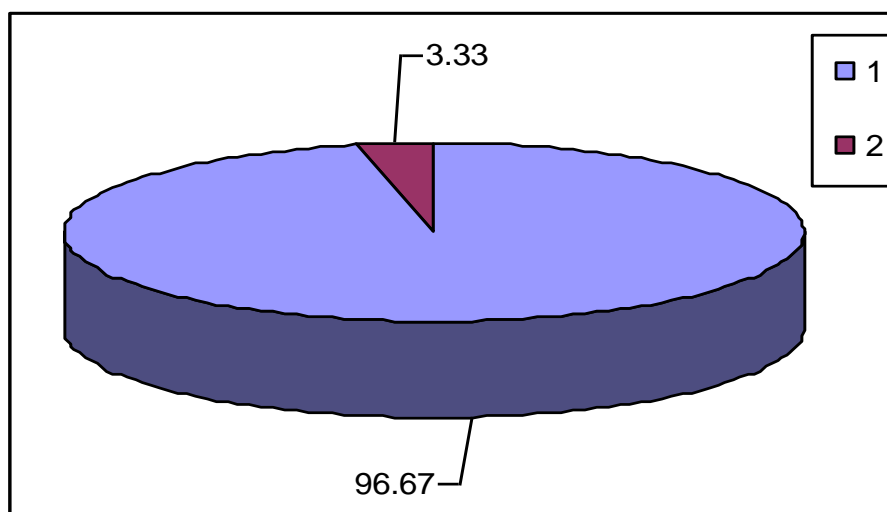


Diagram No.20

Library is a storehouse of knowledge. Everybody can immense benefits from library. 72.38% of the respondents are highly interested to study. But this table indicates that the inmates of institutions are not getting the facilities properly. Most of the respondents (96.67%) have said that there is no library facility. A very insignificant number of respondents have said that they can get the library facilities from the institutions. So we can say that on the basis of this study that most of the inmates are not getting library facilities properly.

Table 6.21: Health service for the respondents

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	68	25.19
Yes	202	74.81
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

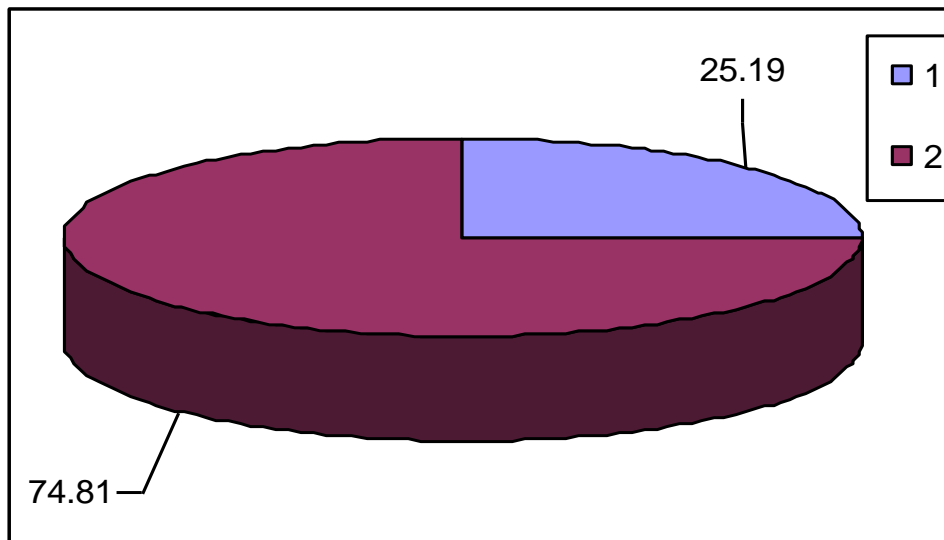


Diagram No.21

Health service is very much essential for everybody. The destitute children tend to be more vulnerable to health problems. The above table shows the availability of health services in the institutions. 74.81% inmates responded that there is arrangement of health services in their institutions. But 25.19% inmates receive no medical facilities from their institutions.

Table 6.22: Sanitation condition for the institutions

Types of sanitation	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
<i>Pucca</i>	266	98.52
<i>Kacha</i>	4	1.48
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

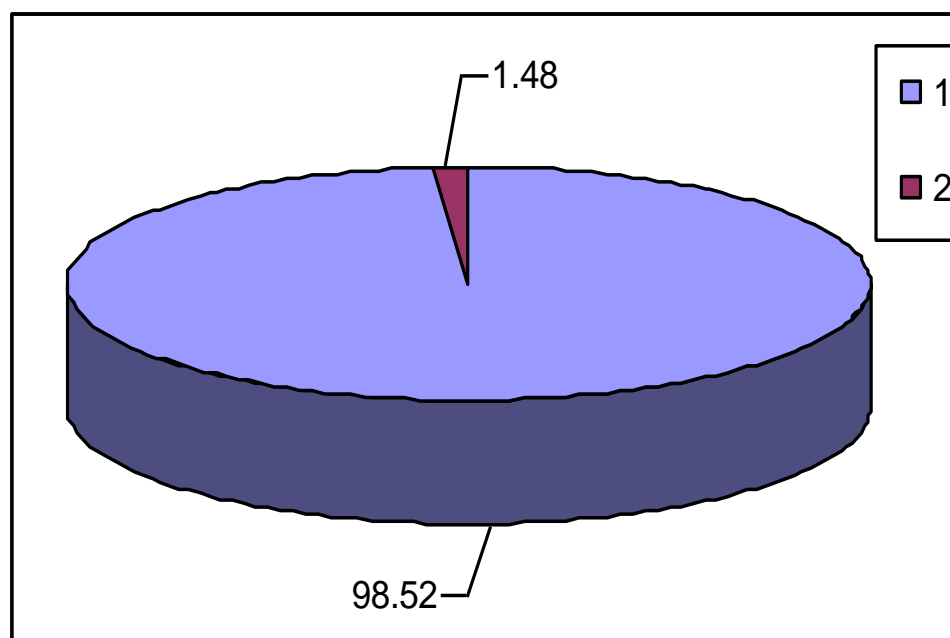


Diagram No.22

Sanitation arrangement plays an important role for healthy development of a child. An attempt was made to know the sanitation arrangement of institutions. The above table shows the situation of sanitation arrangement of institutions for the destitute children. It is found in this table that 98.52% of the respondents said sanitation arrangement is *pucca* and well maintained. A insignificant number (1.48%) of respondents observed that sanitation arrangement is *kacha* and poorly maintained.

Table 6.23: Pattern of spending leisure time of the respondents

Pattern of Spending leisure Time	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Sporting	165	61.11
Watching TV	75	27.78
Reading book/newspaper	50	18.52
Walking/moving	26	9.63
Radio listening	10	3.70
Learning computer	8	2.96
No specific arrangement	80	29.63
Others	12	4.44
Total (<i>N</i>)	426*	

* *N*= 270 , more than one answer remain

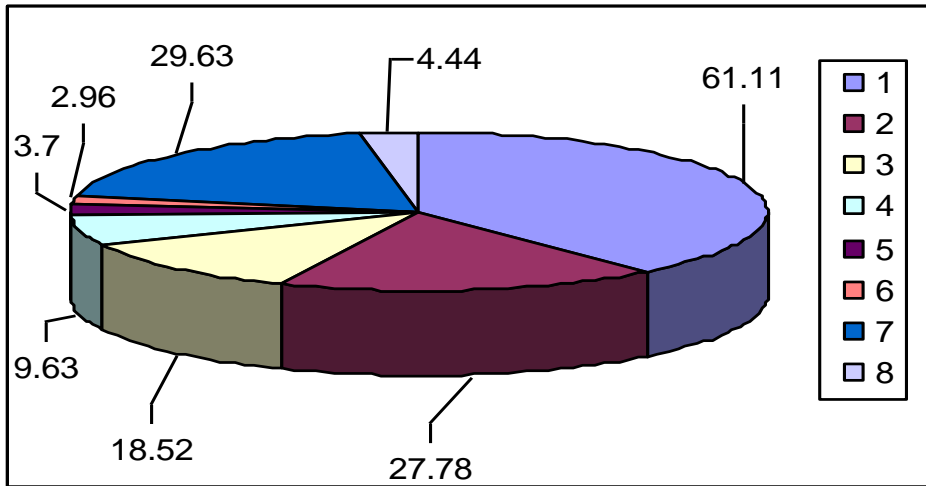


Diagram No.23

The inmates enjoy their leisure according to the facilities they get and not according their choice. Majority (61.11%) of the inmates spend their leisure time by sporting. A significant portion of inmates spends their leisure time by watching TV (27.78 %), reading newspaper (18.52%), radio program (3.70%). In few institutions, there are computer and a few of inmates avail the facilities for spending their leisure time. But a significant number of inmates (29.63%) reported that there is no specific arrangement to enjoy their leisure time.

Table 6.24: Existence of play ground in the institutions

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	149	55.18
Yes	121	44.81
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

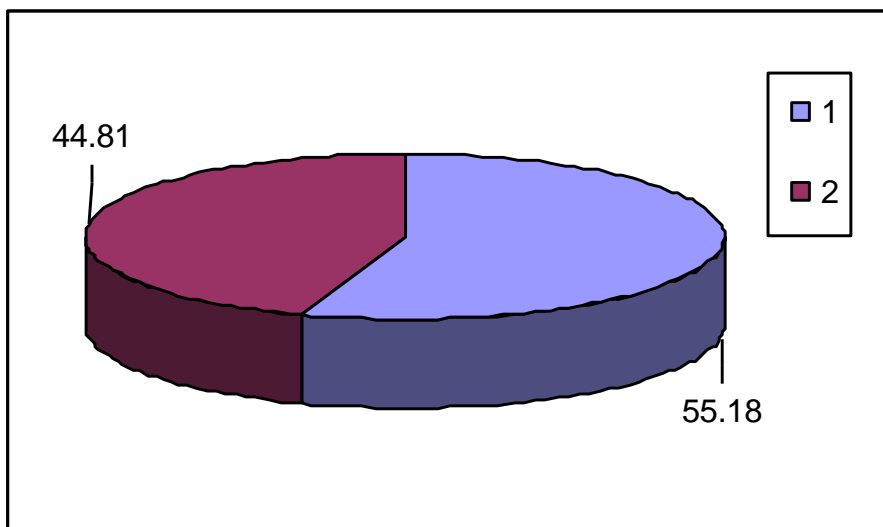


Diagram No.24

Physical exercise is required for balanced growth of body and mind particularly for the children. But majority (55.18%) of the institutions have no arrangement of play ground for their inmates which is depicted on the above table. 44.81% institutions have such facilities but observation reveals that existing facilities of most of the institutions are very insufficient.

Table 6.25: Scope of participation in cultural functions

Types of answer	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Speech, debate and recitation	148	54.81
Practice of songs	50	18.52
Acting and observing of national days	62	22.96
No specification arrangement	45	16.67
Total (<i>N</i>)	305*	

* *N* = 270, more than one answer remain

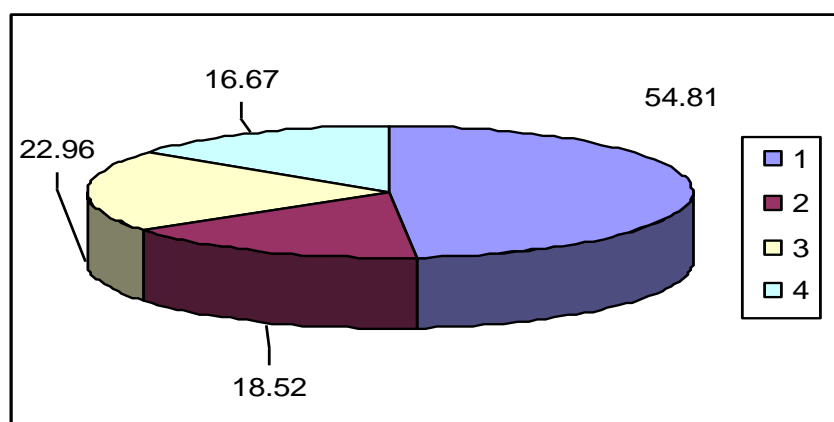


Diagram No.25

Participation in cultural activities promotes interpersonal skill and social behavior of children. It also contributes to mental growth. The above table shows that 54.81% of the respondents get scope to participate in debate, recreating and speech, 22.96% of them get scope in doing acting and observing national day(s) and 18.52% are getting scope for singing. Only 16.67% says that there is no specific arrangement for cultural activity in their institutions.

Table 6.26: Allowance for personal expenditure

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Institution	42	15.56
Inmates own self	226	83.70
Others	2	0.74
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100

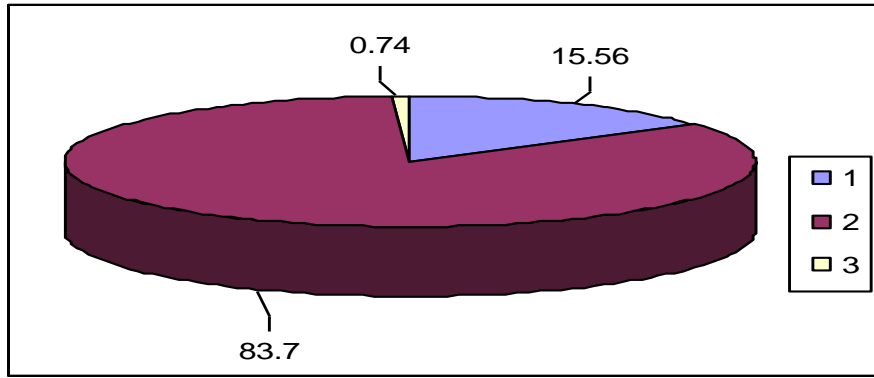


Diagram No.26

It is a common feature of human beings that they want to spend money to comply with their choices. The children are especially interested in this regard and in order to understand that whether the children are given some pocket money to meet up their small choices an attempt was made. After analyzing the collected data, it is found that 83.70% of the respondents do not get such allowance from the institutions. Only 15.56% respondents have said that they get some allowance from their institutions.

Table 6.27: Security system of the institutions

Response	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
No	92	34.07
Yes	178	65.93
Total (N)	270	100.00

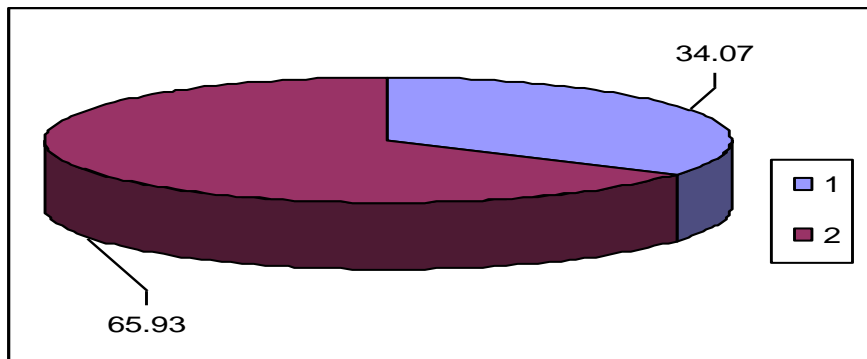


Diagram No.27

Security is vital concern for everyone particularly for the children. A large portion of the institution (65.93%) providing service for children in Rajshahi city has arrangement of security by boundary walls and security guards. But at the same time a highly significant number (34.07) of institutions have no arrangement of security which seems to be an alarming situation.

Table 6.28: Relation among the inmates

Types of Answer	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Co-operative	48	17.78
Normal	40	14.81
Good	159	58.89
Not good	21	7.78
Unable to response	2	0.74
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100

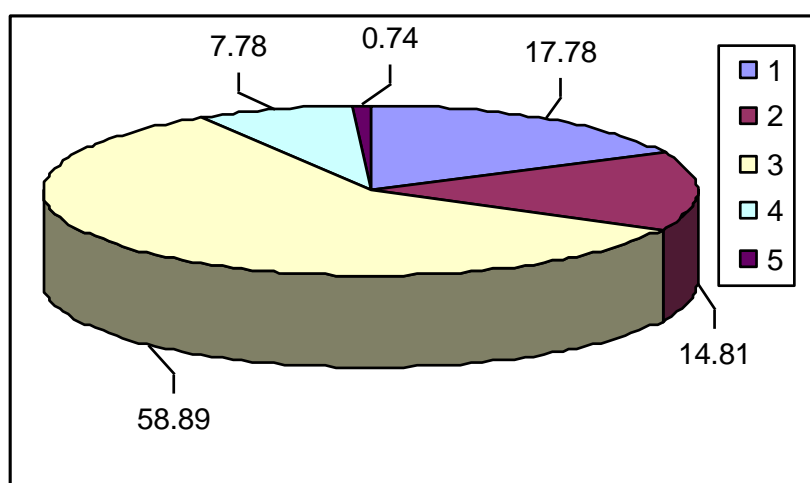


Diagram No.28

Relation among the inmates is very important factor to ensure a better environment to live. The above table shows that 58.89% of the respondents say that their relation is good. 17.78%, 14.81% and 7.78% of the respondents have said that relation among themselves co-operative, normal and not good respectively. So we can come to a conclusion that overall relation among the respondents is good.

Table 6.29: Reasons for quarrel among the inmates

Types of reasons for quarrel	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
For food	15	5.55
For dress	20	7.41
Watching TV	33	12.22
For sporting instruments	105	38.89
Teasing	13	4.81
For educational materials	14	5.19
Others	13	4.81
Not quarreled with others	55	20.37
Unable to say	2	0.74
Total (<i>N</i>)	270	100.00

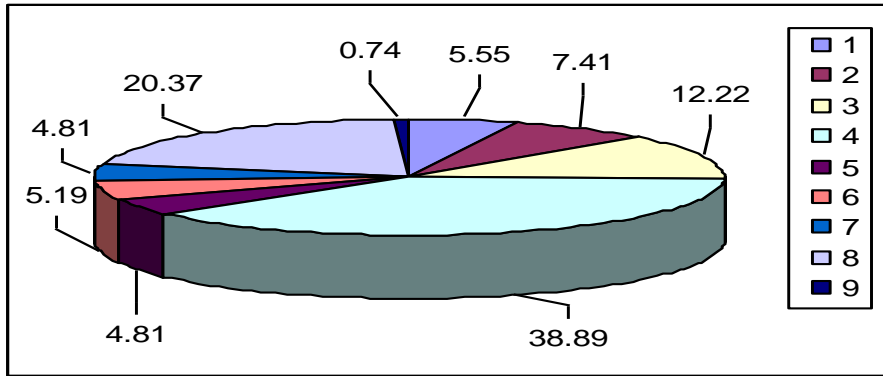


Diagram No.29

Conflict is a common phenomenon in an every social system. Children of such tender age living far from their parents have more chance to be quarrelsome with each other. The above table shows the reasons to quarrel with others. The main cause of conflict among the inmates is sharing sports instruments (38.89%) like bat, carom board etc. Other causes of conflict are food, dress and educational materials. In some cases, during watching TV, they may quarrel. A significant number of inmates (20.37%) reported that they do not get involved in conflict or quarrel in the institution. Practically, it is seen from the study, sharing of sporting instrument is mainly responsible for their conflict.

Table 6.30: Way of solving quarrel among the inmates

Way of resolution of quarrel	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Reconciliation by management	125	46.30
Calm down normally	85	31.48
Treating by staff	29	10.74
Intervention by senior inmates	15	5.56
Others	14	5.19
Unable to say	2	0.74
Total (N)	270	100.00

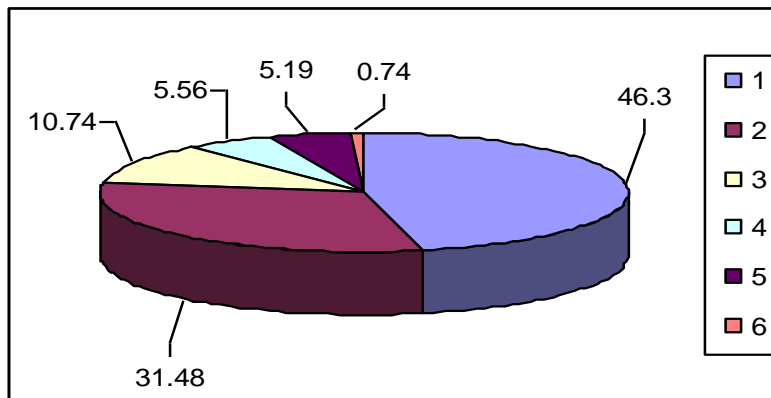


Diagram No.30

It is very natural, there will be quarrel and quarrel will be mitigated. The above table depicts the way of resolving conflicts among the inmates. Maximum time, conflicts are mitigated through reconciliation by management (46.30%). In some intervention of cases, conflict is mitigated through senior inmates (5.56%). Sometimes, time plays as (31.48%) healer of grievance. In the case of failure using above mentioned techniques, the executives take the help of rebuking (10.74%). It can be said that intervention either by executives or by senior is adopted to resolve the conflict among inmates of institution.

Table 6.31: Provision of rehabilitation for the destitute children

Types of rehabilitation	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Provide cash incentive	14	3.33
Service	53	12.62
Marriage	1	0.24
Supplying instrument	15	3.57
Providing credit	78	18.57
Others	9	2.14
Service and credit	35	8.33
No provision	213	50.71
Information not available	2	0.48
Total (<i>N</i>)	420	100.00

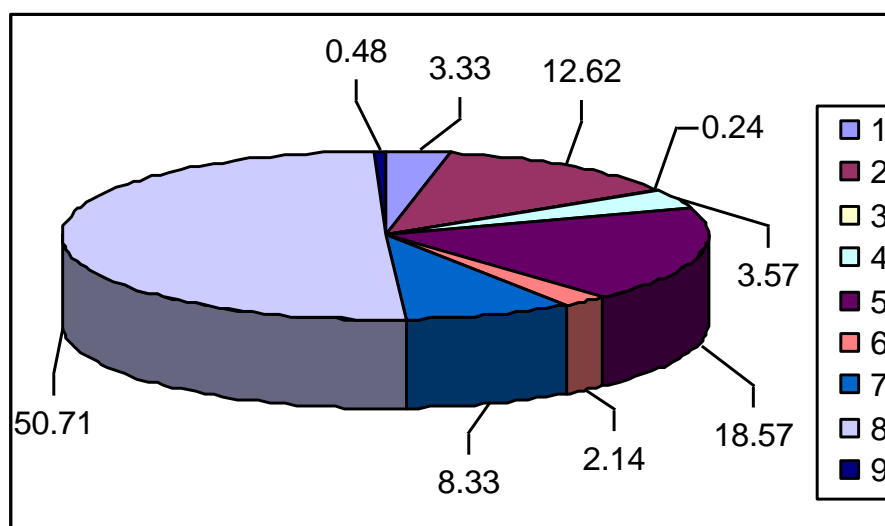


Diagram No.31

The above table reveals information about the arrangement of training and post-training rehabilitation. Only 48.81% respondents get training and rehabilitation services. Of them 18.57% are provided service, 8.33% are provided credit and service, 3.57% are provided instruments, 3.33% are provided cash incentive and 2.14% are provided with other

rehabilitation services. 50.71% of the respondents disclose that there is no arrangement of training for them. All the destitute children are lacking social standing, they should be provided with training and rehabilitation. Otherwise, they would be helpless and may experience another disadvantaged situation in their future life.

Limitations of the Services Provided

In this chapter an attempt is made to identify the limitations of the services provided by the institutions. For this purpose it is considered the budgetary provision and source of income of the institutions, educational qualifications, training and experiences of the executives, knowledge about CRC and causes of engagement with the institutions of the executives etc. The following tables indicate regarding these matters.

Table 6.32: Budgetary provision of the institutions

Response	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	20	33.33
Yes	40	66.67
Total (<i>N</i>)	60	100.00

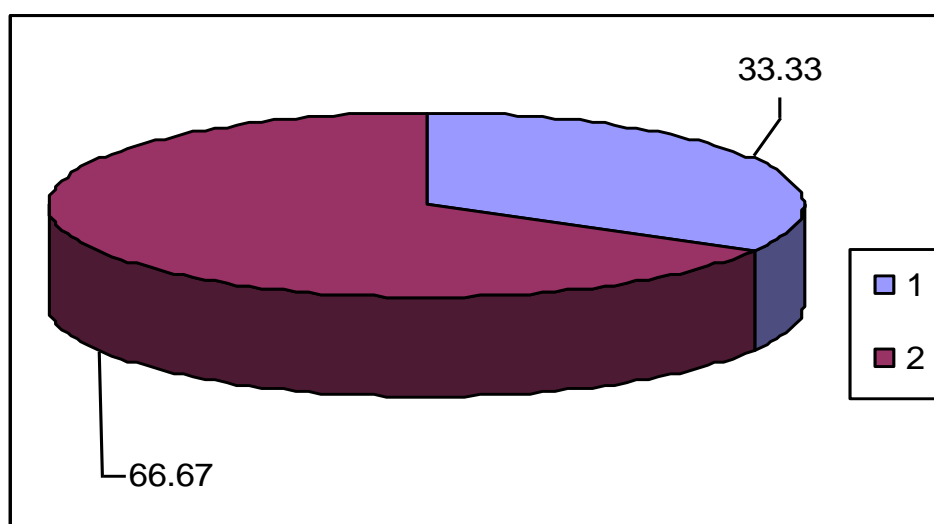


Diagram No.32

Budget is an estimated income and expenditure for a specific time of an agency. It helps the institution to implement its programs properly. So inquiries were made on the budget of institutions. A large number of the respondents (66.67%) have said that they have a budget. About 33.33% respondents have said that they have no specific budget. It can be said that the executives of the institutions are not very much aware of the institutional budget which can help them to run the programs of the destitute children smoothly.

Table 6.33: Income sources of the institutions

Income sources of institution	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Government grants	9	15.00
Local donation	34	56.66
Foreign donation	23	38.33
Own assets	11	18.33
Total (<i>N</i>)	77*	

* *N*=60, more than one answer remain

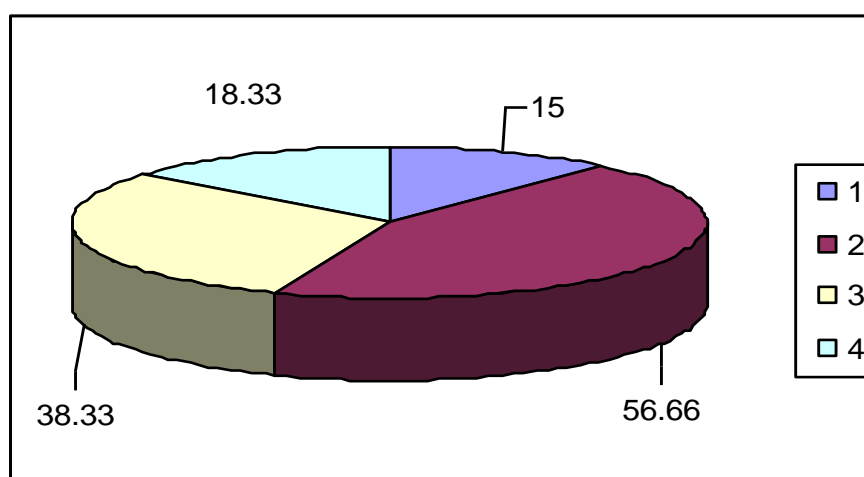


Diagram No.33

Most of the institutions have no definite sources of income for conducting their activities. Their sources of income are multiple such as govt. grants (15%), local donation (56.66%), foreign donation (38.33%) and own assets only 18.33%. A few institutions can contribute to some extent in maintaining expenditure. It can be understood that most of the institutions run by irregular donations, which hampers to run the programs smoothly.

Table 6.34: Educational qualification of the executives of the institutions

Level of education	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
SSC	6	10.00
HSC	6	10.00
Graduate	9	15.00
Post graduate	22	36.70
Others	17	28.30
Total (<i>N</i>)	60	100.00

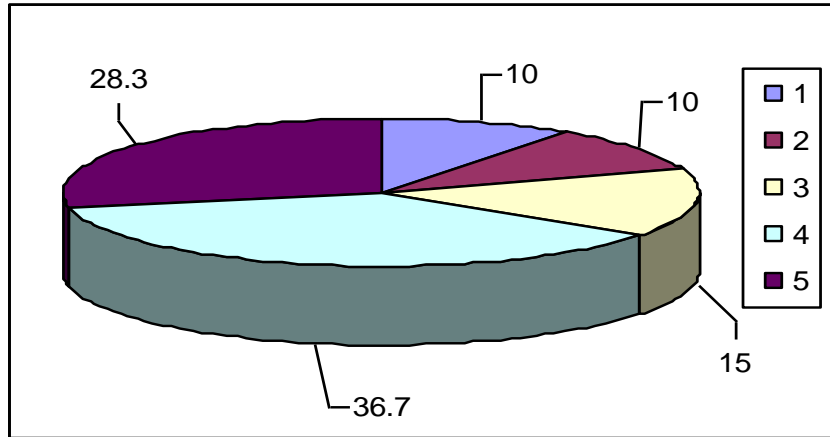


Diagram No. 34

Development of any service providing agency largely depends on the capacity and experience of the executives. The table reveals the level of education of the executives of institutions under study. It is found that all of the respondents are literate and substantial portion of (36.7%) executives are higher educated that means master/equivalent degree holder. Only 10% executives are holding SSC level education. So it is said that the educated people are very much concerned about the destitute children in the study area.

Table-6.35: Training experience of the executives

Response	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
No	21	35.00
Yes	39	65.00
Total (N)	60	100.00

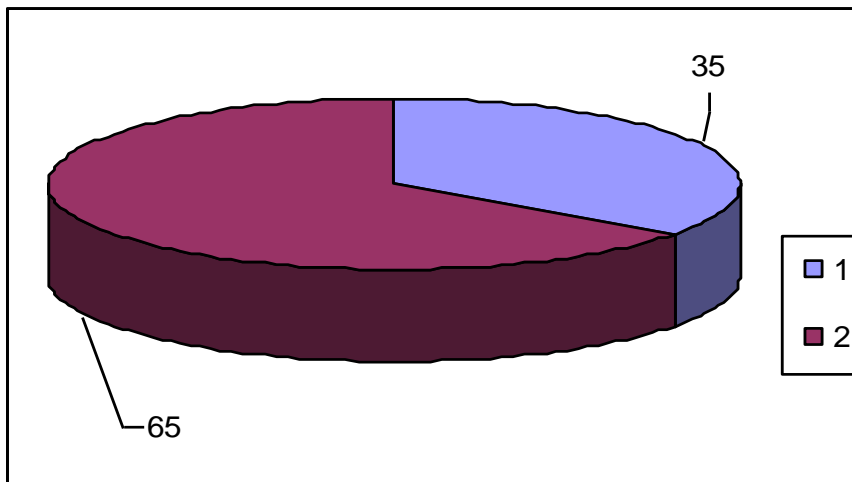


Diagram No.35

Training is an important tool of all developmental activities. It helps to develop the capacity, experience and skills. According to this table it has

been noticed that most of the executives (65%) have training experience more or less other than formal degrees. It bears a positive sign to render qualitative services on the part of the trained executives.

Table 6.36: Problems of inmates faced by the executives regarding education

Problems faced by the executive	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Irregularity	4	6.67
Lack of inspiration	20	33.33
Unwillingness in education	13	21.67
Undisciplined	19	31.67
No problems	18	30.40
Total (<i>N</i>)	74*	

* *N*=60, more than one answer remain

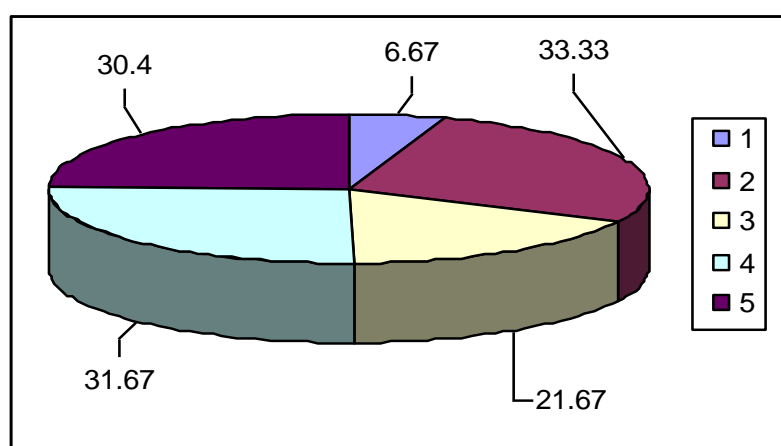


Diagram No.36

The above table shows the problems faced by the executives regarding education of the inmates. Majority of the executives (33.33%) said they found lack of inspiration regarding education among inmates and 31.67% executives said that they also found a number of undisciplined inmates. A mentionable number of executives (30.40%) said that they had not found any problems among inmates regarding education.

Table 6.37: Financial problems of the institutions

Cause	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Irregular	14	23.33
No enough budget	33	55.00
No problem	19	31.67
Total (<i>N</i>)	66*	

* *N*=60, more than one answer remain

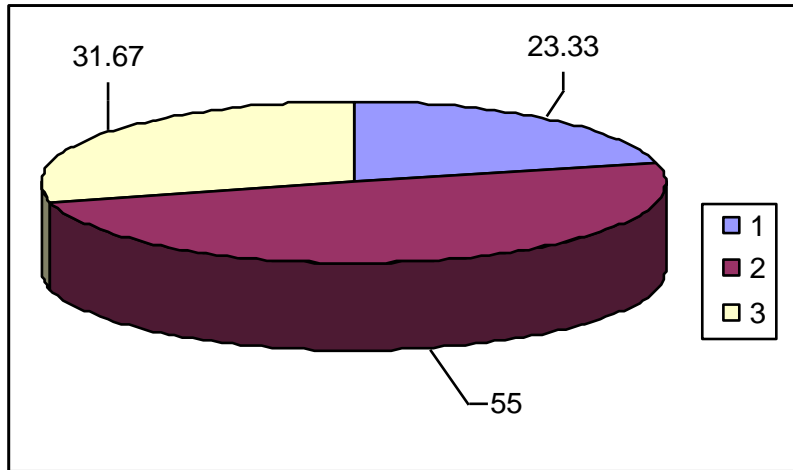


Diagram No.37

Financial factor plays a vital role to run any program smoothly. Financial problems faced by the executive have been shown in the above table. More than fifty percent executives of the institutions (55%) face the budgetary problems. But a significant number (31.67%) of respondents said that they have no financial problem.

Table 6.38: Problems of management to run the institutions

Problems	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Limited asset	20	33.33
Crisis of accommodation	30	50.00
Lack of supervision	3	5.00
No problems	19	31.67
Total (N)	72*	

* N= 60,more one answer remain

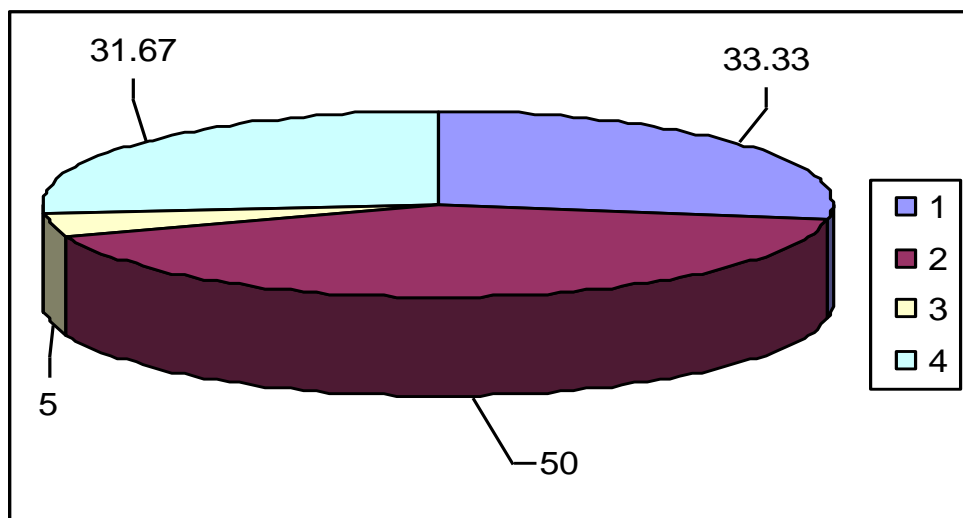


Diagram No. 38

Children comprise a significant percent of the citizens of the country. Initiatives of institutional services of the government is very limited. The institutional services provided by the private sector is larger than govt. sector. The above table reveals the problems related to the management of institution. Most of the executives (50%) face the accommodation crisis, 5% of respondents think that lack of supervision is also a problem. A significant number (31.67%) of respondents do not fell any problem. It can be said that the executives cannot provide the accommodation facilities as per needs the destitute children.

Table 6.39: Knowledge of the executives on CRC

Knowledge	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
No	6	10.00
Yes	34	56.70
Indistinct idea	20	33.30
Total (<i>N</i>)	60	100.00

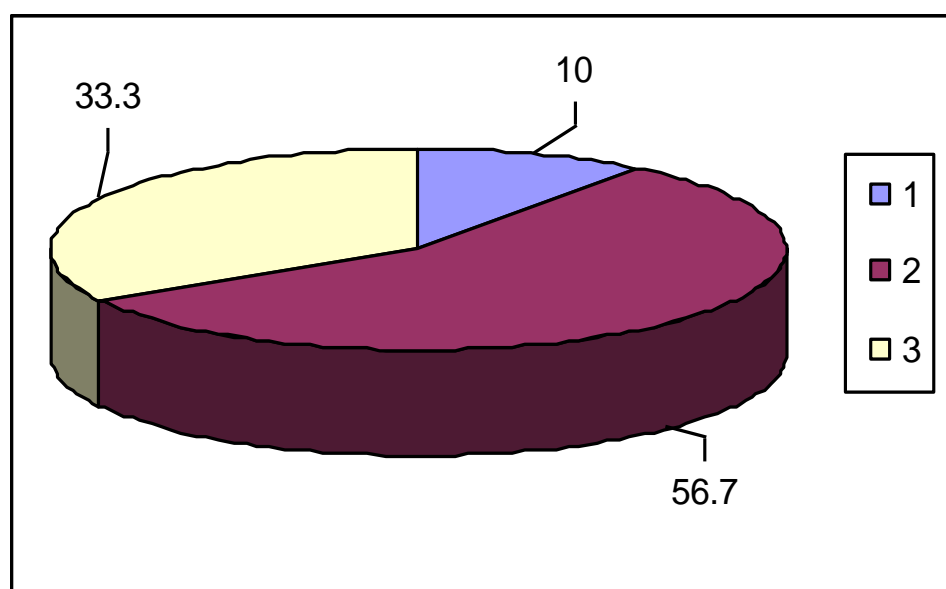


Diagram No.39

This study has been conducted on the service providing institutions of the destitute children in Rajshahi city. So, the authority or executives assigned to run the institutions should know the CRC. This table shows the level of knowledge of executives about the child rights. It is shown in the above table that more than fifty percent (56.7%) have the knowledge about the child rights. On the other hand 10 percent of respondents have no knowledge and 33.3% have indistinct idea about the child rights. Regarding this, we can put a comment that nearly 50% executives of the institutions have no clear idea about CRC, which is not helpful to ensure the services.

Table 6.40: Causes of engagement of the executives in the institutions

Cause	Frequency (<i>n</i>)	Percentage (%)
Social service	30	50.00
Social responsibility/recognition	17	28.33
Salvation in the afterworld	13	21.66
Service/job	33	55.00
Without getting expected job	3	5.00
Social recognition	2	3.33
Total (<i>N</i>)	98*	

* *N* = 60, more than one answer remain

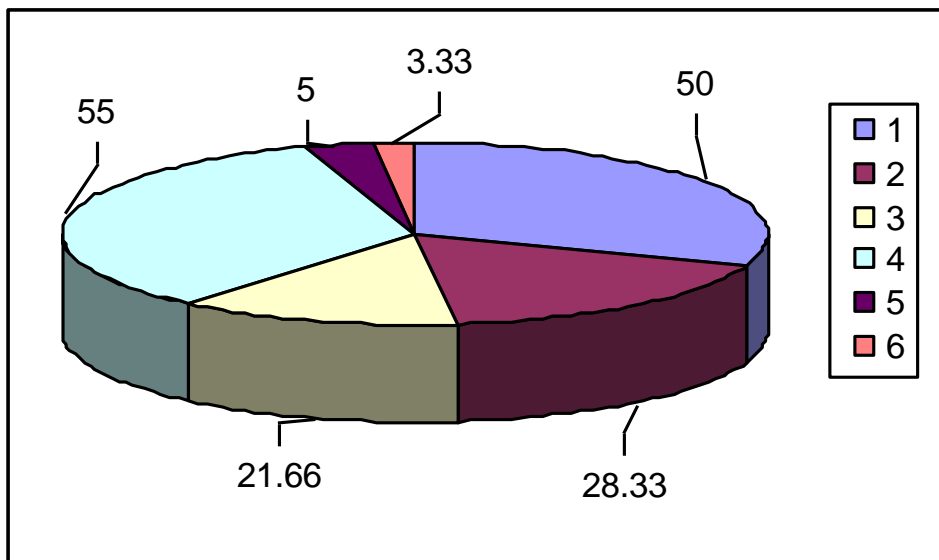


Diagram No.40

The institutions covered under present study are welfare oriented. There was an attempt to know the causes of engagement of the executives with the welfare-oriented institutions. Majority (55%) of the respondents revealed that they joined the institutions for employment, while other reasons are- social service (50%), social recognition (3.33%) as well as rendering social responsibility (28.33%). 21.66% respondents suggested that they want to ensure their salvation in the hereafter through the services.

Chapter Seven

Summary and Recommendations

Summary of the Study

About 61.2% male children and 38.8% female children are getting various types of services from the institutions which are running a number of welfare programs for the destitute children in Rajshahi city. The data concerning the family background reflect that they come from various groups of marginalized families such as: day laborer (23.10%), petty business (21.64%), support service staff (8.81%). The average income of the head of the family of the destitute children is Tk. 2638.20 per month and the highest number of respondents (46.9%) have said that the maximum income of their family is within Tk 2000 per month. Among the destitute children, 23.09% respondents have said that they have no land owned by their family, while 8.33% respondents said their family members live on other's private land, 7.14% said their family members live on government *khas* land and 4.52% respondents said their family members live in slums. Of these families, 20% are residing in mud made houses while 16.67% live in *kacha ghar* (home), 28.33% live in *semi-pucca ghar*. About 57.38% respondents have said that extreme poverty and scarcity of wealth have led them to their destitution. Among the respondents, 56.19% have said that they have enrolled with these institutions for getting education, 53.81% for better diet and 15.48% for shelter. Upon analyzing the data, it is found that the institutions make arrangement for accommodation, clothing, health service, education, training and rehabilitation for the destitute children. It is also found that the accommodation facilities of 52.96% institutions are satisfactory as well. The residents of these institutions get separate bed for sleeping. And rest (47.04%) of the accommodation arrangement is not hygienic. Of these categories, 20.37% respondents said that two inmates sleep together in one bed and 15.56% respondents said they sleep on floor. About 38.52% respondents have said they do not get bedding materials from the institutions and 22.20% have said they do not get any dress/cloth from their institutions. Among the inmates, 32.96% respondents have said that they are not provided with food according to scheduled food menu. The highest number (98.21%) inmates responded that they are provided rice and vegetable at noon, about 93.7% respondents said they are provided rice and vegetable at night and 19.6% said they are provided rice and

vegetable in the morning. And 59.3% respondents said they are provided *khichuri* (hotchpotch) as breakfast. On the other hand, the rate of providing the nutrient food is very frustrating. Among the respondents, 16.6% have said they are provided nutrient food like meat, milk, egg etc in breakfast, 1.1% said they are provided these types of food at noon and 5.2% have said they are provided these types of food at night.

Among the respondents, 45.19% have said they are served seasonal fruits by the management of the respective their institutions. 19.3% respondents have said that they are not served seasonal fruits at all. 20% said they get seasonal fruits if their institution gets donations from others.

By analyzing the data, it is found that 72.38% destitute children are students. Among them, 42.38% are studying at primary level, 31.43% at junior secondary level, and 8.81% at SSC level. Among the institutions, 37.41% provides general and technical education, 19.6% provide general and religious (*Alia Madrasah*) education, 11.48% provides general education and 10.37% provide only religious (*Qawmi Madrasah*) education. After analyzing the collected data, it is found that although 92.96% inmates get educational materials, 74.07% get respondents do not get separate reading-table for studying. On the other hand, 96.67% destitute children are deprived of getting the opportunity of reading extra-curricular books due to lack of library that provides juvenile books. However, 74.81% destitute children are provided health-care services by the institutions and 98.5% inmates use sanitary latrine.

It is found that about 55.18% respondents have said that there are play ground at their institution. Among the respondents 61.11% have spent their leisure time through various sporting, 18.52% by reading newspapers or books, 27.78% by watching TV programs, 3.70% by hearing radio programs, 2.96% by receiving computer training and 9.63% by moving here and there Rest of the respondents (29.63%) have said that there is no specific arrangement for spending leisure time. On the other hand 54.81% respondents have said that they get facilities to attend extra-curricular activities like reciting poems, speech and debate competition, 22.96% enjoy acting and observing national day and 18.52% get facilities to take part in cultural activities including practicing song. But 16.67% respondents have said they do not get facilities for taking part in any cultural activities.

The data reveal that 83.70% destitute children do not get any allowance as pocket-money from their institutes. Although it is expected that all the destitute children should be provided dress, 77.8%

respondents get these facilities and the rest 22.2% do not get such facilities.

It is also found that apart from traditional general education, 50.71% respondents have remained beyond any special training and rehabilitation programs. The rest (49.29%) get training and rehabilitation services, which can be distributed as follows: job opportunity (12.62%), input support (3.57%), credit support (18.57%), credit and job support (8.33%) and direct cash support (3.33%).

It is further found that 65.93% respondents of destitute children are provided security with protection by wall of their institutions while the rest 34.07% respondents do not get such security. Among the respondents, 58.89% have expressed their opinion that their mutual understanding is well. 17.78% have said their mutual understanding is cooperative while 14.81% is normal and 7.7% have said not well. It is found that 38.89% respondents lock into quarrel for sporting instruments, 12.22% for watching TV, 5.60% for meal 5.19% for educational materials and 4.81% for joking. The rest 20.37% respondents have said they do not lock into quarrel, 46.30% respondents have said that their quarrel is met through the intervention of management, 31.48% through weeping and 10.74% by threatening the staff of their institutions.

By analyzing the data it is found that 55% executives of the institutions have expressed their opinion that they are attached with these institutions just for doing service, 50% for social service, 28.33% for rendering social responsibility and 21.66% for getting salvation in the afterworld. Of these respondents, 36.7% are higher educated, 15% graduate, 10% S.S.C. passed and 10% H.S.C. passed. Although 65% of these respondents have training on child welfare oriented programs, only 56.7% of them have clear idea and knowledge about the child rights incorporated in CRC and 33.3% have shallow knowledge about the child rights. Among the executives of the institutions, 33.33% respondents have said regarding budgetary problems that they have no fixed budget to run their institutions and the highest number of respondents (56.66%) have said that they run their institution with the donations of local people, 38.33% have said they run their institutions by foreign donations, 18.33% have said they run their institutions by utilizing their internal resources and only 15% have said they run their institutions by government grants. However, 55% executives of the respondents have said they face problems to run their institutions for not having sufficient budget while 23.33% have said they face problems due to irregular and uncertain amount in the budget. But 31.67% respondents have said they do not face any budgetary problem. Regarding

facilities and problems of the institutions 50% respondents (executive) said they have faced accommodation problem for inmates, 33.33% respondents have said that the inmates are not inspired regarding education and 31.67% respondents have said that they have observed indiscipline in attitude among the inmates.

Recommendations

This study was carried out to assess the pattern of services of the institutions for the destitute children. The objectives of this study were to explore the socio-economic condition of destitute children, identify their needs and the available services. Regarding these, data were collected from the selected institutions in the study area with especial reference to Rajshahi city. On the basis of the findings, the following recommendations are given below:

- i. National Child Policy formulated in 1994 is still in effect. It was expected that the policy would have impact on different programs of government. But practically the implementation is not up to the mark. So, policy should be revised considering the present context and government should ensure proper implementation of the present policy in the light of its revised one.
- ii. Arrangement for data collection, processing and preservation regarding different aspects of socioeconomic life of the destitute children at government level is very much unsystematic. Though the government attempts to prepare database, these databases seem to be disorganized and lack representativeness. Government should take initiatives to make a comprehensive database regarding the children. It is also mentionable that NGOs that work on child issues also lack proper data concerning children. Thus it is recommended that they should also take initiatives to maintain database in a coordinated way. They may share government efforts and collaborate within NGOs.
- iii. Standard of services for destitute children provided by the different institutions is not same in nature in the study area. The concerning authority should take necessary steps to shape the minimum standard of services for the balanced development of the children. In this regard, government should develop a *Minimum Standard Rules for Services* involving various stakeholders and also try to make sure that the rules are complied with due care.
- iv. Different institutions have different types of educational programs like general, technical, religious etc. The ultimate aim of the

education programs should be employment generation so that after completion of the course the residents get employment opportunity in job market.

- v. The service providing institutions in many cases lack sufficient number of staff required for providing services with quality to the residents. The institutions should take necessary steps to appoint required number of staff for better delivery of services and care.
- vi. In some cases, the executives in charge of providing services in the institutions are not conversant with the rights of the children. But for better service delivery, it is badly needed that they should have proper knowledge, experiences, skills about the child rights, child psychology, and child development etc. To make up these shortcomings there should have some arrangement for imparting training to the executives and staff.
- vii. To lessen the load over institutions neighbors, relatives of destitute children may be encouraged to take the responsibility of such children. Government may reintroduce the provisions of adoption especially for with stringent monitoring system and in the best interest of the children.
- viii. The community based rehabilitation program should be formulated by the government and NGOs for the well being of the destitute children. People living in and around the institutions should be approached to come generously to the aid of the destitute children to carry out the rehabilitations program.

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Annexure A

Part I

Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

Article 2

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in this convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Article 3

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.
3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

Article 4

States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures, for the implementation of the rights recognized in this Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.

Article 5

States parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by the local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 6

1. States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.
2. States parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

Article 7

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.
2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.]

Article 8

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.
2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to speedily re-establishing his or her identity.

Article 9

1. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence.
2. In any proceedings pursuant of paragraph I of the present article, all interested parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings and made their views known.
3. States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.
4. Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning of the whereabouts of the absent member (s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall of itself entail no adverse consequences for person(s) concerned.

Article 10

1. In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties Shall further ensure that the Submission of such a request shall no adverse consequences for the applicants and for the members of their family.
2. A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis save in exceptional circumstances personal

relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 2, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order (*order public*), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 11

1. States Parties shall take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad.
2. To this end, States Parties shall promote the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or accession to existing agreements.

Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Article 13

1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression, these rights shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.
2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
 - a. For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
 - b. For the protection of national security or of public order (*order public*), or of public health or morals.

Article 14

1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.
3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

Article 15

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (*order public*), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 16

1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honor and reputation.
2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 17

States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health. To this end, States Parties shall:

- a. Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;

- b. Encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources;
- c. Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;
- d. Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous;
- e. Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injuries to his or her well-being bearing in mind the provisions of articles; 13 and 18.

Article 18

1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.
2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in this Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parent and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the children.
3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.

Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse, within the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.
2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification,

reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and as well as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Article 20

1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.
2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure environment care for such a child.
3. Such care could include, *inter alia*, foster placement, *Kafalah* of Islamic law, adoption, or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. when considering solution, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

Article 21

States Parties which recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child be the paramount consideration and they shall:

- a. Ensure that adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counseling as may be necessary;
- b. Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin;
- c. Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption;
- d. Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;

- e. Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavor, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities or organs.

Article 22

1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in this Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.
2. For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, cooperation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.

Article 23

1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.
2. States Parties recognize the right of physically disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.
3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be provided free of charge,

whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development.

4. States Parties shall promote in the spirit of international co-operation the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties, to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 24

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.
2. States parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:
 - a. To diminish infant and child mortality,
 - b. To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;
 - c. To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through *inter alia* the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;
 - d. To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;

- e. To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breast-feeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;
 - f. To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents, and family planning education and services.
3. States parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.
4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 25

States Parties recognize the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.

Article 26

1. States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law.
2. The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.

Article 27

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

2. The parent (s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.
3. States Parties in accordance with national conditions and within their means shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.
4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State party and from abroad, In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a state different from that of the child. States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

Article 28

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular.
 - a. Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
 - b. Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;
 - c. Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;
 - d. Make educational and vocational informational and guidance available and accessible to all children;
 - e. Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.
2. States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international co-operation in matters relating to education, in particular with view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 29

1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:
 - a. The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
 - b. The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
 - c. The development of respect for the child's his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
 - d. The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
 - e. The development of respect for the natural environment.
2. No part of this article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principles set forth in paragraph i of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the state.

Article 30

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to fully participate in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Article 32

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of this article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular:
 - a. Provide for a minimum age or minimum age for admissions to employment;
 - b. Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment; and
 - c. Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of this article.

Article 33

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

Article 34

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- a. The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- b. The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- c. The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Article 35

States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

Article 36

States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

Article 37

States Parties shall ensure that:

- a. No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age;
- b. No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;
- c. Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of their age. In particular every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;
- d. Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority and to a prompt decision on any such action.

Article 38

1. States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.
2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.
3. States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of 15 years into their armed forces. In recruiting, among those persons who have attained the age of 15 years but who have not attained the age of 18 years. States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest.
4. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by and armed conflict.

Article 39

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social re-integration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and re-integration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of child.

Article 40

1. States parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's re-integration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.
2. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that:
 - a. No child shall be alleged as, be accused as, be accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law by reason of acts or

- omissions which were not prohibited by national or international law at the time they were committed;
- b. Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees:
 - i. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law;
 - ii. To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and if appropriate through his or her parents or legal guardian, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defense;
 - iii. To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians;
 - iv. Not to be compelled to give testimony or to confess guilt; to examine or have examined adverse witnesses and to obtain the participation and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under conditions of equality;
 - v. If considered to have infringed the penal law, to have this decision and any measures imposed in consequence thereof reviewed by a higher competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body according to law;
 - vi. To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used;
 - vii. To have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings.
3. States Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, and in particular:
 - a. The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law;

- b. Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected.
4. A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counseling; foster care; education and vocational training programs and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

Article 41

Nothing in this convention shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child and that may be contained in:

- a. The law of a State Party; or
- b. International law in force for that State.

Part II

Article 42

States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.

Article 43

1. For the purpose of examining the progress made by States Parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Rights of the Child, which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.
2. The Committee shall consist of 10 experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field covered by this Convention. The members of the committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution as well as to the principal legal systems.
3. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.

4. The initial election to the Committee shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and thereafter every second year. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.
5. The elections shall be held at meetings of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations headquarters. At those meetings, for which two-thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
6. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if re-nominated. The term of five of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these five members shall be chosen by lottery by the Chairman of the meeting.
7. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform the duties of the Committee, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the Committee.
8. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.
9. The Committee shall elect its officers for a period of two years.
10. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at the United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. The Committee shall normally meet annually. The duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined, and reviewed, if necessary, by a meeting of the States Parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

12. With the approval of the General assembly, the members of the committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide.

Article 44

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights:
 - a. Within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State Party concerned,
 - b. Thereafter every five years.
2. Reports made under this article shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the degree of fulfillment of the obligations under the present Convention. Reports shall also contain sufficient information to provide the committee with a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the Convention in the country concerned.
3. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not in its subsequent reports submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (*b*) repeat basic information previously provided.
4. The Committee may request from States Parties further information relevant to the implementation of the Convention.
5. The Committee shall submit to the General Assembly of the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council, every two years, reports on its activities.
6. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries.

Article 45

In order to foster the effective implementation of the Convention and to encourage international co-operation in the field covered by the convention:

- a. The specialized agencies, United Nations Children's fund, and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present

Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

- b. The Committee shall transmit as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, United Nations Children's Fund, and other competent bodies, any reports from States Parties that contain a request, or indicate a need, for technical advice or assistance along with the Committee's observations and suggestions, if any, on these requests or indications.
- c. The Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child.
- d. The Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on information received pursuant to articles 44 and 45 of this Convention. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be transmitted to any State Party concerned and reported to the General Assembly, together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Part III

Article 46

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.

Article 47

The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 48

The present Convention shall remain open for accession by any State. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 49

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each state ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 50

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to States Parties with a request that they indicate whether they favor a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that within four month from the date of such communication at least one-third of the States Parties favor such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval.
2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph (1) of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.
3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of this Convention and any earlier amendments which they have accepted.

Article 51

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who

shall then inform all States: Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General.

Article 52

A State Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation becomes effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 53

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depository of present Convention.

Article 54

The original of the present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.