

Paper Title: Drug Addiction Among Street Children: A Case Study of Dhaka City

Abstract: Drug addiction among Street Children (SC), similar to many developing countries, is a growing problem in the urban life of Bangladesh. Wryly, till today this issue had been interpreted as an outcome of income poverty and the hidden reality of SC's life has been overshadowed under the guise of euphemistic term 'Pathokoli' (flower of street). Therefore, in many cases, their absence in the public and social policy has become common. This study, in pursuit of exploring the realities of the life of SC that contribute to drug addiction sought answers beyond the conventional stereotype regarding them: how they came to the street and what types of problems they face as well as opportunities they get which instigate them to take drug etc. have been explored in this study. In the process of exploring their realities, this study employed qualitative research method with semi-structured questionnaire and in-depth interview. It analyzed different issues and role of different actors to understand the causes and consequences of drug addiction among SC. This study also explored conflicts and contradictions of actors, ideas and realities for this sake. At the end, this study came up with the conclusion that drug addiction among SC, besides income poverty, is an out outcome of multifaceted issues consisting broken family, bad parenting, street sub-culture etc.