

## Doorstep School- Dadachi Shala Case Study

**Dr.HENRY.**

### Introduction:

The Indian government has aimed to achieve universal foundation literacy. Be educated and feel empowered. We also feel that education makes the world a better place. We believe that education is a power and makes a person powerful. Education brings an opportunity for one's development with security. Education is a must for all. If we are thinking that we have to provide the school and it should be in every town so that everyone should get an education. We also understand that education safeguards the liberty of a person. We also think that education is the best way to reform people. The more people who are educated in a country, the higher the development in that place. The benefits are going to school are many. It reduces illiteracy, increases job opportunities, builds relationships and it also reduces crime. The school will teach the importance of good behaviour and respect. It is the key to success in the future and to have many opportunities in our life.

Venkatnarayana Motkari, Ellanki Revathi, 2023, Our target is to spend 6% of GDP on education however we are spending only 4% on education. As per Censuses 2011 there are more than 200 million children are from 6 to 14 age group who should be in school. The sheer number of students is a challenge and therefore added to this is the quality education they will get.

Saripalli bhavani shankar, 2023, Gyan Shala, is another model aimed to educating children from the weaker sections and meeting learning outcomes. This particular model has emerged because of the failure of the government to provide education. Unicef 2000 has mentioned that in India there are 18 million children are on the street, which is highest in the world. 17.5% children are living in extreme poverty.

Josephine orange, Audry Metere, Eliud Nyakundi has mentioned that studies indicate that parental participation and involvement in education has positive involvement, it also encouraging good behavior but student who did not have economical condition or has other problem. As per Epstein 2011, 2010 has mentioned that what has happen to these children what are the major challenges these children are facing.

Sr No	Problems
1	Parent Guidance is not possible to get.
2	Nobody is taking responsibility
3	No Food, No Shelter available, No Education Available
4	Difficult to survive
5	Economical Problem

Source:own

(2022 Population Census Data, 2022)According to the census, Pimpri Chinchwad city is 2,381,000 and PCMC Metropolis is 6,975,000. The population of Pune is 4,307,000. The growing cities of western Maharashtra have a sizeable population.

(Bhusari, Trending, City, Pune , 2023)With around 57,000 pupils enrolled, there are 128 municipal schools inside the PCMC boundaries.Asha Gupta 2021,Our Gross Enrolment ratio was supposed to be 26.3

India has 411 state universities, 54 central universities 123, deemed to be universities,361 private universities and 81 institutions of national importance.

(Bhusari, city/pune, 2021)according to Parag Mundhe, interim education officer at PCMC, who informed TOI. The remainder will be instructed to schedule their tests as soon as possible. In Pimpri and Chinchwad, there are 128 civic schools with 24,000 kids and 519 private schools with more than 1.10 lakh students, according to Mundhe.

(Banuri, 2011) 250499 primary school students and 140 349 upper primary school students are enrolled in the PMC city areas. There are 7 Kendriya Vidyalayas run by the federal government in addition to 333 municipal schools in various mediums. The other schools are either unaided high-income schools or privately aided by welfare trusts, Sansthan, individuals, and NGOs. The majority of municipal schools (243 schools) are Marathi-medium, although the number of English-medium schools (51 schools) has been rapidly rising in recent years to meet the rising demand for them and to lower dropout rates.

(Banuri, 2011)There are 98,223 students in upper primary courses and 110,497 students in primary classrooms in the PCMC city districts. The municipal corporation operates 154 primary schools, 17 secondary schools, and 1 KridaPrabodhini. The secondary schools have 9470 students enrolled.

(Banuri, 2011)Pune now has 94,26,959 residents in total, 49,36,362 of whom are male and 44,90,597 of them are female. This population is further broken down into rural and urban areas, with 36,87,243 and 57,39,716 people, respectively, living in the former. 38.76% of all males live in rural areas, compared to 39.49% of rural women. 10,67,261 persons fall into the 0–6 age bracket, of which 5,69,916 are male and 4,97,345 are female.

For children aged 0 to 6, there are 4,23,969 in rural areas and 6,43,292 in urban areas. In the 0–6 age group, rural men make up 39.96% of all males, and rural females make up 39.44% of all females.

### **The issue of Street Children**

(Dutta, STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA: A STUDY ON THEIR ACCESS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION, 2018)Street children face major challenges of health and education. This replicates into their livelihood pattern, hygiene, vulnerability of exploitation, maturity beyond age

Students enrolled in Government, Private and Aided Schools:

Sr No	Types	%
1	Government School	54%
2	Private School	33.3%
3	Aided Schools	10.2%
4	Others	2.5%

Source:UDISE 2022

### **Dada Chi Shala**

(CONTENT TEAM, 2020)According to the 2011 Census, India has one of the fastest rates of urbanisation in the world, with a decadal growth rate of 31.16 percent. Additionally, it is home to more than 444 million children under the age of 18, or roughly 37% of India's entire population.

(Tomar, 2020)In order to address the issue of street children in India, it is first necessary to launch a national investigation of their population, circumstances, and characteristics under the ICPS programme. Connecting them to their district shelter houses and enrolling them in a biometric system like Aadhar.

Similar to church and ashram rehabilitation models, these shelter homes should offer a homey atmosphere. must make sure that targeted programs deliver complementary advantages like healthcare, training, and education to them so they can support themselves.

UNICEF in 1994 as one of the recognized and promising models. Finally, it is essential that the state police and local administrative organizations alter their perspectives of these street kids.

To help students comprehend the issues facing these groups and be able to play a meaningful role in their growth, it is important to combine special learning programs on civility, behaviour towards the weaker members of society, and other topics.

Although there are many socio-legal difficulties relating to street children, only a few of the more prevalent ones are addressed here in the fond hope that if at least these issues are approached from the proper viewpoint, perhaps street children dispersed over India would experience some relief.

Since the Seventh Five Year Plan (7th Five Year Plan), the Supreme Court and the legal system have actively supported children's rights. In India, the idea of "Social action litigation" refers to an endeavour to use the legal system to ensure that actions be taken to realise rights that are granted by the constitution. Following are some of the most significant instances of social action litigation for children, each of which has been a turning point in the effort to protect children's rights:

### **Causes and Consequences of Street Children**

(Rao, 2023)Major causes for the Emergence of Street Children

- Broken families/poor and large families/ step-parent
- Migrant/ dislocated families living in slum/streets
- Migrant families suffered due to famines/ natural disaster • Family conflict • Physically abused • Out classed by society
- Refugees
- Orphan
- Deterioration of morals • Out of schools •

Sexually abused

Forced to work (in farms, factories, stalls, households and hotels etc.)

### **Implications on The Child**

- Loss of childhood
- Sexual/ physical abuse
- Destructive mind
- May be used for unlawful activities like terrorism
- Malnutrition and unhygienic appearance
- Drug/Inhalant addict
- Deterioration of values and morals
- Pick pocketing, thefts
- Loss of personal development/No or less education background
- Health hazards, especially HIV/AIDS
- Police torture and atrocities
- Join labour market with physical, mental and psychological hazards
- Abused by criminals for trafficking of drugs, sex and other unlawful activities

### **Rights of Children under the Indian Constitution**

(Rao, 2023) More than 200 laws in the Indian Constitution directly or indirectly deal with children. The fundamental right to life and personal liberty, which is applicable to all individuals, including children, is the one that would make the state responsible for ensuring the care and protection of street children. No individual shall be deprived of his or her life or personal liberty unless in accordance with the method established by law, according to Article 21 of the Constitution, The Right to Life and Personal Liberty.

## **Organisations for Street Children in India**

### **National Child Labour Project (NCLP):**

(Chatterjee, 2012) National Policy on Child Labour was created in 1987, according to the National Child Labour Project (NCLP). The policy aims to take a progressive and sequential approach, with a primary focus on the rehabilitation of kids who are already engaged in risky jobs and procedures. For resolving this issue, the Policy includes the following Action Plan: focusing on general developmental programmes for the benefit of reducing child labour, and a project-based plan of action.

### **Ministry of Women and Child Welfare**

In order to provide the much-needed push for the holistic development of women and children, the Department of Women and Child Development was established in the year 1985 as a component of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Department has been promoted to a Ministry as of January 30, 2006.

### **National Human Rights Commission**

The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 (TPHRA) authorised the creation of India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), an independent statutory body, on October 12, 1993.

### **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

Under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, a law passed by Parliament in December 2005, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was established in March 2007.

The Commission's mandate is to make sure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative frameworks are in line with the view of children's rights that is reflected in both the Indian Constitution and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There are many Non Government Organisation Global March Against Child Labour

An multinational organisation called the Global March Against Child Labour works to free every child from the burden of abusive employment. The Global March movement aims to organise global efforts to defend and advance the rights of all children, including the right to a free, worthwhile education, to be free from economic exploitation, and the right to be

unconstrained from doing any job. A worldwide movement against child labour is called the Global March Against Child Labour. It is based in New Delhi and has partners in more than 150 nations. It advocates for children's rights before the government and the UN, educates people about those rights, conducts research on those rights, represents children in court, works with children directly, collaborates with organisations, and advocates for children's rights. work collaboratively cooperate with the press and media with organisations. children and education, children and working children, and rights-based programming, gender and girls, children and the media, children in armed conflict, and involvement

### **Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BMM) Bandhua Mukti Morcha:**

The main goal is to locate adult and child bonded labour in various economic sectors, free them from servitude, and monitor their progress.

Children working and living on the streets, specific incidents of violations, sexual exploitation of children, rehabilitation by the government under local laws, advocacy work with the media and press, advocacy work with governments and the United Nations.

### **Child Labour Action Network (CLAN):**

The Child Labour Action Network seeks to lobby governments and the United Nations, provide training or education on child rights, conduct child rights research, collaborate with other organisations, and work with the media and press in order to help create a society where all children have equal opportunities for development and that they mature into responsible citizens with a view to coexistence, sustainable development, and social justice leading to peace for all. Children and the media, children in armed conflict, children who break the law, children who labour and live on the streets, reporting to and observing the CRC, child labour and working children, children and education, children and health, children and the media, children in armed conflict, child sexual exploitation

### **Foundation for Legal Aid, Environment & Social Action (FELSA):**

FLESA is a nonprofit organisation made up of lawyers, students, and advocates for human rights. The organisation primarily works to protect the rights of prisoners, women, children, and people with disabilities. Through its legal aid and advice programmes, it connects with the grassroots movement. It also works with organisations to lobby governments and the UN, educate the public about children's rights, conduct child rights research, represent children in court cases, and work directly with children.

Child labour and working youth, youth and education, youth and health, youth without parental care, youth working and living on the streets, ecology and habitat, and youth sexual exploitation are all issues that need to be addressed.

### **Grace Action India (GRACE):**

Grace offers educational programmes for street and working children, disabled children, slum and street children's preparatory school, slum and street children's bible club, adult education for school dropouts and working children, multireligious education, vocational training, and social development, as well as training or education on children's rights. Grace also works directly with children and in partnership with organisations to address issues of child labour and working with children.

### **HAQ Centre for Child Rights:**

HAQ works with the rights to survival, childhood, and equal opportunity, and believes that children's human rights must be realised through policy, law, and action. They also lobby governments and the United Nations, provide training or education on children's rights, conduct research on children's rights, represent children in court, collaborate with other organisations, work with the media, and more.

Children who lack parental supervision, kids who work and live on the streets, the environment and habitat, gender and girls, specific examples of violations, kids from minority or indigenous groups, reporting to and monitoring the CRC, rights-based programming, and child sexual exploitation are just a few of the issues that need to be addressed.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

Plan International - India:

Programmes are available in 61 nations.

One of the biggest international NGOs operating in India, it started working there in 1979. Currently, 11 Indian states are served by Plan India through a number of partners. Plan assists in development processes that increase security for children, their families, and communities. It also funds other organisations, advocates with governments and the UN, offers training or education on children's rights, conducts research on children's rights, works with children directly, and collaborates with other organisations. work with the media and press, child



labour and working children, children and education, children and health, children and participation, children and the media, kids in trouble with the law, kids with disabilities, kids without parental care, kids working and living on the streets, reporting to and monitoring the CRC, kids being sexually exploited

### **Salaam Baalak Trust:**

The Salaam Baalak Trust supports street and working children in inner cities by offering education, basic literacy and schooling, full-care facilities for children (up to 12 years old), drop-in shelters, nutrition, health care, family planning, AIDS awareness, TB prevention, counselling, banking services, and remedial drama. The primary goal is to rehabilitate the street child, either by getting them back into their own homes or by finding them another source of income off the streets. Education, nutrition, healthcare, family planning, AIDS awareness, tuberculosis prevention, counselling, and remedial drama are the main areas of endeavour.

### **CRY:**

Child Rights & You: Cry serves as a bridge, a catalyst, and a facilitator between two sets of grassroots organisations and people working with underprivileged children, their families, and communities. The United Nations Charter of Child Rights, 1992 grants the following four fundamental rights to all Indian children, and CRY has been assisting grassroots NGOs working with children and communities to uphold these rights for the past 29 years.

### **Challenges for Government Organizations**

To educate the public about the importance of children's rights with the aid of the media, government agencies, political leaders, and other organisations, etc.

- The media should aid in raising awareness of education among people and parents.
- To prevent parents from sending their children to work as children, the government should offer them jobs.
- To raise awareness of child sexual abuse among the general public. similar to terrorism.
- To offer dedicated hotlines for reporting cases to the police, NGOs, and other government agencies.
- To formally involve non-governmental organisations in procedures involving child abuse.

- To start a public awareness campaign on the effects on street children.
- The social and economic rights of children should get particular attention.
- Encourage initiatives that aid in the recovery and life-building of exploited and street children.

### **Challenges for NGOs**

Educating the public on current laws, policies, and government initiatives.

- Fostering an atmosphere in which street children are not oppressed but rather heard.
- NGO interventions and briefings to relevant government ministries on a regular basis.
- To make the most of various policies and programmes, government organisations should provide NGO personnel with the appropriate training.
- Implementation of various policies and programs between the government and NGOs should be critically reviewed.

ASER and NSSO report explaining that India is on 35<sup>th</sup> Rank. As the government is primary provider of school education. There is low support provided by the government.

### **Dadachi Shala a concept –**

In 2019, Dada Chi Shala was established with the objective of providing free and high-quality education. The founder of Dada Chi Shala, Mr. Abhijeet Pokharnikar, had the privilege of collaborating with Dr. Sau Sindhutai Sapkal (Maai), an esteemed Indian social worker and activist renowned for her dedication to nurturing orphaned children in India. Dr. Sapkal's exceptional contributions in the field of social work led to her receiving the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2021 under the Social Work category.

Abhijeet's vision is to ensure that every individual in India, regardless of their social background, has access to free, fair, and high-quality education. He emphasizes the significance of providing education to underprivileged street children as well as those from privileged backgrounds. He sees this as a fundamental right and considers it crucial to actively advocate and work towards achieving it.

Dada Chi Shala has exerted a significant influence on diverse communities, facilitating the integration of 1700 underprivileged and street children into educational support programs at a nationwide scale during the COVID-19 lockdown. This initiative successfully transitioned

these children away from a life of begging and enrolled them in formal schooling. Moreover, more than 700 street children were rescued from the cycle of begging, and the program has actively promoted legal literacy within the communities. Additionally, the implementation of innovative teaching techniques using tablets, fostering youth engagement, and facilitating access to social welfare and government schemes are among the transformative interventions that Dada Chi Shala has implemented to improve the lives of these children.

Abhijeet Pokharnikar operates multiple schools in Pune, catering to the educational needs of children from various neighborhoods. With a student population of at least 300, Abhijeet's schools address the prevalent issue of young children selling goods at traffic signals in Pune. His commitment to providing education to these children stems from his personal observations and dedication. Collaborating with others, Abhijeet has successfully gathered over 300 students from different areas, positively impacting their future prospects. The schools, strategically located in areas such as Market Yard, Sarasbaug, and under the Jhend Bridge, not only address educational gaps but also emphasize the holistic development of the students.

(Pandhare, 2022) During the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of three individuals, namely Abhijeet Pokharnikar, Amol Shinde, and Shubham Mane, displayed an exceptional level of dedication towards the education of underprivileged children who resided on the streets. Despite the restrictions imposed on individuals due to the pandemic, these individuals actively intervened with the aim of not only achieving personal success but also uplifting the prospects of others. Their project, known as "Dada Chi Shala" or "Grandfather's School," has been a three-year endeavor characterized by relentless effort, perseverance, and a strong commitment to education. Through their relentless pursuit, they have reached a stage where they are now laying the foundation for a promising future for both present and future generations.

Previously, the school operated within the constraints of the sidewalks and slums, but it will now transition to well-structured buildings. This initiative, spearheaded by the younger generation who themselves received education in challenging environments, is truly commendable. Even amid the pandemic and the confinement of individuals to their homes, these young stars in Pune took the initiative to impart essential knowledge and skills to street children. As a result of their efforts, this school has gained deep-rooted affection and support

from four households. However, it is important to acknowledge that their achievements were not without struggle and hardship.

Overall, the story of Abhijeet Pokharnikar, Amol Shinde, and Shubham Mane and their journey to establish "Dada Chi Shala" reflects the resilience, determination, and transformative power of education in uplifting disadvantaged communities. Their initiative serves as an inspiring example of how individuals can make a meaningful impact, even in the face of challenging circumstances.

(Waghmare, 2023)Abhijeet Pokharnikar highlights the distressing situation of approximately 14,000 children living on the streets of Pune who lack access to formal education due to the absence of birth certificates and identification. Currently, Pokharnikar's roadside schools are catering to 122 students in six different locations throughout the city.

These children, who are of primary school age, are compelled to work and contribute to their family's income. However, their circumstances paint a grim picture for their future. Pokharnikar aims to bring about a positive transformation in their lives by providing them with educational opportunities and a brighter outlook.

(Punemirror Desk, 2023)Dadachi Shala is a registered trust and runs these kind of street schools in Pune and across Maharashtra. They aim to expand their efforts and cater education to all street children.

(Pohankar, 2023)The team of Dadachi Shala, convince children and their parents for education and help them in legal documentation process. This leads to avail them registered into government school. Then the role of 'Dadachi Shala' is of coaching to these students and make them prepare for final examination.

The registration of children into government schools help them avail all the governments schemes and progress in education.

Dada and Tai offer their support to these street children to develop their academics and retain their focus on education. Dadachi Shala takes place on streets various locations on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

This Nobel initiative brings many street children into main stream of education. Make them a responsible citizen.

(LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, 2013) There are 22 central government schemes for children for school, health and learning. As Indian Government firmly believes that education is the most important factor for the social and political transformation. The most effective means of promoting socioeconomic mobility and a crucial factor in the creation of a fair and just society are education. Education gives the knowledge and abilities necessary for economic prosperity. By disseminating knowledge, education promotes democracy.

The dissemination of principles that promote social cohesiveness and national identity through education also serves as an integrative factor in society.

(Dutta, STREET CHILDREN IN INDIA: A STUDY ON THEIR ACCESS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION, 2018) Findings showed that the main reason for the rise in the number of street children was acute poverty. Most kids didn't go to school since their illiterate parents weren't aware of the educational opportunities available to them. The kids found it challenging to complete their lessons away from the school due to factors including the absence of an educational environment at home. It was clear that people who lived with their parents had easier access to medical facilities than those who lived alone; Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) made major attempts to address this imbalance by establishing periodic health check-up camps. Although most had lost their innocence prematurely due to early exposure to harsh reality, making them occasionally challenging to work with, nongovernmental organisations were working to secure kid participation and the development of personal identity. As a result, the interventionists concentrated on creating a rights-based strategy rather than a charity one.

### **The street schools in India**

### **Conclusion**

There are different hierarchical education system and their fore many students did not get the proper education and equal treatment. It is violation of Right to Education Act, This particular act guarantees every child the right to education. Many children did not get what they deserve to. Therefore, Dadachi Shala School initiative is very important. It is an important initiative. Every child should get an education it should not be predominantly the prerogative of those who can afford it. Children who is not afford to get an education or whose parents are not able to provide it should not be deprived of meaningful opportunities. Therefore, It needs to take more concentrated efforts to raise the lower bar. Education that children receive should fulfil the economic, social and humanistic aims of education

This alone can ensure that both social benefits and individual benefits of education are realised to their fullest potential. In addition to policy action, This will require an ideological shift that challenges the notions of inequalities.

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