



Department of Social Work

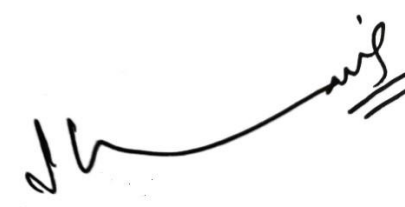
University of Kashmir

(NAAC Accredited A⁺)

Sl. No.	Name of the teacher	Title of the book published	Title of the chapters published	Year of publication	ISBN number	Whether at the time of publication Affiliating Institution was same Yes/No	Name of the publisher
	Shazia Manzoor	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir	Experience of children living with HIV/AIDS in Kashmir.	2020	978-93-89236-05-7	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Shazia Manzoor	Social work in emergencies. Learning from Covid 19 pandemic	Covid 19 and the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities in India; Implication for Social Work		9.78935E+12	yes	
	Shazia Manzoor	Social work in India; Indigenous Approaches and Models	Social work intervention with single parent families; A case study of half widows in		9.78939E+12	yes	

			Kashmir				
	Aadil Bashir	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir: An Introduction		2020	9.78939E+12	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Aadil Bashir	Domestic Violence in Kashmir		2023	9788195154883	yes	Elenchus Press
	Aadil Bashir	Life Under Lock Down: Lived experiences And Lesson Learned			385102	yes	Papyrus Scrolls Publications New Delhi
	Aadil Bashir	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir: An Introduction	Evaluation of the child protection Policy for schools in J&k :Some Lessons,Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir	2020	9.78939E+12	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Aadil Bashir	Life Under Lockdown	Lockdown: Another form of Curfew	2020	9.7882E+12	yes	Papyrus Scrolls Publications New Delhi
	Wakar Amin	Life Under Lockdown	My Profession- A Blessing during the Lockdown	2020	9.7882E+12	yes	Papyrus Scrolls Publications New Delhi

	Saima Farhad	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir	Experience of children living with HIV/AIDS in Kashmir.	2020	978-93-89236-05-7	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Sarafraz Ahmad	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir	Experience and Vulnerabilities associated with child itinerant scrap buyer/collectors of North Kashmir; A case study of District Baramulla	2020	978-93-89236-05-7	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Javaid Rashid	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir (As Editor)		2020	978-93-89236-05-7	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi
	Javiad Rashid	Issues of Children in Jammu and Kashmir	Evaluation of the Child Protection Policy for schools in J&K; some lessons.	2020	978-93-89236-05-7	yes	Ariana Publishers & Distributors New Delhi



**ISSUES OF CHILDREN
IN
JAMMU AND KASHMIR
AN INTRODUCTION**

Editors:

Dr. Aadil Bashir

Javaid Rashid

Dilpreet Publishing House

Ariana Publishers & Distributors

New Delhi-110 018 (India)



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EVALUATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SCHOOLS IN J&K: SOME LESSONS

– Javaid Rashid & Aadil Bashir

Abstract:

The present paper is based on an evaluation study of Child Protection Policy (CPP) for Schools in J&K done in the year 2018-19. The CPP was adopted by the School Education Department in the region from the year 2013-14. All the educational institutes in J&K had been directed to implement the Policy and create CP infrastructure within school premises along with capacity building of school personnel. The study aimed to explore impact of the CP Policy on ground vis-à-vis safe and secure environment for children in schools. It attempted to explore the extent to which schools across the state have implemented CP Policy as it was originally envisaged and also whether prescribed procedures under CP Policy are followed in reporting and redressing the issues in the domain of Child protection. In the study 40 schools were covered by employing a random sampling technique in each of the 4 sample districts of the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. Interviews and FGDs were conducted with 48 principals/headmasters, 105 teachers and 185 students across Srinagar, Shopian, Jammu and Kathua districts. All the teachers interviewed across J&K showed keen inclination towards emphasizing the fact that access to safe and free environment is essential for Development. Yet, their perspectives and perceptions were closely linked to a diversity of prevailing forces and factors, i.e. region, political environment,



LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

Lived Experiences and Lessons
Learnt



EDITED BY
SANJAI BHATT

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Lockdown: Another Form of Curfew

Aadil Bashir

The whole world is presently suffering from the global pandemic caused by the Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. The virus was initially identified in the Wuhan city of the China. The first case was identified in December 2019 and since then the numbers of cases are increasing rapidly and the disease is spreading globally. While noticing its spread in China, the (WHO) World Health Organisation came into action and initially declared it as an epidemic. As the virus started spreading rapidly in other parts of the world and many countries got affected, it was finally declared as the pandemic. The behaviour of the COVID-19 virus and its nature could not be understood by the China at the initial stage and as such the virus got spread from person to person. It is also believed that at the initial stage, the medical practitioners could not distinguish the normal viral flu and the Coronavirus infection since most of the features of the normal flu and Corona induced flu are same, like fever, cough cold etc. By the time, it was recognised that it is flu of different type and of different virus, the contact and the transmission had already taken place. Therefore, the new testing kits and diagnostic techniques were established in order to confirm the nature of virus. The life threatening risk and lack of cure made scores of people to move from the china to other countries. This made the transmission of disease to many countries. Many European countries like the Italy, France and USA were severely affected, in order to prevent the spread of the virus and lack of vaccine for the disease, many countries adopted the lockdown as the option to prevent from the spread of disease

In India while noticing the spread of the virus many steps were taken to prevent the spread of the virus. The Prime Minister called the first Janta curfew which was followed by the formal lockdown. The strict curfew was

ISSUES OF CHILDREN IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AN INTRODUCTION



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EXPERIENCES AND VULNERABILITIES
ASSOCIATED WITH CHILD ITINERANT
SCRAP BUYERS/COLLECTORS OF
NORTH KASHMIR; A CASE STUDY OF
DISTRICT BARAMULLA

– Dr. Sarafraz Ahmad

Abstract:

Children are considered as assets. Their ill treatment and their participation in illegal activities rendered them unproductive. Child labour being one of such illegal economic activity has taken a huge toll on societies across the world. Among child labour activities, one of the least stressed and researched areas are Child Itinerant scrap buyers/collectors. Their presence is found in all developing societies as they are the part of informal economy. Stressing upon the need to conduct a research on child Itinerant scrap buyers/collectors became imperative. The present study thus, aims to find the educational levels of child Itinerant scrap buyers/collectors and the major reasons among children for indulging in such activities. It also aims to find the nature of work they do and critical issues which they face. Due to exploitative nature of work these child workers become more vulnerable and thus susceptible to exploitation.

Key words: Child Labour, Child Worker, Child Itinerants

Introduction

Children are considered as assets by every nation. There is no denying of the fact that the children of today are the grown-

Social Work in Emergencies

Learning from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Editors

Zubair Meenai
Archana Dassi

B L O O M S B U R Y
NEW DELHI • LONDON • OXFORD • NEW YORK • SYDNEY



BLOOMSBURY INDIA
Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd
Second Floor, LSC Building No. 4, DDA Complex, Pocket C – 6 & 7,
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, 110070

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are trademarks of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

First published in India 2021
This edition published 2021

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ISBN: 978-93-54355-42-4
2 4 6 8 1 0 9 7 5 3 1

Printed and bound in India Replika Press Pvt. Ltd.

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COVID-19 and the Vulnerabilities of Persons with Disabilities in India: Implications for Social Work

Shazia Manzoor and Tania Farooq

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has affected the countries disproportionately. Tardy (2020) argues that 'COVID-19 is the most destabilizing event the world has witnessed since the Second World War'. The current estimates (as of this writing) WHO (World Health Organization) runs the global confirmed cases at 128,540,982. Further as reported by WHO Coronavirus Dashboard the confirmed cases In India from January, 2020 to 31st March, 2021 are 12,221,665 with 162,927 deaths. In India, the challenges coming with this pandemic increase manifold as it is a developing country. India was among the few countries to enforce and lockdown and close its international borders. Still, given the 1.3 billion population that India has, 'health inequalities, widening economic and social disparities, and distinct cultural values present unique challenges' (The Lancet, 2020). The said article exposes the vulnerabilities that India as a country is facing. It notes how difficult it is to implement the public health measures in places with overcrowded living conditions and inadequate sanitation and hygiene. It also notes how the migrant workers faced immense problems due to the sudden lockdown (The Lancet, 2020). The pandemic has instilled a sense of fear among the common people and with it are associated the psychological issues like anxiety, depression and elevated stress (Kazmi *et al.*, 2020). Similarly, in their study Tiwari *et al.* (2020) describe how participants in their study felt extreme anxiety, palpitations, head-ache, breathing problems, lower social support and increased reliance on religious activities as psychological distress in times of the current pandemic. There

Social Work in India

Indigenous Approaches and Models

Edited by
Bishnu Mohan Dash
Mithilesh Kumar
Siddheshwar Shukla

CONCEPT PUBLISHING COMPANY PVT. LTD.
NEW DELHI-110059



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ISBN-13: 978-93-88937-49-8

First Published 2020

Published and Printed by



Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd.

A/15-16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden,

New Delhi-110059 (INDIA)

T: 91 11 25351460, 91 11 25351794

E: publishing@conceptpub.com; W: www.conceptpub.com

Cataloging in Publication Data—Courtesy: D.K. Agencies (P) Ltd. <docinfo@dkagencies.com>

*Social work in India : indigenous approaches and models / edited by Bishnu Mohan Dash,
Mithilesh Kumar, Siddheshwar Shukla.*

pages cm

Contributed articles.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 9789388937498

*1. Social work education—India. 2. Indigenous peoples—Services for—India. I. Dash,
Bishnu Mohan, editor. II. Kumar, Mithilesh (Assistant professor of social work), editor. III.
Shukla, Siddheshwar, editor.*

LCC HV11.8.J4S63 2020 | DDC 361.3071154 23



Social Work Intervention with Single Parent Families

A Case Study of Half-Widows in Kashmir

Sumeera Nazir and Dr. Shazia Manzoor

Introduction

A single parent sometimes called a solo-parent is a parent that is not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver. The primary caregiver is the parent the child have residency with the majority of the time (Dowd Nancy, 1997). If the parents are separated or divorced, children live with their custodial parent and have visitation or secondary residence with their non-custodial parent. (Benokraitis, Nijole, 2012, 2011, 2008). Single parenthood is a phenomenon that has always been in existence and is as old as mankind. The demographics of single parenting show a general increase worldwide in children living in single-parent homes (Jayson, Sharon, 13 May, 2009). Single parenting has become an accepted norm in the United States and is an accepted trend found in many other countries. Debates concerning issues bothering on single-parent households, and more have risen. Recently, the numbers of single-parent families have increased drastically and it is gaining a global dimension. Parenthood is challenging enough even under the best of conditions. So, being a single parent in our society is tasking, to say the least. This is because, with one parent, the challenges are multifaceted. Single parenting in our society has been the focus of much interest and research in recent years. (Chiemelie Ezeobi, 2011). According to Funmilayo

Oriyomi (2011), a communicator, "The effect of single parenting are far reaching because it does not only affect the parents, it also affects the children. In fact, the effects are more devastating on the part of the children because single parenthood leaves them with deep scars. Being a single parent is a very tough and challenging task. Many of the problems that single parents have are similar to those of the two parents' family, but these problems seem more difficult to bear or manage when the home is being tutored by only one person. For example, all children feel hostile towards their parents as they grow up and try to be independent. But in a situation, where the anger and rebellion are all directed towards one person, it may seem worse, if there is only one to bear it, not for the two to share (single parent impact on children). The role of the single parent is challenging one especially when the family is headed by a woman. The problem of a single mother is linked with the upbringing of children, their future and setting down in life. The emotional life of the single mother was also affected by their single status. Majority of the single mother reported that they felt lonely, helpless, hopeless, lack of identity and lack of confidence. In the social sphere, majority of single mothers tried to avoid attending social gatherings and had changed their dressing style due to depression. They had developed poor food and eating habits. Majority of the single mothers found it hard to maintain discipline among the children due to the absence of male members. The mothers complained about loneliness, traumatic and depression and found it difficult to handle the responsibility of childcare and to establish a routine for her children.

The phenomenon of enforced disappearances emerged in Kashmir after 1989, after the outbreak of armed conflict gave rise to single-parent families. The heavily deployed security forces (more than six hundred thousand, the highest number of the army during peacetime anywhere in the world) during its campaign against combatant Kashmiris have resorted to different forms of human right violations like extra-judicial executions, custodial deaths, custodial torture, rapes, forced labour, including the Disappearances. As security forces suspect every Kashmiri so due to promiscuous arrests of the non-combatant Kashmiris and subsequent tortures has resulted in the disappearances from last 11 years. People from all spheres of life and different age groups, from 10 years to seventy years after their arrests have got disappeared. Militants, their sympathizers, political activists and large number of innocent persons have become the victims of Enforced Disappearances (APDP, n.d.).

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EVALUATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SCHOOLS IN J&K: SOME LESSONS

– Javaid Rashid & Aadil Bashir

Abstract:

The present paper is based on an evaluation study of Child Protection Policy (CPP) for Schools in J&K done in the year 2018-19. The CPP was adopted by the School Education Department in the region from the year 2013-14. All the educational institutes in J&K had been directed to implement the Policy and create CP infrastructure within school premises along with capacity building of school personnel. The study aimed to explore impact of the CP Policy on ground vis-à-vis safe and secure environment for children in schools. It attempted to explore the extent to which schools across the state have implemented CP Policy as it was originally envisaged and also whether prescribed procedures under CP Policy are followed in reporting and redressing the issues in the domain of Child protection. In the study 40 schools were covered by employing a random sampling technique in each of the 4 sample districts of the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. Interviews and FGDs were conducted with 48 principals/headmasters, 105 teachers and 185 students across Srinagar, Shopian, Jammu and Kathua districts. All the teachers interviewed across J&K showed keen inclination towards emphasizing the fact that access to safe and free environment is essential for Development. Yet, their perspectives and perceptions were closely linked to a diversity of prevailing forces and factors, i.e. region, political environment,