

## A scenario of street children in Ludhiana city

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Children live and work on the street because their parents are poor, they are orphans, or they have run away from home, often to escape abuse. They are invariably malnourished, receive scant education and medical treatment, they face difficulties in providing themselves with good sources of food, clean drinking water, health care services, toilets and bath facilities and adequate shelter. They also suffer from absence of parental protection and security; there is a lack of any kind of moral and emotional support. There are a number of factors that lead children to living on the street. One root cause that has been identified is poverty. In addition to living and working in environments that are generally harmful to their well-being, street children face problems such as hunger, lack of adequate shelter, clothes and other basic needs, as well as lack of (or limited) educational opportunities, health care and other social services. Observing the present scenario of street children in Ludhiana city, the study aimed to determine the working hours of street children spending in street activities. The study was based on 160 street children aged 9-12 years equally distributed over gender by administering a self-structured 'Interview Schedule'. The study was conducted in different locations of Ludhiana city viz., railway station, bus stand, traffic lights, nearby markets etc. Home based street children were purposively selected by using snowball sampling technique. The result of the study highlighted that boys usually work for longer duration as compared to girls.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Children at risk, Child abuse, Homeless children, Street children, Vulnerable group

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