

Topic: Exploring Violence and Harassment Against Street Children in Bangladesh: An Empirical Study of Cumilla and Chittagong City Corporation

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Exploring Violence and Harassment Against Street Children in Bangladesh: An Empirical Study of Cumilla and Chittagong City Corporation

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Abstract:

Street children in Bangladesh are among the most vulnerable populations, facing pervasive violence and harassment in their daily lives. The present study aims to examine the prevalence and characteristics of violence and harassment encountered by street children residing in City Corporation (CC). By utilizing a mixed approach to study, information gathered following purposive and snowball sampling. The research outcomes indicated that children living on the streets are subjected to a range of violent hardships, such as sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, in addition to exploitation and discrimination. The study also found that economic hardship, limited educational opportunities, and family disintegration are key factors pushing children onto the streets, where they face exploitation and abuse. Their vulnerability is further intensified by systemic shortcomings, social discrimination, and insufficient legal safeguards. The research highlighted the critical nature of implementing focused interventions, enhancing community consciousness, and refining child protection policies in order to effectively tackle the multifaceted obstacles encountered by street children in Chottagram City Corporation (Chottagram CC) and Cumilla City Corporation (Cumilla CC) in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Violence, Harassment, Street Children, City Corporation (CC), Cumilla CC, Chottagram CC, Bangladesh.

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1.Introduction:

The term "street children" describes the severely marginalized and children from disadvantaged backgrounds who live a large portion of their time on the streets or in public places in countries that are developing (Reza, 2017a). Another definition of the street children according to UNICEF is those who have no fixed home and who are forced to survive on the streets (UNICEF, 2020). These children are an especially vulnerable group that has to overcome several obstacles. They face constant risks to their safety, wellbeing, and general development, among these being violence and harassment. Global concern is growing for the lives and health of street children. Physical, psychological, sexual, and social isolation are among the many issues that can affect street children (Chimdessa & Cheire, 2018).

Around the world, it has been recognized that street children are particularly at risk of violence (Pinheiro & Children, 2006). As time passes, the number of street children is growing and their issues become more widespread; Millions of children live and labor on the streets around the world, making the street children phenomenon a global concern (Farwa, 2023). The dynamics of living on the streets, the causes of adolescent's homelessness, and essential needs were all studied in a South African study (Ward & Seager, 2010). Street children are a particularly susceptible demographic within urban settings, as they are subjected to a multitude of threats and intimidation that undermine their overall welfare and progress. The number of children and young in urban slums and shantytowns is increased by the migration of street children (Jacobson, 1990).

There are about 4 million homeless children in Bangladesh ('Street Children in Bangladesh', 2023). In order to achieve their basic necessities, street children have two unique characteristics: unstable family relationships and an active economic activity (Reza & Bromfield, 2019). A lot of people ran away from home to avoid neglect, poverty, and families that were unstable. They look for unofficial social and economic niches on metropolitan streets. At the bottom of the informal urban labor market, they usually start (and continue to be distinguished by) dangerous, unwelcome random occupations (Reza & Bromfield, 2019).

The majority of Bangladeshi street children are employed in the country's enormous informal economy or in the illegal street economy in challenging, abusing professions (Mathur, 2013). Usually, they are adult aggressive categories that are compressed because to the extreme

poverty, lack of resources, and high unemployment rates in the nation (Reza, 2017) . More than thirty percent of children sleep and live-in public areas without even the most basic facilities, and half of them use blankets, plastic bags, or jute bags. While 17% seek security in groups or couples, 75% sleep alone. Of those who slept at night, one in three (30.4%) reported experiencing violence (UNICEF, 2023).

Thus, in addition to having to live in unfavourable and adult-controlled environment, street children also have to cope with a variety of stresses such as unstable housing, food insufficiency, and bad life events, along with continuous abuse and harassment (Conticini, 2008). Chottagram CC and Comilla CC, located in Bangladesh, accommodates a substantial population of street children; however, there is a dearth of research examining the scope and characteristics of the violence that these children are exposed to. This study aims to address this gap by conducting a comprehensive case study on violence and harassment against street children also exploring the violence and harassment against street children in CC, also understanding the type and scope of violence and harassment that street children in city corporation face, identifying those who commit these crimes and those who facilitate them, and evaluating the effects these acts have on their physical and emotional health are the objectives of this study.

2. Objectives of the study:

This research mainly following three objectives; such as

1. To comprehend the nature the nature of violence, extend and harassment faced by street children in CC;
2. To determine the perpetrators and enabling elements of this violence and harassment; and
3. To evaluate the effects of this violence and harassment on the physical and mental well-being of street children.

3.Literature review:

Bangladesh is one of the developing nations. where the quality of life is always improving. But there are also significant problems with poverty, substandard housing, and climate change. The lives of street children are also a significant problem. In Bangladesh, a substantial body of research paints a concerning picture of the widespread violence and harassment faced by street children

(Kaiser & Sinanan, 2020a). Chowdhury et al., (2017) describe previous studies carried out in Bangladesh have established that among the factors contributing to children living on the streets consist of having stepparents, being underprivileged and being the victim of abuse or neglect. Concerns for the well-being of street children emerge because of their exposure to a variety of challenges, including social isolation, physical and psychological abuse, and sexual exploitation (Murray et al., 2012).

Habtamu & Adamu, (2013) indicates that children living on the streets face several risks, including early exposure to sexual activities, prostitution, sexual abuse, and the possibility of contracting Diseases. They also frequently participate in unsafe behaviors related to sexuality. Street children commonly suffer violence at the grasps of people who work with them and their peers; in many cases, these abuses are started by other adults or street children (Z Amury, 2020).

According to Celik, (2005), 50 percent of the 40 participants had been the victims of verbal, 50 percent of physical, and 65 percent of sexual abuse in Ankara, Turkey, this study was carried out. Studies on children who were abused verbally and physically showed higher levels of shame than did studies on children who were abused sexually. Because verbal and physical abuse typically took place in front of others, they claimed to feel embarrassed of themselves (Kaiser & Sinanan, 2020a).

A rising number of academics, especially in Tehran, Iran, acknowledge the problem of street children as a societal concern (Zarezadeh, 2013). Studied that, It is crucial to comprehend street children for the purpose of to prevent social issues and create conditions that are conducive to their growth. The phenomenon of street children has been addressed by a number of organizations, including governmental, non-governmental, and international ones, highlighting the necessity of regulations to lessen this incident. Panter-Brick, (2002) describe after the turn of the 20th century, attention began to focus more on the welfare of street children, with headlines like "A Growing Urban Tragedy" highlighting how dire things were. This study sought to contextualize studies on children who are homeless, living on the streets, and employed, shifting the emphasis from classifying them as children in need to their own perspectives and experiences.

Hulme & Conticini, (2006) studied the experiences of violence that 80 street children (35 boys and 45 girls) had before moving to the streets and leaving their homes to live with their parents in

Bangladesh. In the final 12 months of the research, the majority of the children spoke of experiencing violence in various and recurring forms. Both before the migration and throughout their time living on the streets, females were subjected to greater violence than boys. They suffered from sexual, psychological, verbal, and above all physical abuse. They were assaulted physically, verbally, psychologically, and above all sexually. The study also showed that these child had to deal with a lot of violence on the streets. Koehlmoos et al., (2009) Law enforcement officers, neighborhood miscreants, other homeless males, strangers, employees of public utilities, and their peers often violence female street children in Bangladesh sexually.

Research to date indicates a number of knowledge gaps in spite of these insightful discoveries. The majority of studies emphasize the nationwide issue without giving Cumilla and Chottagram city any particular attention, so ignoring the possible subtleties and distinctive features of violence experienced by street children in this particular area. Additionally, a deeper understanding of the various forms of violence and their specific dynamics within Cumilla and Chottagram city are needed. Research that has already been done frequently offers more general classifications, skipping the chance to explore the nuances of various misuse forms and their effects (Chowdhury et al., 2017). Limited research explores the root causes of vulnerability specific to the local context of Cumilla city corporation and Chottagram city corporation. In Cumilla and Chittagong City Corporation, the condition of street children who are scattered in various parks, stations and slums is not very favorable. They are not getting any of their other basic needs including food, education, clothing. In addition, they are victims of violence and harassment by their peers, relatives, low enforcement authorities and by people on the streets.

Finally, existing studies rarely evaluate the effectiveness of current support mechanisms for street children in Bangladesh (Hulme & Conticini, 2006a). Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of these mechanisms is crucial for proposing improvements and developing targeted interventions that can effectively address the issue of violence and harassment faced by street children in Cumilla city corporation and Chottagram city corporation beyond.

Therefore, by concentrating on Cumilla city corporation and Chottagram city corporation particularly, this current research seeks to fill in these highlighted gaps. Through examining the local context, the research will offer a more comprehensive comprehension of the types, offenders,

and consequences of violence encountered by Cumilla's and Chottagram's street children. Furthermore, the study will investigate the underlying elements that contribute to vulnerability in the context of the city, providing important new insights into the issues at hand. In a broader sense the study will appraise the efficacy of current support systems and make suggestions for enhancement, ultimately aiding in the creation of more successful interventions and promoting the defense of street children in Cumilla City corporation and Chottagram city corporation beyond and in addition to identifying perpetrators and facilitators, the study seeks to determine the type of abuse and harassment that street children in Cumilla City corporation and Chottagram city corporation face and to evaluate their mental and physical well-being.

4. Methodology

4.1 Study Design: A mixed-methods approach is used in this study to provide a thorough knowledge of the violence and harassment that street children in Chottagram CC and Cumilla CC, Bangladesh, must endure. In addition to obtaining more comprehensive quantitative data on the issue's prevalence and features, this strategy of combining qualitative and quantitative methods enables a closer investigation of the daily reality and experiences of street children.

4.2 Methods

4.2.1 Qualitative methods

In-depth Interview: In-depth interviews is conducted with 10 people including; guardian, security guard, street and vendors in Chottagram CC and Cumilla CC. Through these interviews, researcher known to learn more about their coping strategies, attitudes of safety and support, and experiences with violence and harassment.

Study Area	ID	Sex	Age	Designation
Comilla CC	IDI-1	Female	50	Guardian
	IDI-2	Female	60	Guardian
	IDI-3	Female	54	Guardian
	IDI-4	Male	40	Security Gourd
	IDI-5	Male	65	Street Vendors

Chattogram CC	IDI-6	Female	45	Guardian
	IDI-7	Female	34	Street Vendors
	IDI-8	Female	35	Street Vendors
	IDI-9	Male	50	Street Workers
	IDI-10	Male	52	Street Vendors

Table 01: Demographic distribution of IDIs respondents

Case Studies: For the purposes of catching real stories of street children, researcher followed case study. Researchers taken 10 street children case from their real life. Where 1-5 to case mainly focused on Cumilla CC's street children life and 6-10 case mainly focused on Chottagram CC street children life.

Study Area	ID	Age	Designation
Comilla CC	Case-1	10	Street Children
	Case -2	15	Street Children
	Case -3	12	Street Children
	Case -4	10	Street Children
	Case -5	16	Street Children
Chattogram CC	Case -6	13	Street Children
	Case -7	15	Street Children
	Case -8	11	Street Children
	Case -9	15	Street Children
	Case -10	15	Street Children

Table 02: Demographic distribution of Case study's respondents

4.2.2 Quantitative methods:

Survey: A survey administered to 100 street children in Chottagram CC and Cumilla CC. Survey done to collect data on the prevalence and forms of violence experienced, the perpetrators, and the perceived impacts on their well-being.

Categories	Comilla CC	Chottagram CC
Age	01-05	17
		20

	06-10	34	43
	11-17	49	37
	Total	100	100
Education	One-Three	32	41
(Class)	Four- Six	45	39
	Others	23	20
	Total	100	100
Shelter	Yes	23	31
(Temporary	No	77	69
Home)	Total	100	100

Table- 03: Demographic distribution of survey respondent

4.3 Sampling:

- **Purposive sampling:** A purposive sampling utilized to find respondents for this research's qualitative and quantitative sections. The researcher selected participants based on their age, gender, and location to ensure representation of diverse experiences within the street child population in Chottagram CC and Cumilla CC.
- **Snowball sampling:** Snowball sampling researchers used especially for the qualitative stage, in order to contact individuals who might be more difficult to contact through conventional methods.

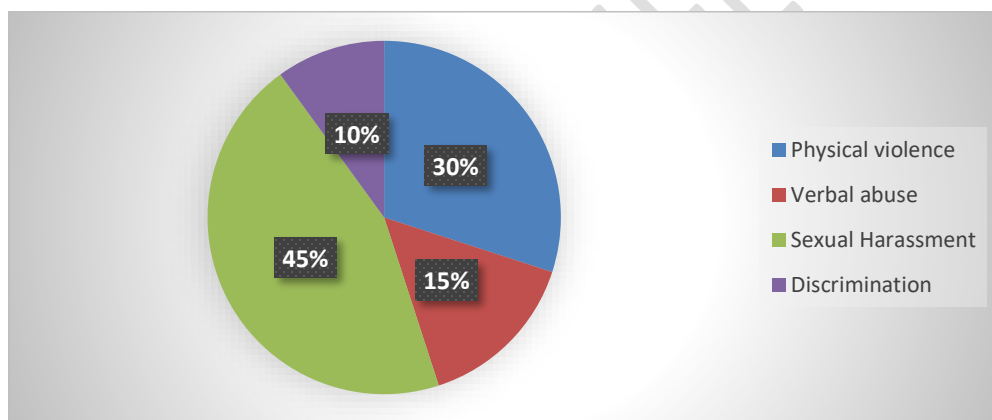
4.4. Data collection and Data Analysis Technique: IDI and Case Studies preferred to collect qualitative data. IDI and Case studies, researcher's audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim for their study purposes and later they used this information in this research paper. All the qualitative data used with quantitative statistics section for adding strong value of data. For the purpose of statically analysis; descriptive statistics used to analyze bar, pie chart and other statically chart after making by the SPSS software. The survey data is providing an overview of the prevalence and characteristics of violence experienced by street children.

5. Result and Analysis:

5.1. The nature and extent of street children violence and harassment:

Street children in urban areas frequently experience a range of violent and harassing behaviors, highlighting a distressing situation that requires immediate action. Although, in the constitution of Bangladesh stated in article 27-28 that ensures equality before the law, prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (BD Constitution, 1972). But they are subjected to physical abuse from both officials and individuals in the community, often because of their vulnerability and lack of safeguards. Furthermore, they endure verbal harassment, discrimination, and social stigma, which worsen their already difficult circumstances. In quantitative analysis find out that street children mostly faced sexual violence among respondent, which is 45%. As well as physical violence, verbal abuse and discrimination respectively 30%, 15% and 10% (see figure-1).

Figure:1- Experienced of violence or harassment while living on the streets



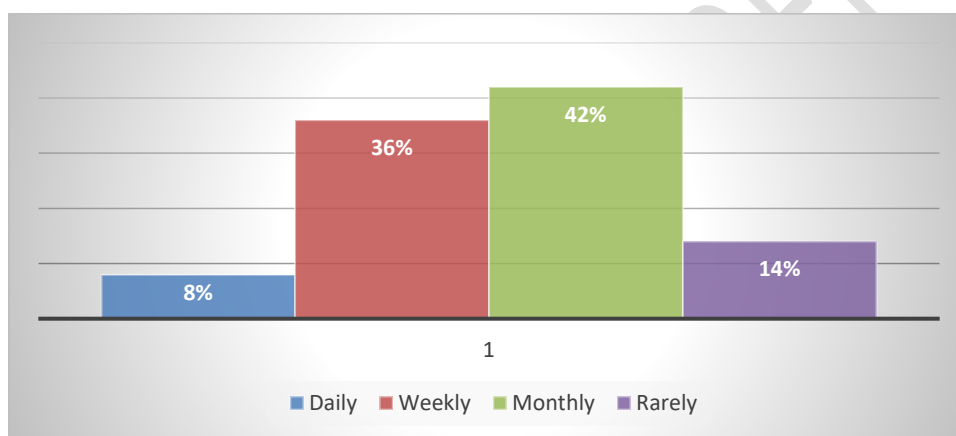
In the statistics above, the vulnerability of this population is underscored by the high rates of sexual harassment and physical violence. Although there has been a slight decrease in verbal abuse and discrimination, a hostile environment continues to prevail. Moreover, most of the respondent of case study mentioned that they are facing mostly with physical and sexual violence. In this regard one case study mentioned that,

“Having no accommodation of my own, I am forced to live on the streets. And while I was on the streets, I faced various violence and harassment out of which I was more victim of physical violence”. **(Case study-2)**

Although all IDIs respondent of this study (i.e., guardian of the street children and security guard of the market) stated that street children mostly affected with physical violence and discrimination by local authority and teenage gang. One female respondent said that,

“We have no permanent home. When I'm sleeping in the street or station side, many people disturb me and they talk to me with an angry mind. Sometimes they slap me. But all people are not like some bad people. In my opinion, we don't have a home permanently so they get a chance to harass us.” (IDI-3: street children’s guardian)

Figure:2-The frequency street children facing the violence or harassment on the streets.



According to the findings of the statistical analysis, a considerable proportion of the participants (42%) report encountering street-level violence or harassment on a monthly basis. Such statistics suggest that street violence and harassment are alarmingly prevalent. A lesser percentage, 14%, does, however, report experiencing rare occurrences (see figure-2). In this regard one male IDIs respondent mentioned that-

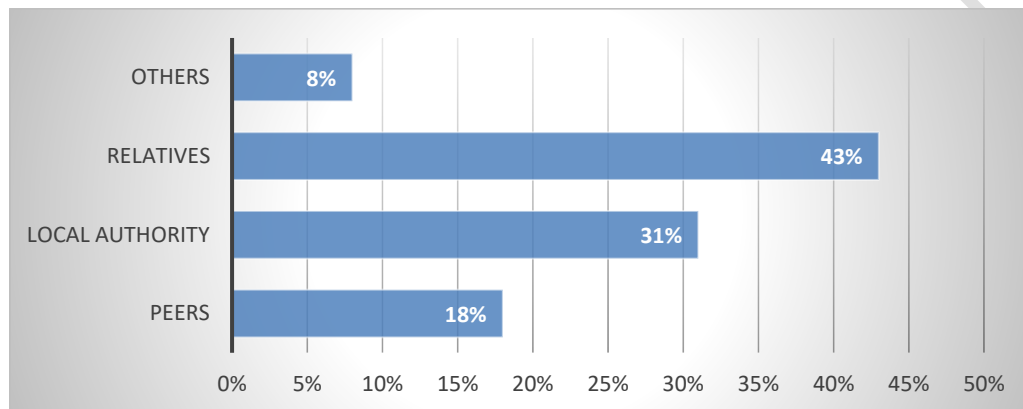
“It seems to me that the street children in this city are vulnerable and isolated from society. No one stands beside them. So, they are being subjected to violence and harassment daily.” (IDI-4: Security guard)

5.2 Perpetrators and enabling elements of violence and harassment of street children:

Street children are subject to violence and harassment inflicted by a variety of perpetrators, including individuals, organizations, and occasionally authorities. Poverty, substance addiction,

and societal neglect are frequent contributors to this behaviour. According to the data, local governments are the second most common perpetrators of violence against street children (31%), after relatives (43%). Individuals other than peers comprise 8% and 18%, respectively. (See figure-3)

Figure: 3- Perpetrators of violence and harassment of street children



In qualitative analysis respondent mentioned some reason of this violence, such as lack of economic solvency, lack of legal protection, lack of awareness, lack of education facilities and government negligence are the main reasons to enabling violence and harassment against street children in this city.

"All the street people are vulnerable; they have no income source as a result all the time they are depended someone kindness but all people are not kind man. If have income source of my family, today I'm educated as like as general people." **(IDI-10- Street vendors)**

Another respondent said that,

"Lack of legal protection, lack of resources are the main reasons to enabling violence and harassment against street children in this city". **(IDI-09- Street workers)**

Furthermore, local powerful person can more play role increasing violence and harassment in regard of street children. As well as lack of helping hands and a lack of protection, are significant contributors to the violence and harassment that street children experience in the city where they are live. One respondent stated that,

“I think several factors contribute to the violence and harassment against street children in this city, among them mentionable are discrimination, lack of protection and lack of support.” (IDI-6: guardian)

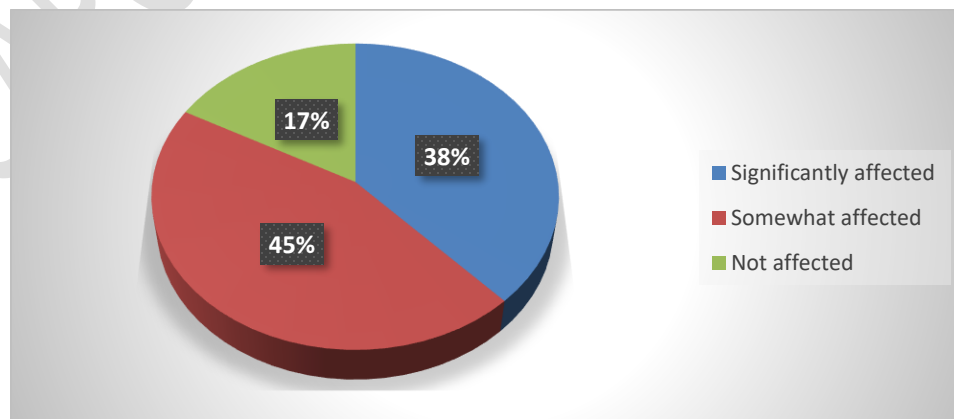
Another respondent said that,

“It seems to me that street children are subjected to harassment and violence due to their poverty, vulnerability and lack of guardians” (IDI-07: female street vendor)

5.3. Effects of this violence and harassment on the physical and mental well-being of street children:

The physical and mental well-being of street children is significantly impacted by the violence and harassment they endure. On the physical sides, they endure a variety of harms, including minor lacerations and severe trauma, which tend to delay for lack of healthcare access. On a psychological level, they experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression, which result in emotional distress and behavioral problems. Furthermore, these experiences impede their progress, thereby contributing to the continuation of a cycle of poverty and marginalization. The statistics disclose a concerning impact of violence or harassment on respondents' health, with 38% reporting significantly effects and 45% somewhat affected. This suggests a majority experiencing adverse consequences, underscoring the severe toll such incidents take on physical and mental well-being. The relatively low percentage (17%) reporting in not effected. (See figure: 4)

Figure: 4- Experiencing violence or harassment affected physical health or mental health



In qualitative analysis, most of the case and IDIs respondent said that, rich and powerful people control this city, who are always using street children, especially girls for physical violence. Which lead to impact in the mental health. Moreover, they are abused by them and one day these victim girls become prostitutes in these urban areas. The most important reason this powerful man controls us and likes as unprivileged people. One case respondent mentioned that,

“One day in 2022 I was physically assaulted by a local powerful man. Which greatly affected physical health, which then affected my mental health. Because of which, I had to go through trauma for a long time. Even though I sought justice from the local administration, I did not get proper justice.” (Case-5: street children)

6. Recommendation:

All of the people have right to enjoy equal opportunity and equal protection. In this street children are not out of them. Strengthening legal protections for children living on the streets, ensuring easily accessible medical care and counselling services, and carrying out public awareness initiatives to address societal prejudices. In addition, the establishment of specialized shelters and support facilities can provide a safe environment and facilitate the process of rehabilitation. Effective implementation of measures to protect and support vulnerable street children in Bangladesh relies heavily on collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and communities. One case respondent said with depression mind that,

“Many people tell me that we are street child, they always tell me through bad language. That time I stayed very sad mind. I tell my mother, but she doesn't give me answer, why they are doing bad behavior to me.” (Case-08- Street children)

For decreasing these violence, one IDIs respondent said that,
I think if the government provides a fixed or permanent shelter to the children and provides protection to them, it will help in dealing with violence and harassment against children. (IDI-07: Female Street vendors)

Furthermore, in qualitative analysis, this study found street children are deprived of all government opportunities including social safety net program, education, health, shelter and so on. All the

benefits are given to those who have more wealth. If all benefits distribute equally who are actually deserve these benefits. Then will be very fruitful for all of poor people specially for the street children.

7. Main findings:

In the Cumilla CC the greatest number of 77% street children has no permanent house and in Chottagram CC this number is 69% children. Most street children lack temporary shelter, with a higher percentage in Chattogram CC reporting having temporary residences. Education levels vary, with Comilla CC having more children in the 4-6 class categories, while Chattogram CC has a higher percentage in the 1-3 class categories. Most of children are leading their life without education.

Street children face a distressing situation characterized by various forms of violence and harassment, including physical abuse, sexual violence, verbal harassment, and discrimination in Cumilla CC and Chottagram CC. Study find out that street children mostly faced sexual violence among respondent, which is 45%. Physical violence, verbal abuse and discrimination are respectively 30%, 15% and 10%.

Violence and harassment against street children are perpetrated by various factors, including relatives, local authorities, individuals, and organizations. Powerful individuals and lack of support exacerbate the situation. Highly included to the street children harassment on street level is relatives. This study finds out number of 43% children affected by their relative. Others included sector are local authorities, peers and others are respectively.

The violence and harassment endured by street children have significant physical and mental health implications. They suffer from minor injuries, severe trauma, PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Lack of access to healthcare exacerbates these issues, contributing to a cycle of poverty and marginalization. This study disclose a concerning impact of violence or harassment on respondents' health, with 38% reporting significantly effects and 45% somewhat affected. This suggests a majority experiencing adverse consequences, underscoring the severe toll such incidents take on physical and mental well-being. The relatively low percentage (17%) reporting in not affected.

To address these challenges, the study recommends strengthening legal protections, providing accessible medical care and counseling services, raising public awareness, establishing specialized shelters, and fostering collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and communities. Equal distribution of government benefits and opportunities is crucial to improving the well-being of street children. Overall, the research findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to protect and support street children, addressing the root causes of violence and harassment while promoting their rights and well-being.

8. Discussion of the result:

This study illuminates the pervasive violence and harassment faced by street children in urban areas, particularly within Cumilla City Corporation (CC) and Chattogram City Corporation (CC), Bangladesh. The findings paint a grim picture of these children's realities, marked by physical abuse, sexual violence, verbal harassment, and systemic discrimination. Street children, who are often among the most vulnerable members of society, lack the safety nets and support structures necessary to safeguard their fundamental rights and well-being.

The research findings highlight the alarming prevalence of sexual violence, reported by 45% of respondents, followed by physical violence (30%), verbal abuse (15%), and discrimination (10%). These forms of mistreatment severely compromise their mental and physical health, trapping them in a cycle of trauma, marginalization, and poverty. For instance, a case respondent revealed experiencing physical violence at the hands of a powerful local figure, leading to long-term psychological trauma. Such testimonies underscore the urgent need for intervention to mitigate these abuses and foster a protective environment for these children.

A critical observation from the study is the diverse range of perpetrators involved in inflicting violence on street children. These include relatives (43%), local authorities (31%), peers (18%), and other individuals (8%). The role of poverty, substance addiction, societal neglect, and lack of legal protections further exacerbates the plight of these children. The power dynamics in urban environments, where local influential figures exploit these vulnerable individuals, further compound the issue. A study by (Koehlmoos et al., 2009b) also identified law enforcement officials and local miscreants as significant perpetrators of harassment, particularly targeting female street children.

The qualitative analysis further reveals how the absence of resources and legal safeguards amplifies the vulnerability of street children. One respondent noted the systemic discrimination that denies street children access to government support systems, including education, healthcare, and social safety nets. These gaps in institutional support perpetuate their marginalized status, reinforcing the conditions that allow violence and harassment to thrive.

Moreover, the impact of these abuses on mental and physical health is profound. Many children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression due to prolonged exposure to violence. A statistical analysis showed that 83% of respondents reported adverse effects on their well-being, with 38% significantly affected. This aligns with the findings of (Kaiser & Sinanan, 2020b), which highlighted the long-term psychological toll on street children exposed to violence and sexual exploitation.

Addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach. Strengthening legal protections, ensuring access to healthcare and counseling services, and raising public awareness about the plight of street children are essential steps. Establishing specialized shelters and rehabilitation programs can provide a safe space for these children, while collaborative efforts between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities are vital to addressing root causes. The importance of these measures is echoed in research by (Hulme & Conticini, 2006b), which emphasized the need for targeted interventions to break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

This study contributes to a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by street children in Cumilla and Chattogram. It underscores the necessity for tailored interventions that address their specific vulnerabilities, aiming to create an equitable society where children, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive. By integrating these findings into actionable policy and community-based strategies, stakeholders can work towards a safer and more inclusive future for these marginalized populations.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Zahedul Islam: Writing: original draft, Formal analysis, Conceptualization, and Formatting.

Md Tajul Islam: Writing: Methodology, Discussion of the result and collecting primary and secondary data.

Monia Akter: Writing: introduction, literature review and collecting primary and secondary data.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that there has no competing of interests.

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9. Conclusion:

The findings of this study shed light on the grim reality faced by street children in Cumilla City Corporation (Comilla CC) and Chattogram City Corporation (Chattogram CC), Bangladesh. Despite constitutional provisions ensuring equality and protection, these vulnerable children continue to be subjected to various forms of violence and harassment on a daily basis. From physical abuse to sexual violence, verbal harassment, and discrimination, their experiences paint a distressing picture of their lives on the streets. One of the key insights from this research is the prevalence of sexual violence among street children, highlighting a particularly alarming aspect of their vulnerability. Additionally, the study reveals the diverse range of perpetrators; including relatives, local governments, individuals, and organizations, further compounding the challenges faced by these children. The impact of this violence and harassment on the physical and mental well-being of street children cannot be understated. From minor injuries to severe trauma, PTSD, anxiety, and depression, these children endure significant hardships that impede their development and perpetuate a cycle of poverty and marginalization. In light of these findings, it is imperative that immediate action be taken to protect and support street children in Cumilla CC and Chattogram CC. Strengthening legal protections, providing accessible healthcare and counseling services, raising public awareness, and establishing specialized shelters are among the key recommendations put forth by this research.

Furthermore, collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and communities is crucial in addressing the root causes of violence and harassment while promoting the rights and well-being of street children. Equal distribution of government benefits and opportunities is also essential to

ensuring the inclusion and empowerment of these marginalized children. Overall, this study underscores the urgent need for comprehensive interventions and policy measures to address the plight of street children in Cumilla CC and Chattogram CC. By prioritizing their protection and support, we can work towards creating a safer and more equitable society for all children, regardless of their circumstances.

CAPCDR 8th CONFERENCE

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