

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SOCIALIZATION OF THE CHILD GROWING UP IN A SLUM ENVIRONMENT AS A CRIMINAL

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Due to the proliferation of slum dwellers in Sri Lanka's commercial capital city of Colombo, they have been a decisive factor in shaping a distinct social profile. These slum lifestyles, which are associated with the people's lives in Colombo city, which shows a very advanced and complex system of settlement, have definitely become a sub-culture due to its unique characteristics. Children living in slums are an important part of focusing on slum dwellers. These children show more criminal behavior. But it was seen that there is a gap in society as well as in the field of research on crime and slum children. Therefore, the present research was used as the research problem to find out what are the factors that influence the socialization of most of the children as criminals in the slums of Grandpass and Modara areas of Colombo city. The objectives of this research are to identify the impact of the slum environment on the mental state of the child, the educational status of the slum children, the economic status of the slum dwellers and the various needs of the children. Data were collected by conducting a questionnaire and interviews under random sampling to 100 households in Grandpass and Modara areas of Colombo city. Data related to the research was analyzed through quantitative and qualitative analysis using primary and secondary sources as research methodology. The educational status of 60% children in the sample is poor. According to the sample, the economic level of all slum dwellers is low. For that reason, children use inappropriate methods to find money for their basic needs. 20% of the sample was found to be using drugs under various needs. Evidences were also found that methods such as pick pocketing and selling drugs are used for the purpose of finding money due to drug addiction. Thus, it was concluded that the slum dwellers are motivated to imitate the deviant people in that area and the educational level is weak, they are addicted to the use of drugs and they consider inappropriate things as their basic needs, and the criminal behavior has been formed in the children. It can be suggested to create programs to improve the educational level of slum dwellers, educate children about drug prevention and recommend counseling services, create new job opportunities in the government or private sector to uplift the economic status of slum dwellers.

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