



**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 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 strengths 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.