

Perception of child ragpickers towards their education

MANOTI BARKI AND SARIKA MANHAS

Received: 24.02.2012; Revised: 24.04.2012; Accepted: 26.05.2012

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

MANOTI BARKI
P.G. Department of Home
Science, University of Jammu,
JAMMU (J&K) INDIA
Email: manotibarki@
gmail.com

■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was conducted with an objective to assess child ragpicker's perception towards education. A sample of 200 child ragpickers was selected from various areas of Jammu city through snowball and purposive sampling. Results showed that majority (50%) of child ragpickers had positive attitude towards education as they regarded education a necessity for all. 72 per cent of them showed their liking for attending school. In spite of having positive perception towards education, most (66%) of these children were found to be school dropout. Only 20 per cent of total respondents were found to be attending school at the time of investigation. These children also expressed their views about their choice of profession they would like to opt in future. Majority of them (17.5%) admitted that they would join their parents in labouring because of poor financial condition.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Ragpickers, Children, Perception, Education

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Barki, Manoti and Manhas, Sarika (2012). Perception of child ragpickers towards their education. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (1) : 159-162.

Childhood', for a multitude of children in India, lacks its characteristics, carefree happiness. In many parts of urban India children are seen picking waste items from the city dumps and rubbish bins. Children belonging to ragpicking community have no choice but to begin working at a young age in order to fend for them, and to merely survive (Kumar *et al.*, 2001). Poverty plays a role in the ineffectiveness of the education of these children. High illiteracy and dropout rates are quite common. The main reason for not going to school is the lack of mental, emotional and economic support and the fact that these children have to work full-time to survive (Lieten, 2010). The attitude of parents also contributes to the lack of enrolment as parents feel that work develops skills that can be used to earn an income, while education does not help in this matter. Compulsory education may help in regard to these attitudes. Their parents are unlikely to value education and are less able to support their children in their educational progress.

If school is fully abandoned this negatively affects future prospects of the child: the child will spend more time working or hanging on the streets and therefore runs a bigger risk of landing on the streets permanently and becoming more excluded from society and the formal labour market. In keeping

with above facts, the present study has been designed to assess child ragpicker's perception towards education. Data gathered from the study will be useful in understanding their future aspirations and probably help to enrol these children back to school system.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The methodological framework used for the study is as under:

Sample description :

Sample:

The sample for the study comprised of children below 14 years of age working as ragpickers for at least past six months.

Sample size :

200 ragpickers were selected from different areas of Jammu city.

Sampling procedure :

The sample children were selected through purposive and snowball sampling technique.