



**Factors affecting the success
rate of rehabilitation & reintegration
of children in street situations (CSS)
in the society**

Thesis

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in Pediatrics***

By

Nardine Fathy Fouad Nakhla

M.B., B.Ch.

Under Supervision of

Prof. Dr. Hanna Mohammed Aboulghar

Professor of Pediatrics and neonatology

Faculty of Medicine - Cairo University

A.Prof. Dr. Osama Refaat Ibrahim

Assistant professor of Psychiatry

Faculty of Medicine - Cairo University

Dr. Carlyne Morcos Ibrahim

Lecturer of Pediatrics and pediatric hepatology

Faculty of Medicine - Cairo University

**Cairo University
Faculty of Medicine
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LIST OF CONTENTS

LIST OF CONTENTS	III
LIST OF TABLES	V
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	IX
ABSTRACT	XI
INTRODUCTION	12
AIM OF THE WORK	14
CHAPTER 1	15
CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION	15
DEFINITION:	15
PREVALENCE OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION:	19
II- ASIA:	25
III-EUROPE	27
IV-AMERICAS	28
CHAPTER 2	29
PROBLEMS OF STREET CHILDREN	29
REASONS FOR BEING ON THE STREET:	29
COMMON DISORDERS AFFECTING CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION:	34
CHILD ABUSE	34
PHYSICAL ABUSE	41
NEGLECT	55
SEXUAL ABUSE	64
SEXUAL TRANSMITTED DISEASES	69
PREGNANCY AMONG HOMELESS YOUTH	72
NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS AMONG HOMELESS CHILDREN	73
PHYSICAL HEALTH OF HOMELESS CHILDREN	77
MENTAL HEALTH OF HOMELESS CHILDREN	81
POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER	86
DEPRESSION	88
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG STREET CHILDREN	90
HOW HOMELESS POPULATION DEAL WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND ILLNESS?	93

CHAPTER 3	97
IMPULSIVITY	97
THE PATHO-PHYSIOLOGY OF IMPULSIVITY:	99
THEORIES OF IMPULSIVITY:	101
ASSESSMENT OF IMPULSIVITY:	105
SUBJECTS AND METHODS	113
RESULTS	118
DISCUSSION	144
CONCLUSION	170
RECOMMENDATIONS	172
SUMMARY	174
REFERENCES	178
APPENDIX	217

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 a: Sex Of The CSS Group Included In the Study:	119
Table 2 a: Age Of The CSS Group Included In the Study:	119
Table 1 b : Sex of The Control Group Included In the Study:	120
Table 2 b: Age Of The Control Group Included In the Study:	120
Table 3: The Age Of First Time At Street Situation Among The CSS Group:	120
Table 4: The Reasons For Leaving Home Among The CSS Group:	121
Table 5: Comparison Between The CSS Group And The Control Group In The Enrolment In School:	122
Table 6: Comparison Between The CSS Group And The Control Group In The Number Of Years Of Stay In School:	122
Table 7: The Duration Of Stay In Shelters Among The CSS Group:	123
Table 8: The Previous Runaway From Shelters:	123
Table 9: The Reasons Of The Runaway From Shelters:	123
Table 10: Comparison Between The CSS Group And The Control Group In Substance abuse/ Habituation:	124
Table 11: The Number Of Times Of The Use Of The Nicotinic And Other Substances Through The Last 3 Months Among The CSS And Control Group:	125
Table 12: Prevalence Of Different Physical Diseases Among The CSS And Control Groups In The Last 6 Months:	126
Table 13: Gynecological Diseases Among Females Of The Studied Groups:	127
Table 14: Distribution Of Subjects Among SDQ Scales' Categories:	128
Table 15: Distribution of the CSS group according to gender Among SDQ Scales' Categories:	129
Table 16: Perceived Difficulties Among The Studied Groups:	129
Table 17: Perceived Difficulties In The CSS Group According to Gender:	130
Table 18: Duration of difficulties among the studied groups:	131
Table 19: Duration Of Difficulties In The CSS Group According To Gender:	131
Table 20: Distress Among The Studied Groups:	132
Table 21: Distress In The CSS Group According To Gender:	132
Table 22: Causes Burdens On Caregivers And Peers Among The Studied Groups:	133

Table 23: Causes Burdens On Caregivers And Peers Among The CSS Group According To Gender:	133
Table 24: Distribution Of Subjects Among CTQ Scales' Categories:	134
Table 25: Distribution Of The CSS Group According To Gender Among CTQ Scales' Categories:	135
Table 26: Distribution Of Subjects Among UPPS Scales' Categories:	136
Table 27: Distribution Of The CSS Group According To Gender Among UPPS Scales' Categories:	137
Table 28: Correlation Between Leaving The Shelters And Impulsiveness:	137
Table 29: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Emotional Symptoms Of The SDQ Among The CSS Group:	138
Table 30: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Conduct Problems Of The SDQ Among The CSS Group:	139
Table 31: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Hyperactivity Symptoms Of The SDQ Among The CSS Group:	139
Table 32: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Peer Problems Of The SDQ Among The CSS Group:	140
Table 33: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Peer Problems Of The SDQ Among The CSS Group:	140
Table 34: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Emotional Abuse Of The CTQ Among The CSS Group:	141
Table 35: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Physical Abuse Of The CTQ Among The CSS Group:	141
Table 36: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Physical Abuse Of The CTQ Among The CSS Group:	142
Table 37: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Emotional Neglect Of The CTQ Among The CSS Group:	142
Table 38: Correlation Between Each Scale Of The UPPS Categories And The Physical Neglect Of The CTQ Among The CSS Group:	143

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Education level among street children (IOM, 2011).....	21
Figure 2: trafficking among street children (IOM, 2011).	22
Figure 3: Percentage of persons living in poverty, 1996-2009 (UNICEF, 2010).....	30
Figure 4: Types of child abuse:.....	37
Figure 5:US Maltreatment Trends, 1990-2013	38
Figure 6: Ecological model for understanding violence (Medscape, 2015)	39
Figure 7: Overlap of child maltreatment and domestic violence (Medscape, 2015)	41
Figure 8: Radiograph of old radius and ulna fracture in child with slap mark (Belfer et al., 2001)	43
Figure 9: Buckle fracture of distal femur without healing and 2-week follow-up film with sclerotic fracture line and periosteal new bone healing (Medscape, 2015)	43
Figure 10: Corner fractures or bucket handle fractures (Medscape, 2015)	44
Figure 11: Chest radiography of a 2-month-old baby shows multiple bilateral rib fractures of different ages.	45
Figure 12: Common anatomic sites of abusive versus accidental bruising. (Kos and Shwayder, 2006).	47
Figure 13: When a child is forcibly submersed in a flexed position (A), the ‘zebra stripe’ scald pattern (B) or ‘doughnut whole’ sparing over the buttocks (C) (Kos and Shwayder, 2006).	48
Figure 14: Pattern burn inflicted with a steam iron on the back of an infant (Kos and Shwayder, 2006).	49
Figure 15: Cigarette burn (Kos and Shwayder, 2006)	50
Figure 16: Examples of inflicted trauma (Swerdlin et al., 2007).....	51
Figure 17: The left one showing subdural hematoma and ipsilateral cerebral edema. The right one showing scalp contusion, epidural hematoma and mild focal cerebral edema from focal trauma to right frontal area (Christian et al., 2009).	54
Figure 18: Homeless children are many times more likely to experience health problems (Hart-Shegos, 1999).	77

Figure 19: common skin problems in homeless people (fungal infection, ischemic problems, scabies infection) (BBC, 2001; Raoult et al., 2001).	80
Figure 20: Percentage of homeless children with emotional problems compared with other school age children (Hart-Shegos, 1999).	83
Figure 21: PTSD symptoms (Capaldi et al., 2010).....	87
Figure 22: Layout of Eysenck's conceptualization of impulsivity (Whiteside et al., 2005).	105
Figure 23: The different components of impulsivity according to Barratt (Whiteside et al., 2005).	106
Figure 24: The Percentage Between The different Reasons For Leaving Home In CSS Group	121
Figure 25: percentage of the reasons of the runaway from shelters	124
Figure 26: the percentage of substances abuse/ habituation among CSS and control groups.....	125

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

5-CSRTT	Five-choice serial-reaction time task
5-HT	5-hydroxytryptamine
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
AHT	Abusive head trauma
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARYS	At Risk Youth Study
BCHOHS	British Columbia Health of the Homeless Study
BCSS	British Columbia Schizophrenia Society
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CNS	Central nervous system
CPCS	Child Protection Centers and Services
CSC	Consortium for Street Children
CSF 5-HIAA	Cerebrospinal fluid 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid
CSPM	Center of Social and Preventive Medicine
CSS	Children in street situation
CTQ	Childhood Trauma Questionnaire
DRL	daytime running light
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	Human papilloma virus
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
IEPS	Individualized Education Plans
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness.
NCCAN	National center for child abuse and neglect
NEO-PI-R	NEO- Personality Inventory – revised
NGOs	Non- governmental organizations
NSCR	National Center for Social and Criminological Research
PFC	prefrontal cortex
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
PTSD	Posttraumatic stress disorder
RSA	Rapid Situation Assessment
SBS	Shaken baby syndrome
SDQ	Strength and difficulty questionnaire

SES	Socioeconomic status
STDs	sexually transmitted diseases
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
UK	United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
UNICEF	United Nations children's emergency fund
UPPS	Urgency, (lack of) Premeditation, (lack of) Perseverance, sensation seeking
US	United States
WHO	World health organization

ABSTRACT

Aim of the work: to study the physical and psychiatric aspects of children in street situation (CSS) and to identify the factors that influence the decision of these street youth to run-away from rehabilitation homes. To study the impulsivity factor and to correlate between the impulsiveness and the run-away behavior among these street youth from rehabilitation homes. Also to correlate between the impulsiveness and the behavioral difficulties and the history of childhood maltreatment among the CSS.

Subjects and methods: This is a case–control study that included 100 street youth, 90 females and 10 males, aged 12 -16 years and 100 children, as a control group from both sexes with an age range (12-16 years old). All cases and controls underwent full physical examination, and the psychological evaluation was done by the arabic version of the impulsivity behaviors scale (UPPS) and the strenghts and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) and the childhood trauma questionnaire (CTQ).

Results: The group of street children who did run away before from rehabilitation homes scored higher in all the UPPS scales' categories (urgency, lack of premeditation and lack of perseverance) except for sensation seeking, in comparison to the group who did not run away before.

Conclusion: there is correlation between the impact of the impulsivity factor and these street children's behavior and decision to live in rehabilitation homes or the run-away from them. There is also a correlation between impulsive personality and the behavioral difficulties and the history of childhood trauma among CSS.

Key words: Children in street situation, impulsivity, rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

As the world is going through a rapid growth of urbanization, street children are seen as one of the bi-product of this complex, contemporary urban environment, which poses one of the most serious global challenges. Once seen as a problem of the developing countries, now it has become an international issue and the increasing number of children in the street seems to have connection with globalization (**Gurung et al., 2013**).

Various intervention programs have been implemented to rehabilitate these children, however, there has been little notable change in street children's lives, situation and numbers, even after so much work has been done for them, still the number of these children is more on the street than in residential homes with dropout rates of the children from the residential homes apparently high with preference to live in the streets. This is an indicator of the failure of effectiveness of the existing rehabilitation programs (**Gurung et al., 2013**).

Running away is an alarming social problem among youth in the general population as well as among youth in care. Running away raises special issues regarding young people in care. It not only places them in the path of potential adverse outcomes, such as, victimization, crime, engagement in prostitution, sleeping on the streets, substance abuse, depression and detachment from school, but it also disrupts, and sometimes ends, the treatment process that was aimed at rehabilitation and provision of healthy ways to cope with stressful situations. It can prevent young people from receiving proper education, health care and other vital services. It might also increase the risk of young people returning to abusive parents (**Attar-Schwartz, 2013**).

Understanding the factors that contribute to runaway behavior among youth in care is necessary to improve prevention efforts and respond more effectively (**Attar-Schwartz, 2013**).

Impulsivity is a key concept for psychopathological states, especially among teenagers. Indeed, several problematic behaviors that arise during this period are associated with higher levels of impulsivity. For instance, a high score for impulsiveness in early adolescence, predicts problem gambling in late adolescence. Also, other aspects of impulsivity, increase the probability of antisocial behavior. Sensation seeking is related to sexual risk-taking and to risky behavior in general. Sensation seeking is more strongly correlated with positive risk-taking (sports, initiating social interaction, etc.), and that lack of deliberation, is more strongly correlated with negative risk-taking (unprotected sex, drug consumption, shoplifting, etc.). Thus, several personality traits related to impulsivity are strong predictors of problematic behavior in adolescence. The result is that it is difficult to assert which aspect of impulsivity is predictive of a given type of problematic behavior in adolescence (**D'Acremont and Van der, 2005**).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this work is to study the physical and psychiatric aspects of children in street situation (CSS) and to identify the factors that influence the decision of these street children to live in rehabilitation homes or to run-away from them. We will study the impulsivity factor and its impact on the street children's decision and behavior, to correlate between the impulsiveness and the run-away behavior among these street children from rehabilitation homes. We will search the correlation between impulsive personality and the behavioral difficulties and the history of childhood trauma among CSS. We will compare the results with a group of children, both sexes, with an age range (12-16 years old).

CHAPTER 1

CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION

Definition:

One of the major problems researchers often face when studying street children is the different definitions used to describe the phenomenon. Some definitions are suggested by international organizations while others are adopted by national agencies.

According to the United Nation in 1985, a street child is “a girl or a boy (under 18) for whom the street has become his or her abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults”.

However, due to the ambiguity of terms such as “inadequately protected” and the fact that street children often live in groups sometimes directed and protected by responsible adults, the need for a new definition emerged.

The second proposed definition was presented by UNICEF in 1986. The organization suggested that the term “street children” is used to designate two categories of children. The first, which UNICEF called “children on the street”, referred to those children who work in the street during the day and often return home to their families at night. The second category, “children of the street”, referred to those who work and live in the streets and maintain minimal ties with their families but essentially live on their own. Nonetheless, this distinction was seriously criticized by several researches and social workers who found that the situation of many children does not fit easily into either category.