

Journal of Social Sciences Research & Policy (JSSRP)**Evaluating Caregivers-Orphans Relationship and State of Shelter in The Selected Orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan****Dr. Amir Alam¹, Dr. Sajjad Hussain², Subhan Ullah³**

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Abstract: *Orphan-hood is associated with numerous social and psychological challenges. In Pakistan, as a response to deal with the problem of orphanhood, 0.5 million vulnerable children are living in different orphanages. The methodological triangulation method was employed to evaluate the shelter and caregivers-orphans relationship in selected orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The survey questionnaire (Child Status Index, CSI) was used to collect quantitative data. Similarly, observation method was used to gather qualitative data regarding the shelter and care facilities in the residential care facilities. Concurrent analysis was conducted in order to analyze the field data. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS-V22) was used to analyze quantitative data followed by thematic analysis. The findings showed that a significant number of orphans i.e. 98.4 % were satisfied with shelter, however, some concerns on the part of the care providers were reported by the orphans i.e. 39.5 %. The Alderfer's human need theory i.e. Existence, Relatedness, and Growth (ERG) was used to check how the results and findings of the study were consistent with the prostration-regression relationship. It is concluded that Pakistan is a lower-middle income economy. Owing to the inability to satisfy the relatedness and growth needs of the orphans and vulnerable children, the orphanages have only focused to meet the lower-level or existence needs i.e. food and shelter. The study recommends that placing orphans into residential care facility should be the last resort. Besides, qualified, well-trained, and devoted residential care staff shall be hired in all orphan care facilities across the province. The study recommends placing the students in residential care should be the last resort. All the orphanages across the province must be provided with well-trained, qualified, and devoted residential care staff. Such provision will lead to the successful reintegration and rehabilitation of the orphans and vulnerable children into their respective communities.*

Introduction

No human is so susceptible to vulnerabilities as a child. The inability of children to cope with life's

challenges has made them dependent on their parents, siblings, relatives, and the society at large. All children are not lucky to have biological parents who could provide them with all necessities of life. UNICEF reported that everyday virtually 10,000 children become orphans (Nar, 2020). Across the globe, 153 million children have lost their parents due to illness, man-made and natural disasters, and other odd circumstances (Desmond et al., 2020). Every world's society has developed coping strategies for dealing with child rearing and caring. After the death of the biological parents, the orphans are cared either by their siblings, grandparents, or other closed relatives (foster care) or they may be placed in a institutional based care within their respective societies. Among the 153 million orphan children, so far 2.93 million have been placed into residential care facilities (Ibid).

The residential care model is regarded to be a common approach which can protect the orphans and vulnerable children from inadequate parenting and maltreatment (Abebe, 2009). Despite of so many disadvantages associated with the residential care model, the Europeans have termed it as a best solution for OVC (Nabergoj, 2017). They have been using this model from the last 200 years (Browne, 2009). In today complex world, the institutional care model is increasing day by day (Humphreys & Zeanan, 2020).

In Pakistan, man-made and natural disasters, natural deaths, diseases, and many other reasons have made 4.2 million children as orphans. Among these, 0.5 million have been placed in different state sponsored and private residential care facilities. While a significant majority are living in foster care (Shah, 2018). The residential care experts suggest that this model is advantages for children and young people as this fulfills their basic needs and amenities (Save the children, 2014). Some other experts recommend that residential care model is a preferred choice and has positive impact on the inmates (Whetten et al., 2009). In contrast, some of the scholars have the opinion that residential care model has negative consequences for OVC (O'Donnell et al., 2009, Shuaat & Mirza, 2015). Despite of so many advantages and disadvantages, the residential care model is regarded to be a temporary response on the part of the state and society.

Statement of the Problem

Worldwide, orphans and vulnerable children have been cared and protected through various care models including community-based care, kinship care, foster care, and institutional or residential care model. However, the institutional or residential care model is spreading overwhelmingly. The basic philosophy of a residential care facility or an orphanage is to provide the inmates with all necessities of life that can help transform a child's personality into a sound and healthy personality. Similarly, the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of the orphans and vulnerable children within their respective communities is the main objective of the residential care services. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides, so many services and amenities available to the OVC they are provided with shelter and care services in different state-run and private orphanages. This study, therefore, is conducted in order to evaluate the caregivers-orphans relationship and the state of shelter in the selected orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Objectives of the study

Every research work is carried out in order to meet some objectives. This study has been conducted keeping in view the following research objectives.

- 1). To evaluate the caregivers-orphans relationship and the state of shelter in the selected orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan;
- 2). To suggest policy recommendations that can help improve the reintegration of the orphans and vulnerable children in all orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Research Questions

- 1). How is the caregivers-orphans relationship and the state of shelter in care facilities in the selected orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?
- 2). How the inmates of the orphanages in selected orphanages of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are treated by the care providers?

Theoretical Framework

The existence, relatedness, and growth (ERG) theory of Clyton Alderfer has been used as theoretical framework. Alderfer claimed that oxygen, water, food, and pay or salary are the first and basic human needs and referred it as the existence needs. He further states that developing and maintaining social and interpersonal relationship with other human beings are the second human needs. He termed these needs as the relatedness needs. According to Alderfer, the third human needs are the upper-level needs and he termed it as the growth needs. He regards it as fundamental human needs which are necessary for personal growth and development. The growth needs can only be met when a person initiates healthy and productive efforts and struggle. Alderfer had firm belief that among these human needs there is a prostration regression relationship. He adds that suppose a person is unable to satisfy his/her relatedness or growth needs due to some reasons which he termed as upper-level needs. In such circumstances he/she will strive and focus to satisfy the existence needs. Eventually, this will become the main factor behind his/her behavior and motivation. Thus, if a person's self-esteem is suffering in such case he/she will try to focus and satisfy the lower-level needs i.e. oxygen, water, food etc.

Significance of the study

This research work will help stakeholders in many ways. Since children's institutionalization is associated with numerous social, mental, and emotional problems for children, therefore, this study will help providing insights into the specific needs and practical experiences of orphans. If the policy makers still have the belief that institutionalization is a compulsion or last resort, then this study will help policy makers in devising an effective monitoring and evaluation system. Since this study has focused the compulsions, voices, and concerns of the inmates of the orphanages, hence this study can be helpful in developing guidelines and minimum standards for child residential care institutions. Overall, the study will surely help policy makers and child protection officers in transforming the orphans and vulnerable children into productive members of their respective communities.

Methodology

The Public Services Commission of KP has divided the province of KP into five zones. Owing to uncertain law and order situation the researchers could not include Zone-01 i.e. newly merged tribal areas. Thus, one orphanage was selected from Zone-2, and one each from Zone-3, Zone-4, and Zone-5. The selection of these orphanages from each zone was made due to their geographical and cultural heterogeneity. Though KP has lot of private orphanages as well, however, the researchers selected the state-run orphanages only. In addition, orphanage with highest number of orphans within the respective zone was selected. As per the above criteria, the following orphanages were selected.

Table. 01. The Zones, Districts, and study's Population

S. No.	Zone	Name of District	Orphanage	Population
01	Zone-02	Peshawar	Orphanage 01	59
02	Zone-03	Swat	Orphanage 02	71
03	Zone-04	Kohat	Orphanage 03	32
04	Zone-05	Abbot Abad	Orphanage 04	28
Total				191

In order to collect representative, rich and reliable data from the inmates in the aforementioned population, the census method was used. Census is a research method in which the entire population or all items in the universe are selected for study (Ross & Reeve, 2003). The methodological research method has been used for this study. In methodological triangulation, the researcher combines quantitative and qualitative research methods for studying the same phenomena (Bryman, 2015; Hussein, 2009; Sandelowski, 2000).

The quantitative data were collected through a well standard survey questionnaire i.e. Child Status Index (CSI). Likewise, the qualitative data were obtained through non-participant observation method. The CSI was modified and changes were made in order to adapt it according to the local culture. Thus, the CSI was renamed as CSIP. The "P" here stands for Pakistan. The SPSS- V22 was used in order to analyze descriptive statistics i.e. simple frequencies, percentage distribution, the mean score, and the standard deviation. Likewise, themes that come from the data were analyzed through thematic analysis.

Data Analysis

Table. 02. Education and type of Orphanhood

Education	Type of orphan		Total
	Biological Orphan	Social Orphan	
Primary	06	120	126 (66.31 %)
Middle	03	54	57 (30 %)
Matric	03	04	07 (3.68 %)
Total	12 (6.3 %)	178 (93.7 %)	190 (100 %)

Description and Explanation of Table # 02. The data reveals that only twelve (12) i.e. 6.3 among the orphaned were biological orphans. Here it is pertinent to mention that biological orphans are orphans who have lost both of their parents i.e. father and mother. Among these, 6 orphans were studying in primary classes, 3 were enrolled in middle cases, and 3 were studying in matric. The table also shows that 178 i.e. 93.7 % of the orphans were social orphans. Social orphans are children who have though one alive parent but due to poverty, negligence, alcohol, diseases, disability or any other reasons could not provide their kids with basic necessities of life. Among these 178 social orphans, 120 were enrolled in primary schools, 54 were studying in middle classes, and only four (4) were in matric.

Shelter and Care

Shelter refers to physical place or structure that provides people with safety and protection from hot and cold weather such as a house, a building, or a temporary tent etc. Proper shelter is every human being's basic need. However, orphans may lack this facility which may eventually worsen their state of life. The goal of "Shelter and Care" is to make it sure that the orphan is having a stable shelter which is safe, dry, and adequate. Besides, this factor also focusses on to make it clear whether the child has at least one adult who is responsible for supporting the child and can provide the child with consisting love and intimacy? As per the CSI-P, shelter is regarded to be a structure like a home of a physical place or may be an institution where child lives. This structure is supposed to be safe, secure, and comfort from climate. The deprivation from parental care due to orphanhood can lead to homelessness and insecurity. Therefore, the basic goal of the domain of "shelter" is to make it sure that the child has proper shelter which is dry, safe, and adequate for living.

Table. 03. Shelter

S#	Statement	Percentage	Very Bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Total
1	The place where you live is safe, dry, and adequate for living.	F	00	00	3	187	190
		%	00	00	1.6	98.4	100
2	The place needs repair and is fairly dry, safe, and adequate	f	00	00	2	188	190
		%	00	00	1.1	98.9	100
3	The place is overcrowded, does not protect children from weather, and needs major repair.	f	00	2	38	150	190
		%	00	1.1	20	78.9	100
4	Orphans have no safe, stable, and adequate place to live.	F	00	00	5	185	190
		%	00	00	2.6	97.4	100

Description and Explanation of Table # 03. Shelter is a basic need and has been an important matter of concern for policy makers. Orphans, across the globe, are facing the issue of shelter or homelessness (Natalier & Johnson, 2015). The orphans of the study's population were asked about the factor of shelter. The results show that 3 i.e. (1.6 %) of the orphans were having some concerns related to the physical environment of the orphanages. However, rest of 187 i.e. (98.4 %) of the orphans reported that they all were dwelling in a place that was safe, dry, and adequate for their living.

When the respondents were asked about the repair work in the orphanages, only 2 i.e. (1.1 %) of the orphans reported that though the place is fair, dry, and safe but needs to be repaired. While the remaining all i.e. 188 (98.9 %) of the orphans mentioned that place of the residence was good, dry, safe, and adequate for living.

Regarding the overcomings in the orphanages, only 2 i.e. (1.1 %) of the inmates of the orphanages reported that their respective orphanage was overcrowded and termed the orphanage to be inadequate for a large number of inmates to be accommodated. Browne (2009) also acknowledged that orphanages in England for children below four years were also overcrowded. Likewise, Tolfree (1995) also supported this statement and stated that many of the orphanages in the developing economies of the world were poorly resourced, neglectful, and were overcrowded.

The data further illustrates that 38 i.e. (20 %) of the orphans were living in place that was not too much overcrowded. They also mentioned that the shelter fairly protected them from weather and that the building did not need major repair. The rest of all i.e. 150 (78.9 %) declared the residence to be in good position which did not need major repair. The Inmates reported that residential care facilities have provided them with a normal housing facility that can protect them from the hot in summer and cold in winter season. They also mentioned that the orphanages were not overcrowded.

In addition, only 5 i.e. (2.6 %) of the inmates showed some concerns and reported that they were living in a fairly safe, stable, and adequate place. The rest of all i.e. 185 (97.4 %) of the orphans did not show any worries regarding the adequacy and safety of their residence rather they termed the buildings to be stable, safe, and enough for their accommodation.

Table. 04. Difference between the Shelter and Care Services

S. No.	Variables	N	Mean	St. Deviation
01	Shelter	190	15.93	.43
02	Care	190	14.71	.98

Description and Explanation of Table # 04.

The mean test reveals that the score of the factor of "Shelter" is 15.93 while the standard deviation was recorded to be .43. Similarly, the mean score for the factor "Care" was recorded to be 14.71 whereas the standard deviation was recorded to be .98.

Observations

During data collection, the researchers observed that the building and physical environment of all the residential care facilities were established with esthetic touch. It was also observed that the buildings were neat and clean. Furthermore, these care facilities did not need any repairing work. A massive difference was also noted between the orphanages being run by the federal and provincial government. It was observed that all the Welfare Homes in KP (run by the KP government) had their own buildings whereas both the Sweet Homes (run by the Pakistan Bait Ul Mal, a federal institution) renders services in private buildings.

(b) Care

A care provider in any residential care facility is supposed to provide the orphans and vulnerable children with physical and psychological security. The factor "Care", therefore, indicates to gauge how much a care provider is sincere and committed to her/his duty. Furthermore, this factor also intends to know about the relationship of a caregiver with children under her/his supervision. The goal of "Care" as a factor is to find out whether an orphan in the care facility has at least one adult care provider who is held responsible to provide the inmates of the orphanages with consistent care, support and attention.

Table. 05. Care

S#	Statement	Percentage	Very Bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Total
1	You are living under the supervision of an adult care provider who can protect and nurture you.	f	00	00	24	166	190
		%	00	00	12.6	87.4	100
2	You are living under the supervision of an adult who can provide you with care but is limited by age, illness or seems indifferent to children.	f	00	00	3	187	190
		%	00	00	1.6	98.4	100
3	You are not living under the supervision who provides you with love, support, and attention.	f	00	00	75	115	190
		%	00	00	39.5	60.5	100
4	You are completely deprived of the care of an adult care-provider and living in the supervision of a child-headed household.	F	00	00	00	190	190
		%	00	00	00	190	100

Description and Explanation of Table # 05. All children need to be cared and reared in a safe and protected environment. The basic purpose of residential care institution is to provide the inmates with safe, secure, and a protective environment alongside well trained and professional staff. The care providers are therefore meant to provide orphans with proper care, love and attention, and support. The more a child is cared and supported, the more she/he will become physically and mentally strong. In addition, the data shows that 24 i.e. (12.6 %) of the inmates had some concerns about the care givers who were entrusted the with duty to provide the inmates with protective and a nurturing environment. This result indicates that orphanages have been unable to provide the children with love, care, and nurturing environment (Chirwa, 2002).

Furthermore, 166 i.e. (187.4 %) of orphans replied that they were having good primary care providers who were held responsible for their rearing and caring in their respective orphanages. This reflects that orphanages may have loved and caring residential care staff. Pecora et al. (2006) also observed that more than 60 % of the inmates in orphanages regarded the care providers as positive, careful, and had good and positive relationship with inmates. Residential care staff can guide and improve children's interaction and physical development through provision of warm and regular care (Bettmann et al., 2015).

Besides, only 3 i.e. (1.6 %) of the inmates added that they had care providers who are responsible for their care and no one reported they were limited by their illness, age or indifferent to inmates.

A significant majority i.e. 187 (98.4 %) of the orphans accepted they were provided with good car providers and that they did not record or make complaint about their age, illness, of other limitations. Undoubtedly, all parents are responsible for raising and socialization of their children. However, the findings of this study revealed that orphanages can also provide the inmates with better socialization and care. This also indicates that an orphanage could be the substitute of the care that is provided by the biological parents. A good orphanage can play a crucial role in shaping positive personalities of the inmates of the orphanages.

Observations

Across the KP, the OVC have been placed in numerous public and private orphanages. During the observation made by the researchers, a huge difference was observed between Welfare Home and Pakistan Sweet Home. In PSH, all the inmates were divided in units. Each unit was consisted by ten (10) children. As per the policy of PSH, one female care provider would be responsible for one unit. However, it was observed that practically one unit mother was responsible for more than twenty children. The inmates would call these units mothers as "*Baji*". In contrast, in a welfare home, all the children living in a welfare home would be cared and supervised by a single care provider known as "*Khala*". Ironically the stated care provider was not a regular employee of the welfare home rather basically she was the employee of a women crises center at Peshawar. She was also supposed to perform her duty in the women crises center. This was really surprising and unfortunate. This situation explicitly indicates that the management of PSH and Welfare Homes have compromised the quality services.

Besides, it was observed that sweet homes were headed by female. The head of each sweet home is known as in-charge. Besides, in-charge and care providers, each sweet home had one attendant. It was observed that all the attendant's qualification was primary education. A well trained and qualified care provider or those being entrusted with the supervision of the children can cope effectively with the problems and the overall socialization of the children. However, during in informal discussion, it was revealed that none of these attendants had received any formal training on parenting skill or residential care for children.

Conclusion

The results of the study suggest that all the selected orphanages in KP were providing the inmates with proper shelter. All the buildings of the selected orphanages were found to be good looking and sound. However, the respondents revealed some concerns regarding the care providers. They showed concerns regarding the lack of love, attention, and support from the care providers under whose supervision they were living. This situation indicates that the orphanages have only focused the physical needs i.e. food and shelter only and have ignored the mental and emotional needs of the children. These findings are aligned with the ERG theory of Alderfer. Here the love, attention, and support fall under the domain of upper-level needs i.e. relatedness and growth needs as were identified by Alderfer. The inmates had concerns regarding these upper-level needs that were not satisfied. Eventually, the orphanages have focused the lower-level needs of the orphaned children i.e. shelter. The prostration regression relationship can be observed here easily. Since Pakistan is a lower-middle income country where more than forty (40) percent of the population is living below poverty line. Hence, not only the public rather the state institutions have focused the satisfaction of the lower-level needs only. The study concludes that the selected orphanages in KP could not provide the orphans and vulnerable children with love, attention, and psychological support i.e. upper-level needs and have, therefor, focused on the provision of shelter i.e. lower-level needs.

Recommendations

Based on the results, the findings points are recommended in order to have a successful reintegration of the orphans and vulnerable children within their respective communities.

- 1). If possible, the orphans and vulnerable children shall not be placed in an orphanage or any residential care facility. In nutshell, the residential care must be the last resort as this model is associated with different psychological problems.
- 2). Still if the placement is a compulsion, then the management of the orphanages shall hire well trained and professional residential care staff who could provide the inmates love, care, support.
- 3). The government should devise a proper inspection and evaluation mechanism for all public and private orphanages so that these orphanages may provide quality care services which have good outcomes for the inmates.
- 4). The local communities should also support the orphans and vulnerable children. This approach will pave the way where OVC will be cared and raised within their local environment and communities.
- 5). All the child residential care institutions shall be held bound to introduce a follow up mechanism in order to ensure that the care leavers are socially included and have been successfully reintegrated within their respective communities.

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