

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, MANILA
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An Exploratory Study of Street Children Involved
in Prostitution and Petty Crimes

A Thesis Submitted to:

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APPROVAL SHEET

In partial fulfillment of the course requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies, this undergraduate thesis entitled: An Exploratory Study of Street Children Involved in Prostitution and Petty Crimes, has been proposed and submitted by Zandro F. Tiangco.

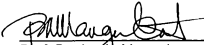
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ABSTRACT

Street children are perennial problems in major urban areas of the country. This thesis is an exploratory study of the socio-economic conditions and other factors that prompted these street children to engage in prostitution and petty crimes. Interviews with them on the streets and in drop-in centers provide first hand information of their insights. The discussion in the succeeding chapters of this thesis traces the root cause of their involvement in prostitution and petty crimes from their need to survive. Both the economic and social factors observed are presented in this paper.

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CHAPTER I

THESIS PROPOSAL

I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Street children are common site to most of us living in the cities and other urban areas. They are those who frequent the streets, begging and "working" for a living. These street children are thus exposed to risk factors in the streets, at their very young age, affecting both their physical and psychosocial development.

The problem with street children has been a long-standing issue. Despite an increasing number of agencies and non-government organizations concerned, the population of street children has been increasing at an alarming rate. From 1970s and 1980s their presence had already been felt. Today there are some 1.2 million street children in major cities and other urban areas of the country. In Metro Manila alone, there are 75,000 reported numbers of street children.

The researcher noted the importance of this study considering that these neglected or forsaken youths will form a part of the future adults of our society. Also, it should be noted that the problem with street children would form a part of the future adults of our society. Also it should be noted that the problem with street children is a manifestation of a larger social problem, which is poverty. We need to

emphasize this since their potential contribution would have great influence in developing our nation in the long run.

This study aims to address some of the issues involved in the growing population of street children. Although many articles or accounts were written on the subject the researcher will focus his study on street children involved or engaging in prostitution and petty crimes. It hopes to determine at least some socio-economic (or even political) conditions that prompted the subject to engage in such activities. It will present the perspective of the subjects themselves, who are presently in the streets: as well as resource personnel handling street children. Both the streets and the nearby centers will be the venue of this study; the former though will be given primary importance.

The study hopes to answer the following specific questions:

- A. What are the contributory factors (socio-economic) that incited street children to enter into the activity of prostitution and petty crimes (such as picking pockets and snatching)?
- B. What is the common age bracket of street children who participate in prostitution? In petty crimes?

- C. Which sex of street children is more commonly involved in prostitution? In petty crimes?
- D. How do street children perceive their present involvement in prostitution and petty crimes?

II. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

- A. **Street Children** – refers to persons below eighteen who work or beg in the streets to earn a living.
- B. **Prostitution** – refers to sexual relations carried-out in exchange for payment of cash or any material benefit.
- C. **Petty crime** – refers to a small offense such as picking pockets, snatching and the like, punishable by law.
- D. **Child abuse** – according to Republic Act 7610, Article 1 Sec. 3b, it refers to the maltreatment, whether habitual or not, of the child which includes the following:
 - 1. Psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment;

2. Any act by deeds or words which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of the child as human being;
 3. Unreasonable deprivation of his basic needs for survival, such as food and shelter; or
 4. Failure to give medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his growth and development or in his incapacity or death.
- E. **Social worker** – refers to a person who works in centers or agencies which interacts with street children and deals with their related problems.
- F. **Pedophile** – refers to a person who engages in sex and derives sexual gratification with children.

III. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The study used the framework of historical materialism. The use of this theory focused at the material basis of the issue, in this case, socio-economic issue: and on the problems emerging from the relations of the social classes, as determined by economic conditions.

The problem of street children engaging in prostitution and petty crimes is deemed as part a larger contradiction in society – the contradiction between those who have the property and those who do not have, as determined by material objects. Being part of the impoverished sector, which owns no property, street children are compelled to enter into such social relations to have economic gains for survival. It also noted poverty as a connecting element between the problems of street children and the theory of class antagonism in society. Also, since the theory infers that the economy is the primary determinant in a system existing in a society, the study gave emphasis on the economic factors or the material conditions that have driven the street children to engage in such activities. Also in this context, how they ended-up as engaging in prostitution and petty crimes was analyzed as a course determined by their socio-economic status.

IV. FORMULATION OF HYPOTHESES

The following statements are the hypotheses of this study:

- A. The primary factor in the involvement of street children in prostitution and petty crimes are poverty. And engaging in such

activities will earn them income for their daily needs.

- B. A petty crime or prostitution is carried-out by a street child with the influence or control of a syndicate or a larger group of street children where he associates himself, and that he does not carry such activity (prostitution or petty crime) alone.
- C. Male street children involved in petty crimes such as picking pockets and snatching are relatively higher as compared to female street children.
- D. Female street children involved in prostitution are relatively higher as compared to male street children.

V. METHODOLOGY

The study of street children involved in prostitution and petty crimes involved the use of both the primary and secondary materials. Primary materials were gathered through interviews with street children who work and live in the street at the time of the study and those who are housed in the nearby centers. Personal accounts and observations were also done, through interaction with the street children, to complement and verify the results of interviews. Social workers and

resource personnel of non-government organizations or other agencies that deal with the problem of street children and/or houses the street children in the nearby centers were also interviewed. The use of secondary materials was also used to substantiate interviews and observations. Such secondary materials included books, newspaper clippings, articles from magazines and journals, statistics, and public legal documents from the government.

ADMINISTRATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Questionnaires were given to street children when they were most available and accommodating. It was written in simple Filipino language to facilitate smooth interpersonal communications. The bulk of questionnaires were administered to street children working or living in the street at the time of the study. It was important not to give formal questionnaires or recorded conversations, as much as possible, in order to keep the respondents at ease or free to open up. Nevertheless, whenever possible, formatted questionnaires were administered to street children who lived or worked in the street at the time of the study.

Formal interviews with street children housed in nearby centers were also done.

INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONNEL

Formal interviews were given to the following personnel who have backgrounds on the study:

- A. The Coordinator of the National Project for Street Children at Department of Social Welfare and Development
- B. The Chairman of the Psychiatry Department at the Philippine General Hospital and the author of the book Resiliency
- C. The Director of Kanlungan sa Er-Ma, a drop-in center located in the area of study.
- D. The social worker and alternative education officer of Kanlungan sa Er-Ma.
- E. The staffs of the Sun for All Children drop-in center, which conducts field works in the Luneta and Taft area.

RESPONDENTS

Respondents were selected through random sampling. These respondents came from both the streets and centers. Their age bracket

was limited from eight (8) to eighteen years (18) years old taking into consideration that it is easier to interact and communicate with street children of this age. The study employed fifty (50) street children, thirty (30) of which were street-based and the remaining twenty (20) were center-based.

VI. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. According to Dr. Emma Porio in her evaluation of the National Project for Street Children:

"...majority (75%) of them (street children) were working to help support their families and often goes home to their parents and communities. Thus, they were in the streets because of the socio-economic disadvantages of their families and communities. Twenty percent did not have families to go home to or their families did not particularly care for them. Around one-third of the children were often exposed to the crisis of sexual abuse, street violence, and crime syndicates with about one-third of the children interviewed in the streets admitted to solvent sniffing at some points in their street career. About one-fifth admitted to having engaged in petty crimes such as pilfering, snatching purses and thieving while in the tourist belt areas, about one-fifth of the girls and one-fourth of the boys admitted to having engaged in commercial sex."

2. Bismark, 1991.

" The evil of prostitution is becomes all the more intense when one considers that its victims are innocent young lives who have no choice or ability to defend themselves. In a more despicable circumstances, these children are goaded by their parents who look at their offsprings not as images of God, but as mere meal tickets day after day....

Like their older counterparts, child prostitution expose young victims to venereal and other kinds of sexual diseases. Since theirs is an unsanitary, unhealthy lifestyle, child prostitutes are prone to malnourishment. Pimps and sadistic clients who inflict physical harm on them make these children suffer from such psychological problems as low self-esteem and distrust of adults."

3. Bateria, 1986.

" Street children is the term social workers apply to the young boys and girls cited above and to all children (ages 8 to 18) who work in the streets of urban areas who are inadequately protected and supervised by responsible adults. ...

Who are these children? They are the ten million Filipino children (1985 figures) who have become victims of armed conflicts (like those arrested or detained; tortured or manhandled; wounded or mutilated; raped; disappeared, etc.); children of tribal communities (they suffer when they are separated from their ancestral lands); children threatened with exploitation: child workers in urban areas; and disabled children.

VII. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Two venues were used in the study of street children. One is street-based and the other one is center-based. Street-based study was located in Luneta area and some parts of Taft Avenue near the Luneta area. Center-based study was conducted at the two nearby centers housing street children, namely: the Cathedral-of-Praise Drop-in Center and the Manila Youth Reception Center.

The age bracket of street children that was used in the study ranged from eight (8) to eighteen (18) years old only.

Because of limited time and resources, the study only employed fifty (50) street children, thirty (30) of which were street-based and the remaining twenty (20) were center-based.

VIII. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

This particular study of street children engaged in prostitution and petty crimes will have significant contributions in the thorough study of the numerous problems of street children. It will also help legislation on how to deliver effective programs and implement government policies by opening-up the real scenario of street children. Furthermore,

with the height of legislators and media discussions of children abused and exploited, street children will also be given important consideration, noting that the abuse and exploitation is not confined in homes and formal labor sector of society.

Government and non-government organizations and agencies dealing with street children and children in general will have significant inputs from this study.

CHAPTER II BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The presence of street children is a long-observed social phenomenon in urban areas. Most of the times, they can be seen in the streets, working or begging, to augment their families' meager income and even for their own survival.

The 1992 figure of a study conducted by the national government in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) puts the estimated population of street children at 1.5 million. Furthermore, it was estimated that about eighty percent of these street children were working. Some of their works includes vending, attending car parks, scavenging, and other menial jobs. Because of the adverse conditions and influences in the streets, street children are introduced to substance abuse and other illegal activities such as prostitution and petty crimes. Though efforts were made by the national government, non-governmental organizations and other sectors concerned, to curb the growing problem of street children, the present situation of these street children is still growing worse. Thus, it is still worthy of study and concern. Because of the worsening economic situation of the country,

and the increase in the marginalized sectors of our society, the number of street children is growing at a proportional rate.

The researcher focused its study on the problems concerning street children and their activities. Specifically, it is focused on the exploratory study of street children involved in prostitution and petty crimes. The researcher noted the high risk involved in this kind of activity and the various issues concerning confronting these children.

The place of study was conducted along some parts of Taft Avenue and in the Luneta area, a known tourist spot in Metro Manila. The researcher confined his observation and study in these areas because there is an adequate number of street children and street children activities that can be observed and studied. The presence of street children in these areas can also be monitored through the several drop-in centers and orphanages which serves the needs of street children.

Taft Avenue is one of the busiest place where various colleges and universities are located. Commercial establishments are also present in this area. Here one can observe a lot of street children scattered around and some conducting petty criminal activities,

victimizing mostly students. Luneta area, on the other hand, is a known tourist spot where both local and foreign tourists visit. Street children also abound in this place. Studies have pointed out that street children conduct prostitution activities in this place.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF DATA

CHAPTER III PRESENTATION OF DATA

A total of 50 street children were taken from both the streets and the nearby centers as respondents on the study. Among the respondents, 30 street children were interviewed while they were on the streets. The remaining 20 respondents were interviewed at two nearby centers located in the place of study.

The number of respondents belonging to their respective age group are as follows: one 8 years old, one 9 years old, three 10 years old, two 11 years old, five 12 years old, eight 13 years old, six 14 years old, eleven 15 years old, seven 16 years old, three 17 years old and three 18 years old.

Of the total number of students, thirty-six were males and fourteen were females.

With regards to the family backgrounds of these respondents, almost all of their parents have a very low income and unstable jobs. According to the respondents, their fathers' works includes the following: truck, tricycle and pedicab driving, vending, carpentry and construction work, garbage collecting, plumbing, assisting as baggage

boy, key and watch repairing, attending parking lots, truck mechanic, house painting, and doing security and police work. Thirteen respondents have mentioned that their fathers don't have work. Six were engaged in pedicab driving, and three were engaged in plumbing. The rest of the respondents' fathers have jobs mentioned earlier.

With regards to their mothers' respective jobs, thirty one respondents says their mothers don't have jobs or were just plain housewives, ten respondents have said their mothers do a laundry job. The rest of the respondents' mothers have the following jobs: garbage collecting, yakult vending, sewing or tailoring, attending a sari-sari store and doing a manicure job.

With regards to the number of siblings they have, 26 respondents have at most five siblings, 14 have six to eight siblings, and only 2 respondents have more than eight siblings. Eight of the respondents have undetermined number of siblings.

When asked how many child members in the family were currently enrolled in school, 13 said that all of them were studying, 9 have said that only one out of the total number of children was not studying, 4 have said that two out of the total number of children were

not studying, 4 have said that three out of the total number of children were not studying, 10 have said that four out of the total number of children were not studying, 2 have said that five out of the total number of children weren't studying, 2 have said that six out of the total number of children were not studying, and lastly, 2 have said that eight in the family were not studying. Four respondents were not sure about whether their siblings were studying or not.

When asked regarding their educational background, there were 4 respondents who said that they were able to reach high school and there were 44 who said that they only reached elementary grade. Among those who reached high school level, 3 were able to reach first year level; and 1 was able to reach fourth year level. Among those who reached elementary grade, 6 respondents reached grade six level; 2 respondents reached grade five level; 5 respondents reached grade four level; 4 respondents reached grade three level; 8 respondents reached grade two level; and lastly 6 respondents reached grade one level. There were three respondents who only reached kindergarten level while there were two respondents who never had schooling in their entire life.

Out of the total number respondents interviewed from both the streets and the centers, there were 31 respondents who were involved in prostitution and 29 respondents who were involved in petty crimes. There were 10 respondents who were both involved in prostitution and petty crimes, at least once in their life as street children.

Among the thirty one respondents involved in prostitution, 20 were males and 11 were females. The range of ages of those involved in prostitution are presented in the table:

<i>AGE BRACKET</i>	<i>FREQUENCY</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)*</i>
8 – 9	2	6
10- 12	8	26
13- 15	13	42
16- 18	<u>8</u>	<u>26</u>
	31	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

Among the twenty nine respondents involved in petty crimes, 26 were males and only 3 were females. The range of ages of those involved in petty crimes are presented in the table below:

<i>AGE BRACKET</i>	<i>FREQUENCY</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)*</i>
8 – 9	0	6
10- 12	4	26
13- 15	18	42
16- 18	<u>7</u>	<u>26</u>
	29	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

When asked regarding the starting age of the street children's' prostitution activities, there were 5 respondents who started at age six; 2 respondents started at age seven; 3 respondents started at age eight; 3 respondents started at age eleven; 6 respondents started at age twelve; 8 respondents started at age thirteen; and 3 respondents have started at age fifteen. There was one respondent who cannot remember his age when he first did such activity.

The starting age of the respondents are presented in groups in the frequency table below:

<i>AGE GROUP</i>	<i>NO. OF RESPONSES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)*</i>
06 – 08	10	32
09 – 11	03	10
12 – 14	14	45
15 – 17	03	10
unknown*	<u>01</u>	<u>03</u>
	31	100

* Starting age of such activity cannot be recalled by the respondent.
Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

When asked regarding the starting age of the street children's petty criminal activities, there was one respondent who started at the age of nine; 3 respondents started at age ten; 3 respondents started at age eleven; 3 respondents started at age twelve; 3 respondents started at age thirteen; 5 respondents started at age fourteen; 6 respondents started at age fifteen; 3 respondents started at age sixteen; and lastly , 2 respondents started at age seventeen.

<i>AGE GROUP</i>	<i>NO. OF RESPONSES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)*</i>
06 – 08	00	00
09 – 11	07	24
12 – 14	11	38
15 – 17	11	38
	<u>29</u>	<u>100</u>

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

On Prostitution

With regards to how these street children ended – up in prostitution activities, the following responses are presented in the table below:

Q2: *“Paano ka napasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho?”*

<i>RESPONSES</i>	<i>NO. OF RESPONSES</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)*</i>
a. Niyaya	17	55
b. Pinilit	00	00
c. Aksidental	06	19
d. Iba	03	10
e. Non-response	05	16
	<u>31</u>	<u>100</u>

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

Based on the interview, 55% of those who enter into prostitution were casually invited by the prospective customers or by peer groups. Most of these were males who were casually offered by customers for sexual favors in exchange for food or money. 19% of those who were asked for the same question said that their entry into prostitution work was accidental or was not intentional. These street children were deceived by strangers or adult peers (pimps), unaware of the real situation they were getting into. They are lured into prostitution activities with the promise of good money or because of benevolent and sympathetic attitude of their adult peers or their older street children showed them. After their first encounters with customers, they learn that they could earn an easy money out of such activity. 10% of the respondents involved in prostitution have other varied answers. These street children were entered into prostitution activities by deception and by force. These varied responses ranges from being drugged by an older peer and then finding oneself naked inside a motel room with a stranger; being introduced by an foster parent to a foreigner because their family was in need of cash and not knowing what she was getting into went with the foreigner, and lastly being able to rebel from her

family. These responses were all taken from female street children. 10% of the street children interviewed gave no answers. These children were either too shy or found it traumatic to disclose such activity.

The responses why street children engage into prostitution were varied. Being an open – ended question, street children gave different reasons why they engage in such activity. However, the researcher categorized the responses into four groups of responses. The table below shows the distribution of responses by the street children:

<i>Reasons for Engaging Into Prostitution</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%)*</i>
a. for fun, for “tripping”	03	10
b. for food and other necessities	12	39
c. for their vices and drug use	07	22
d. other reasons	05	16
e. non-response	<u>04</u>	<u>13</u>
	31	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

From the interviews conducted, 39% of those who engage in such activity did it for their survival in the streets. They engage in prostitution to acquire food and money for their other necessities. 3 respondents were doing it for "fun" and for pastime. 7 respondents said they were doing it to support their vices like gambling, picking prostitutes and drug abuse. And 5 respondents were doing it for reasons other than mentioned above. Some of the reasons cited were as follows: because she was raped; due to her traumatic experiences and other uncontrollable circumstances in the past; and because she's old enough to do such activity. There were 4 respondents who gave no response to the question.

When asked who influenced these street children to engage in such activity, the following were the responses of these street children: 4 respondents were influenced by their family members; 15 respondents were influenced by their peer groups or fellow street children; 9 respondents were self-motivated; and lastly 3 respondents gave no particular response. The table below shows the responses of street children:

<i>Influences of Street Children</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a. miyembro ng pamilya	04	14.28
b. kaibigan o kakilala	15	53.57
c. sariling desisyon	09	32.14
d. iba	00	00
e. non-response	03	

With regards to the amount these street children earn from prostitution activity, the researcher noted the wide range of responses and categorized the amount into four levels. The table below shows the responses of street children:

<i>Amount in Pesos (P)</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a. below 100	03	10
b. 100 to 500	19	61
c. >500 to 1000	02	06
d. >1000 to 5000	07	23
e. non-response	00	00

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Based from the above table, a large percentage of street children (64%) earn money ranging from one hundred pesos (P100) to five hundred pesos (P500). However, 23% of those who are engaged into prostitution were earning money ranging from one thousand pesos (P1,000) to five thousand pesos (P5,000). These earnings were mostly from foreign customers encounter on the streets. The remaining 10% and 6% came from those who earn below one hundred pesos (< P100) and those who earn greater than five hundred to one thousand pesos (> P500 to P1000), respectively.

When asked how do these street children spend their earnings from prostitution, 10 respondents said they spend their money on food; 9 respondents said they spend it on alcohol, drugs and other addictive substances; 4 respondents said they spend it on their vices; 4 respondents said they spend it on clothing; 4 respondents said they either give it or spend it for their family; 3 respondents said they spend it with their friends or peer groups; and lastly, 6 respondents gave other answers.

Those who spend their money on vices have mostly gambling for their activities. While the respondents who said they spend their money to their families were siblings who were being used by their parents to earn their family a living.

With those respondents who gave other answers, their expenditures includes the following activities or items: watching movies, which is a common activity to most of them; playing video games; going inside a motel with a fellow street children or with a hired prostitute; on personal things; and for their house rental.

Since the researcher would like to know how prevalent is the prostitution activity among street children, the respondents were asked as to how often they engage in such activity. The table below shows the responses of street children:

Q2: "Gaano kadalas mo ginagawa ang trabahong ito?"

<i>Frequency of Activity</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%)*</i>
a. Araw-araw	09	29
b. Minsan sa isang linggo	10	32

c. Bihira	o	
paminsan-minsan	07	23
d. Iba	04	13
e. non-response	01	03

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Based from the table, out of the 31 street children involved in prostitution, there were 9 respondents who said they do it everyday. These respondents are those who are totally dependent in the said activity as a source of livelihood or income.

There were 10 respondents who said they just do it on a weekly basis and not necessarily everyday. These children have other minor jobs or source of income. Some of these street children are studying, thus, prostitution activity were only conducted on weekends, as confessed by one of the respondents. Or, as stated by another respondent, they only do it whenever they see or encounter a "customer."

There were 7 respondents, on the other hand, who said that they just occasionally do it when the need arises. These respondents admitted doing it but not on a regular basis.

There were also 4 respondents who gave other answers. Though they admitted doing it, they said that they only do it whenever they just feel doing it. "Trip lang," is their most common answer. Some of these respondents go to known tourist spots with pedophiles.

There was 1 respondent who gave no answer.

With regards to those who admitted doing prostitution activity everyday, they were further asked how many times in a day do they carryout such activity.

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. 1-2 beses sa isang araw	05
b. 3-5 beses sa isang araw	03
c. higit sa limang beses sa isang araw	02

Half (5) of the respondents who admitted doing it everyday only carry out such activity once or twice a day. 3 of the respondents do it three to five times a day while there were 2 respondents who said they do it more than five times.

Those who admitted doing carrying out prostitution activities in a weekly basis were also asked how often in a week do they do it. The following were the noted responses of these street children.

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. isang beses sa isang lingo	03
b. 2-3 beses sa isang linggo	07
c. higit sa tatlong beses sa isang linggo	01

3 respondents said they only do it once a week, 7 respondents said they do it twice or thrice a week, and only 1 respondent said that he does it more than thrice a week.

Street children were also asked whether they have company, or whether they are alone, whenever they conduct prostitution activities. From the result of the interviews conducted, 25 respondents (81%) said that they did prostitution activity with the company of others. There were only 6 respondents (19% who said that they do it alone. It is also interesting to note that those who admitted being alone when conducting such activity were all males.

Those who admitted having company were further asked whom their company was when doing prostitution activity. 21 respondents (84%) said they were with the company of their fellow street children, friends, or peer groups. 4 respondents (16%), who were actually siblings, were with the company of their brothers or sister.

When they were asked as to how many people close to them, like their family or friends, were also involved in such activity, the street children gave different numbers of people they know. Being an open-ended question, the respondents gave varying answer. Thus, the researcher categorized these responses. The table below shows the varied responses of the street children:

<i>No. of Family/Friends Known To Be Involved in Prostitution</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. more than 10	04
b. 5 to 10	04
c. less than 5	10
d. none	06
e. non-response	07
	31

Out of the 31 street child prostitutes, there were 18 respondents who knew of, at least two, significant person that were also involved in prostitution. There were only 4 respondents who knew that their siblings were also involved. The rest of the respondents knew that their friends or peer group were also involved in such activity.

On the other hand, there were only 6 respondents who knew of no one that are involved in the same activity. Also, there were 7 respondents who did not give any response at all.

Because of the social implication of prostitution and the risk involved in such activity, street children were also asked about the problems they encounter. The researcher noted the possible problems that they might have encountered. The street children were given the following options: *nagkakasakit*; *binubugbog o minaltrato* (physical abuse); *ginahasa o rape*; *pinagamit ng bawal na gamot*; *aksidente*; *depresyon o sikolohikal na problema*; *o iba pa*.

From the interviews, most respondents gave more than one answer to the question and the following scores were recorded:

<i>Problems Encountered</i>	<i>Score</i>
• <i>nagkakasakit</i>	18

• hinuli ng pulis o nakulong	11
• binugbog o minaltrato	03
• ginahasa o rape	02
• pinagamit ng bawal na gamot	03
• aksidente	03
• nabuntis o nagdalantao	02
• depresyon o sikolohikal na problema	11
• Iba	09
• Non-response	10

From the scores that were gathered, the first of the three common problems encountered by street children is the contraction of diseases, mostly sexually transmitted ones. There were also cases of diseases acquired through drug use related to the sex trade.

Another problem they encounter is the arrest from police officers or barangay *tanods*. Most of these street children were arrested because of vagrancy. In the interviews conducted, there was even a street child who confesses of having been made to choose between paying her bail out or having sex with the police officer to secure her release.

Third from the list of problems encountered by street children are the depression and other psychological problems. Most of these children admitted having fears and nightmares due to the experiences they encounter from their work and from their lifestyle in general. To quote some of them, "Nalulungkot ako kasi natatakot ako baka magkaroon ako ng AIDS...", "...Natatakot ako na pandirihan ako ng tao," "Yong balang araw...bata ako...lagi akong kinukuha...pagtanda ko basta na lang ako itatapon...."

Other problems mentioned were physical abuse, rape, drug use, pregnancy and accidents. Though there were only around two or three respondents who mentioned such problems, it is still very important to note such problems.

There were also street children who gave other answers. Some said that they do not encounter any problems at all. Still, there were others who said that they cannot go home anymore because they'll be punished or scolded by their parents or relatives.

There were 6 street children who did not give any responses to the question.

On Petty Crimes

With regards to petty crimes, street children were also asked regarding the history of their involvement in such activity. They were asked how they ended-up in petty criminal activities. The following responses are presented in the table below:

Q2: "Paano ka napasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho?"

RESPONSES	NO. OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE (%)*
a. Niyaya	18	62
b. Pinilit	06	21
c. Aksidental	02	07
d. Iba	03	10
e. Non-response	00	00
	<u>29</u>	<u>100</u>

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

From the result of the interviews conducted, 62% of the street children involved in petty crimes were influenced by their peer groups or *barkada*. Most of these street children were also involved in the use of illegal drugs or other addictive substances. Thus, they are easily enticed by fellow street children to try such activity to earn them larger

amount of money. 21% of respondents were forced or were pressured into doing such activity. These involve street children who got involved into larger and more organized groups. Some of them were even beaten to make them do such activity. There was one street child who admitted being involved in a notorious criminal group, which conducts "professional" hold-upping activities. 7% of respondents got involved into petty criminal activities by accident. These street children associated themselves or were friends with a peer group who were involved in petty criminal activities. Since they were too high on drugs, oftentimes they get involved into trouble without being aware of what they were doing. 10% of respondents had other answers besides the options provided. Most of these children had an urgent need for cash, and do not know any other immediate source but to snatch or do picking pockets.

The reasons cited by street children involved in petty crimes were presented in six categories. First, 11 respondents said they did it so they could have money for their "recreational" activities such as watching movies or playing video games, or even hiring prostitutes and bringing them inside motels. Some say they did it for no particular

reason at all, and that they just happen to be with their friends who were involved in such petty criminal activities. 6 respondents said they did it so they could have some food to eat. Or, as another respondent had said, he wanted to help his friend who was sick. 3 of the respondents said they did it because they were forced to do such activities. These street children belong to an organized group of street children, or syndicate, where they were beaten if they did not do such activity. 6 respondents said they did it to support their vices and drug addiction. *Shabu* and solvent are the two most common substances that were abused by these children. 2 respondents had other answers. One admitted being attracted to it because of the large money they get, while the other one have said that he was confused with what was happening to his family and to his life.

There was one respondent who did not give any particular answer.

The table below presents the details of the responses gathered:

<i>Reasons for Engaging In Petty Crimes</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a for fun or recreational activities	11	38

b. for food and other necessities	06	21
c. forced or controlled by syndicate	03	10
d. for vices or drugs	06	21
e. others	02	07
f. non-response	01	03

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%.

<i>Influences of Street Children</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a. miyembro ng pamilya	03	10
b. kaibigan o kakilala	24	83
c. sariling desisyon	00	00
d. iba	02	07
e. non-response	00	00

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

The table above presents the data gathered when street children were asked who their influences were in doing petty criminal activities. 89% of the respondents (24) said their influences were their fellow

street children or peer groups involved in the activity. 3 respondents were influenced by a family member, such as a cousin or an older relative, involved in petty crimes. There was no street child though who confessed of having their parents as their influences in the activity. 2 respondents had other answers. According to them, their involvement into petty criminal activities were forced to them by the leader of the group, which they called "mayores." One of the respondents confessed of having been kidnapped by the syndicate and forcing him and other street children into doing petty criminal activities.

The earnings of street children involved in petty crimes are presented in the table below:

<i>Amount in Pesos (P)</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a. below 100 or equal to 100	03	12.5
b. >100 to 500	03	12.5
c. >500 to 1000	06	25.0
d. >1000 to 5000	09	37.5
e. >5000	03	12.5
f. non-response	05	

*Percentages were rounded to the nearest hundredths.

From the table above, the highest number of respondents (9) earning a larger sum of money from petty crimes, were from those bracket earning greater than one thousand pesos to five thousand pesos. Next, 6 respondents were earning an amount greater than five hundred up to one thousand pesos. The rest of the earning brackets, i.e., those earning from one hundred to equal to 100; from greater than one hundred to equal to five hundred; and from greater than five thousand pesos, have 3 respondents each, respectively. There were 5 respondents who gave no answer to the question.

When asked how do these street children spend their earnings from petty crimes, 13 respondents said they spend their money on food; 3 respondents said they spend it on clothing; 2 respondents said they spend it on their vices; 15 respondents said they spend it on alcohol, drugs and other addictive substances; 1 respondent said he spend it for food for his family; 5 respondents said they spend it with their fellow street children or peer groups; and lastly, 6 respondents gave other answers.

Those who spend their money on alcohol and drugs had mostly "shabu" and solvent. Other substances they admitted using were marijuana and cough syrup

Those who had other answers said they spend their money on playing video games, watching a movie, and hiring prostitutes and entering in motels.

Street children were also asked how often they engage in petty criminal activities. The table below shows the responses of street children:

Q2: *"Gaano kadalas mo ginagawa ang trabahong ito?"*

<i>Frequency of Activity</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>	<i>Percentage (%) *</i>
a. Araw-araw	15	52
b. Minsan sa isang linggo	12	41
c. Bihira o paminsan-minsan	00	00
d. Iba	00	00
e. non-response	02	07

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Based from the table below, 15 out of 29 street children involved in petty crimes, do snatching and picking pockets everyday. According to them, they did this from morning until evening, and whenever there were no police around.

On the other hand, 12 respondents admitted doing it in a weekly period. Some of them even admitted doing it in malls where there is a big crowd during weekends.

There were 2 respondents who gave no response at all.

With regards to those who admitted doing petty criminal activities everyday, they were further asked how many times on a day do they carry-out such activity.

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. 1-2 beses sa isang araw	03
b. 3-5 beses sa isang araw	04
c. higit sa limang beses sa isang araw	<u>08</u>
	15

8 of the respondents admitted doing it more than five times in a day. On the other hand, there were 4 respondents who admitted doing

it thrice or five times in a day. Only 3 respondents carryout such activity once or twice a day.

Those who admitted carrying-out petty criminal activities in a weekly basis were also asked how often in a week did they do it. The table below shows the result of such interview:

<i>Frequency</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. isang beses sa isang lingo	05
b. 2-3 beses sa isang linggo	06
c. higit sa tatlong beses sa isang linggo	01

5 respondents said they only do it once a week, 6 respondents said they do it twice or thrice a week, and only 1 respondent said that he does it more than thrice a week.

When these street children were asked whether they have company or none, in doing petty criminal activities, all of the respondents said yes. 26 respondents were with the company of their fellow street children or peer groups when doing such activity. Most of these street children act as look outs while a street child does snatching

or picking pockets. They operate with an average of around two to five members. 2 respondents were with the company of an adult member of a syndicate or with a fellow street child working in the same group. 1 respondent was with the company of his cousin whenever he does such activity.

They were also asked as to how many people close to them was also doing such activity. Being an open-ended question, the respondents gave different answers. The researcher categorized the responses and they are presented in the table below:

<i>No. of Family/Friends Known To Be Involved in Petty Crimes</i>	<i>No. of Responses</i>
a. more than 10	03
b. 5 to 10	11
c. less than 5	08
d. none	01
e. non-response	<u>06</u>
	29

Out of 29 street children involved in petty crimes, there were 22 respondents who knew of, at least one, significant person who was involved in such activity. 8 respondents said that they know around less

than five person that were doing the same kind of activity. Two of these respondents had their brother and cousin also involved. 11 respondents on the other hand knew of around five to ten individuals who were also doing the same activity. All of these individuals were either the friends or the peer group of these street children. 3 respondents identified individuals who were also doing such activity. One of these respondents said that out of around twenty of them in their group, almost all were involved or doing petty criminal activities. There were 7 respondents who gave no answer.

Street children involved in petty crimes were also asked about the problems they encounter in such activity. They were given options and the following data presented in the table were the result of the interview:

<i>Problems Encountered</i>	<i>Score</i>
• nagkakasakit	00
• hinuli ng pulis o nakulong	26
• binugbog o minaltrato	24
• ginahasa o rape	00
• pinagamit ng bawal na gamot	01
• aksidente	02

• nabuntis o nagdalantao	00
• depresyon o sikolohikal na problema	00
• Iba	03
• Non-response	01

From the scores that were gathered, the top two problems encountered in the activity involved their encounters with the law enforcers, their victims and the general public. 26 respondents experienced being apprehended by police officers or *barangay* officials, and being sent to jail. One of these respondents admitted being sent to City Jail around six times.

24 respondents confessed of having been maltreated or physically abused. These include officials that apprehended them, their victims and the general public, whenever they were caught doing such activity. Their experiences involved being beaten by the public, police officials, being hit by a truncheon, or having their hands squeezed with bullets inserted in between their finger; or being hit by a rifle in the nape.

1 respondent said he was made to use drugs by the police officer. 2 respondents confessed of having met an accident, i.e. being hit and ran by a vehicle, during one of their "operation."

3 respondents gave varied answers, which were not necessarily related to their activities. These include worrying about being caught by the police officer; inflicting pain or cutting their own wrists whenever high on drugs; or experiencing gang-related riots in their prison cell.

There was 1 respondent who gave no answer at all.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF DATA

CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS OF DATA

To test the hypotheses, the researcher focused on the descriptive qualities of the sample. Graphs and tables were used to compare and test the data gathered.

TABLE I *Frequency Distribution of the Street Children's Participation in Prostitution According to Age*

Scores	Frequency	Percentage (%)*
08-09	02	06
10-12	08	26
13-15	13	42
16-18	<u>08</u>	<u>26</u>
	31	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

A total of 31 respondents, out of 50 street children, were involved in prostitution. Based from the frequency table, 42% of those involved in prostitution have age ranging from 13 to 15 years old. It can be seen that the market for street children in their early teens had the highest percentage. This is followed by both children who have ages ranging from ten to twelve years old and from sixteen to eighteen years old. The remaining 6% are children who belong to 8 to 9 age bracket.

Although the highest percentage of the children engaged in prostitution had age ranging from 13 to 15 years old, the number of street children, who are at pre-pubertal age, entering into prostitution is still considerably high.

Table II shows the frequency distribution of street children engaged in prostitution in prepubescent and adolescent age.

TABLE II *Frequency Distribution of the Street Children Engaged in Prostitution at Prepubescent Age and Adolescent Age*

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)*</i>
<i>Prepubescent Age</i> <i>08-12</i>	10	32%
<i>Adolescent Age</i> <i>13-18</i>	<u>21</u> 31	68%

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Based on the table, 68% of the respondents engaging in prostitution belong to the adolescent age (13 to 18 years old). On the other hand, 32% of street children engaging in prostitution belong to pre-pubertal stage. It is important to note this since it implies that one

third (1/3) of the respondents are "market" for pedophiles. And according to these children, majority of their customers or clients were foreigners, and only a few were local ones.

TABLE III *Frequency Distribution of the Street Children's Participation in Petty Crimes According to Age*

<i>Scores</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i> *
08-09	00	00
10-12	04	14
13-15	18	62
16-18	<u>07</u>	<u>24</u>
	29	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Based from the table, almost majority of the street children engaged in petty crimes were those who belong to age bracket of 13 to 15 years old. These children were those who, after working for a long time doing menial jobs like vending or begging for food, later learn to resort to petty crimes. Being very young, they have no competitive skills or advantage that would enable them to compete with other adults on jobs that would give them higher income as compared to their old work or source of income.

24% of the street children engaging in petty crimes belong to 16 to 18 years old age bracket. The lower percentage of street children engaging in such activity is due to many work options now open to street children at their present age. They are already able to look for a decent job that would enable them to earn higher income. At this age bracket, children have now the physical capability and some skills to engage in other types of work.

14% of the respondents engaging in petty crimes are those who belong to 10 to 12 years old age bracket. These are the children who, after realizing that they were already too old to beg, or that their type of work, e.g. vending, can no longer suffice their financial need (for food and other necessities), are initiated to petty crimes.

Based from the same figures gathered, it can be seen that there is only a small percentage of street children engaging in petty crimes at the lower age bracket.

TABLE IV *Frequency Distribution of the Street Children Engaged in Petty Crimes and Prepubescent and Adolescent Age*

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)*</i>
<i>Prepubescent Age</i> <i>08-12</i>	04	14
<i>Adolescent Age</i> <i>13-18</i>	<u>25</u> 21	<u>86</u> 100

Table IV shows the small percentage of street children of prepubescent age engaging in petty crimes (at 14%). Most of those respondents who are involved in such activity were street children of adolescent age (at 86%).

TABLE V *Ratio of the Involvement of Male and Female in Prostitution and Petty Crimes*

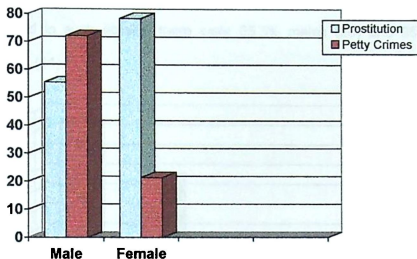
	<i>Prostitution</i>	<i>Petty Crimes</i>
<i>Male</i>	<u>20</u> 36	<u>26</u> 36
<i>Female</i>	<u>11</u> 14	<u>03</u> 14

Among the total number of boys (36), the ratio of involvement of boys in prostitution is lower (55.56%) than their involvement in petty crimes (72.22%).

And among the total number of girls, the ratio of involvement of girls in prostitution is higher (78.57%) than their involvement in petty crimes (21.43%).

There were two bases used for computing the percentages of the above table. Since there are samples which are engaged in both prostitution and in petty criminal activities, the total number of boys and the total number of girls were used as bases for comparing the extent of participation of both sexes in two such activities.

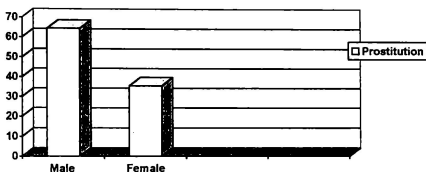
Such correlation between the involvement of both sexes in prostitution and petty criminal activities is more evident in the graph below.



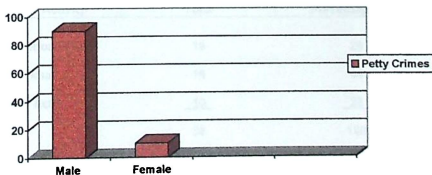
Based from the graph, between the two given type of activities, i.e. prostitution and petty crimes, the participation of males is higher in petty crimes. Also basing from the same graph, between the two given type of activities, the participation of females is higher in prostitution than in petty crimes.

In general however, the participation of boys is higher in both activities from the participation of girls in the same activities since the number of boys is higher than the number of girls. This is so because the population of street children has more boys than girls.

Focusing in prostitution alone, out of the 31 street children engaged in such activity, there were 65.5% males (20) and 35.5% females (11).



Focusing in petty crimes alone, out of 29 street children engaged in such activity, there were around 90% (26) males and around 10% (3) females.



Comparing the two bar graphs above, it can also be seen that even here, the involvement of boys in petty crimes is higher than in prostitution, i.e., their participation in petty crimes is at 90% while in prostitution their participation is only at 64.5%. In the same manner, the involvement of girls in prostitution is higher, which is at 35.5%, than their involvement in petty criminal activities, which is at 10% only.

The participation of boys in both bar graphs is high because of the relatively high number of boys than girls in the population sample.

To further test which activity (prostitution or petty crimes) are open to which sex, the researcher presented the data in the frequency table.

TABLE VI *Frequency Distribution of the Range of Males' Participation in Prostitution and Petty Criminal Activities*

Type of Activity	Total	Percentage (%)*
Prostitution Alone	10	28
Petty Crimes Alone	16	44
Both Activity	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>
	36	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

TABLE VI *Frequency Distribution of the Range of Females' Participation in Prostitution And Petty Criminal Activities*

<i>Type of Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage (%)*</i>
Prostitution Alone	11	79
Petty Crimes Alone	03	21
Both Activity	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>
	14	100

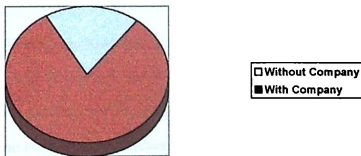
*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table VI and Table VII show the range of participation of both male and female in prostitution and petty criminal activities. Table VI shows that the percentage of the participation of male is high at petty crimes alone, at 44%, while Table VII shows that the percentage of participation of female is high at prostitution at 79%.

Out of the 31 street children engaged in prostitution, 25 of them (81%), admitted having company when carrying out such activity while only 6 respondents (19%) said they do it alone or on their own.



Based from the pie graph above, majority (81%) of the respondents have company whenever they conduct prostitution activities. Only 19% of the respondents do it alone. The company of these street children was mostly their friends or peer groups while there were a few who admitted being with the company of others.



According to the graph above, 84% of street children have their fellow street children or peer group as their company in such activity.

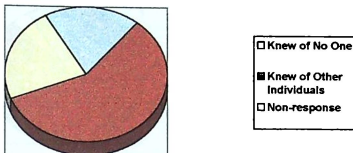
This exhibits the strong influence of street children on their fellow street children. 16% of those who have company were family members of street children, in this case their siblings. It shows that even such activity among street children can be a family 'affair'.

TABLE VII *Group Data of Number of Other Street Children Known to be Also Involved in Prostitution*

Category	Frequency
More than 10	04
5 to 10	04
less than 5	10
none	06
non-response	07

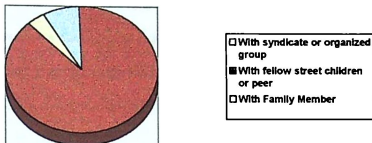
*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table VII presents the number of street children's responses whether they have company or not. The three categories (i.e., more than 10, 5 to 10 and less than 5) showed the frequency of individuals known to be also involved in prostitution activities.



Based from the graph above, more than half (58%) of the respondents knew of at least one significant individual, be it his fellow street children or otherwise, that is also involved in prostitution. Only about 19% denied of having known any significant individuals which were also involved in such activity. There was a considerable percentage of non-response from the respondents (22.58%) because of the sensitivity of the matter.

All, out of 29 street children engaged in petty crimes, admitted having company whenever conducting petty criminal activities.



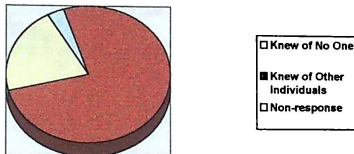
Based from the graph above, majority of the street children (79.31%) had their fellow street children or peer group with them, whenever operating petty criminal activities. Only a small percentage (6.89%) of them were actually involved in a syndicate, i.e., an organized criminal group preying on street children to force them to work for them. Still, a small percentage (3.44%) had their family member involved in the activity.

TABLE VIII *Group Data of Number of Other Street Children Known to be Also Involved In Petty Crimes*

Category	Frequency
More than 10	03
5 to 10	11
less than 5	08
none	01
non-response	06

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

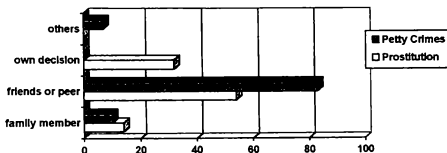
Table VIII shows the number of street children's response whether they have company or not in petty criminal activity. Summing-up the three categories: more than 10; 5 to 10; less than 5, it would total to 22 or 75.86% of the respondents involved in prostitution.



Based from the graph, majority of the respondents (75.86%) knew of at least one significant person that is also involved in petty crimes. Only 3.44% of the respondents denied of having known any significant person which was also involved in such activity. 20.68% of the respondents involved in petty crimes gave a non-response.

Citing the influences of street children in both prostitution and petty criminal activities, the graph below shows the picture of how

involved is their social environment to the introduction of the street children into these two activities.



The bar graph above shows the influences of street children in their introduction into prostitution and petty criminal activities. Both activities show that the greatest influences on a street child before he/she enters into prostitution or does petty criminal activities were the fellow street children or the peer group which surround them. From the graph above, it shows that 54% and 83% of how a street child is introduced into prostitution and petty crimes, respectively, were influenced by his immediate social acquaintances, mostly his fellow street children.

TABLE XI Knowledge About Other Street Children Being Involved in Prostitution and Petty Crimes

	Prostitution	Petty Crimes	
<i>Those who knew of other street children involved</i>	18	22	40
<i>Those who knew of no other street children involved</i>	06	01	07
	24	23	

Based from Table XI, the total number of street children who knew of other street children being involved in both prostitution and petty crimes were 40. Only 7 respondents gave negative answers, i.e., they were not aware of any street children who were also involved in the same activity.

The total number of responses from prostitution is 24 since there are 7 non-responses. On the other hand, the total number of responses from petty crimes is 23 since there were 6 non-responses.

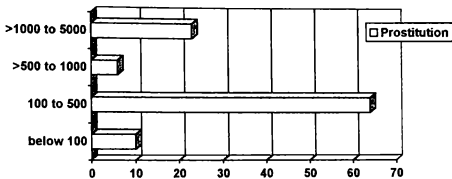
It is important to take note of such figure since it can be inferred that the extent of prostitution and petty criminal activities among street children is more prevalent than what is actually observed.

TABLE X *Group Data of the Income of Street Children Engaged in Prostitution*

Scores	Total	Percentage (%)*
a. below 100	03	10
b. 100 to 500	19	61
c. >500 to 1000	02	06
d. >1000 to 5000	<u>07</u>	<u>23</u>
	31	100

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table X shows the range of income of street children from prostitution activities. Based from the above table, 10% of the respondents were earning below one hundred pesos. 61% of the respondents were earning money ranging from one hundred to five thousand pesos. 6% of the respondents were earning greater than five hundred to one thousand pesos. And lastly 23% of the respondents were earning money ranging from one thousand pesos to five thousand pesos.



The graph above reveals a clearer picture of the income of street children engaged in prostitution. The largest percentage (64%) of street children has an income ranging from 100 to 500. This is followed by 23% of street children earning money which ranges from one thousand pesos to five thousand pesos. Next, 10% of the respondents were earning below one hundred pesos. And only 6% of the respondents were earning greater than five hundred to one thousand pesos.

TABLE XI Group Data of Income of Street Children Engaged in Petty Crimes

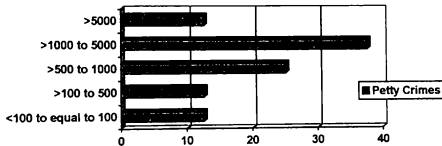
Scores	Total	Percentage (%)*
a. below 100 or equal 100	03	12.5
b. >100 to 500	03	12.5
c. >500 to 1000	06	25.0
d. >1000 to 5000	09	37.5
e. >5000	03	12.5
f. non-response	05	

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table XI shows the range of income of street children from petty criminal activities. Based from the table above, the largest percentage of street children (37.5%) earn money which was greater than one thousand to five thousand pesos. This is closely followed by 25% of street children earning an amount greater than five hundred to one thousand pesos. 12.5% of the respondents were earning an amount ranging from below one hundred to equal to one hundred pesos. Also, 12.5% of the respondents were earning an amount greater than one hundred pesos to five hundred thousand pesos. Lastly, there were also

12.5% of respondents were earning amount greater five thousand pesos.

The base used to get the percentage of the scores of responses is 24 rather than 29, which is the total number of respondents involved in petty crimes, since there are 5 non-responses.



Based from the graph above, the largest percentage (37.5%) of street children has income greater than one thousand pesos up to five hundred pesos. This is followed by 25% of street children earning an amount ranging from five hundred thousand pesos to one thousand pesos. Next, there were 12.5% of street children earning an amount which range from below one hundred to equal to one hundred pesos. There were also 12.5% of respondents earning amount greater than

one hundred to five hundred pesos. Lastly, 12.5% of the respondents earn amount greater than five thousand pesos.

TABLE XII *Income Percentage of Street Children Engaged in Prostitution and Petty Crimes*

	<i>Prostitution</i>	<i>Petty Crimes</i>
<i>≤ P500</i>	71	25
<i>> P500</i>	29	75

In comparing the income of street children engaged in prostitution and petty crimes, Table XII shows that majority (71%) of those engaged in prostitution were at the lower end of income bracket, i.e., those earning below or equal to five hundred pesos. On the other hand, majority (75%) of those engaged in petty crimes were at the higher end of the income bracket, i.e., those earning amount greater than five hundred thousand pesos.

TABLE XIII *List of Allocations of Income of Street Children Engaged in Prostitution*

Items	Frequency
a. food	10
b. clothing	04
c. vices	04
d. alcohol or drugs	09
e. family	04
f. friends or peer group	03
g. others	06

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table XIII shows that the top expense of street children involved in prostitution is food, with 10 respondents. Next in the list is their spending on alcohol and drugs with 9 respondents. Third in their spending were on other items not mentioned among the options provided with 6 respondents.

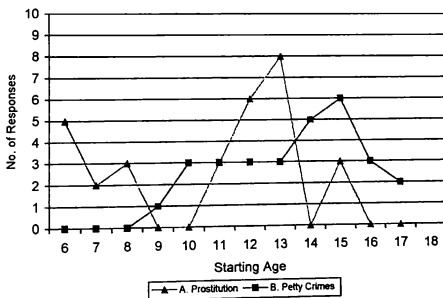
TABLE XIV *List of Allocations of Income of Street Children Engaged in Petty Crimes*

Items	Frequency
a. food	13
b. clothing	03
c. vices	02
d. alcohol or drugs	15
e. family	01
f. friends or peer group	05
g. others	06

*Percentages rounded to equal to 100%

Table XIV shows that the top expense of street children involved in petty crimes is food with 13 respondents. Next in the list is their spending on alcohol and drugs, with 15 respondents. Third in their spending were on other items not mentioned among options provided with 6 respondents.

Table XIII and Table IV shows that the top two items where street children, which were both engaged in prostitution and petty crimes, allocate their income are on food and on alcohol and drugs.



The graph above presents the trend of the starting age of street children engaged in prostitution and petty crimes.

In prostitution, the line representing the trend of the starting age of street children in prostitution does not seem to have a steady trend. This represents the varying degree when children are entered into prostitution. This also means that the potential pedophiles have varying degrees of preferences in terms of age of street children.

In petty crimes however, the line presents an upward trend and then a gradual descent. This shows that most of the street children are introduced into petty criminal activity at a later age. The gradual descent of the line shows that as street children grow older, they are introduced into other activities.

In comparison, line A (prostitution) shows that after an influence in the number of street children introduced from age 10 to 13, there was a sharp decline of trend; while in line B (petty crimes) a gradual upward trend or an increase in the number of age of street children introduced into petty crimes is observable.

This shows that as street children grow older, they acquire skills and test other activities, which leads them into petty crimes. This

becomes an option to a street child. This is necessary in order for them to cope with their increasing and more complex needs and demands.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The root cause why street children are driven out of the streets is because of economic difficulties. Families of these marginalized sectors in the urban areas have mostly parents with low-income and low-educational background. These parents have income from mostly menial and unstable jobs. Their works include vending, pedicab and tricycle driving, assisting as baggage 'boy', doing security work, garbage collecting, tailoring and doing laundry jobs among others. Some of them even have no jobs. Because of this, parents are unable to meet the basic needs of their families. Dysfunctional family relation is also observed in these families.

Such family condition drives the children out of the streets to augment their families' meager income. Some are forced to drop out of school to work and struggle to support themselves. Most of these children have low or very little education, barely finishing elementary grade. Some of them have not even acquired any formal schooling at all. There are a few however who reached early high school level.

Initially, children are introduced in the lower end of the service economy. They sell cigarettes, food and other items; they watch cars

and attend parking lots; they drive pedicabs; and they do other menial works that would give them some amount of income.

Because of their constant exposure in the streets, they are introduced into illegal activities such as the use of prohibited drugs and addictive substances, prostitution and petty crimes.

Street children are lured into prostitution because of the financial and material gains they get. The greatest influence in this activity are their fellow street children or peer group. The bonding they have with their peer group is strong, and even stronger than their own families, because it is with these alternative 'families' that street children get their emotional and even material support.

Eventually, as street children become familiar with their street environment, they gain survival skills that would enable them to cope with the adverse condition of their environment. This further opens an option to them to engage in a more risky activity such as petty criminal activity. Such activity is also highly influenced by the older and more experienced street children or adult peers.

The involvement of street children in prostitution and petty crimes becomes high as they reach adolescent age. Their former work

or source of income can no longer suffice their increasing and becoming more complex needs and demands in order to survive. This is more so if the children are already into drugs and substance abuse.

The common age of street children participating or involved in prostitution and petty crimes are generally from thirteen to fifteen years old. One-third of those involved in prostitution, however, belong to children at prepubescent age, while no such observation is present to those involved in petty criminal activities. Such situation arises because petty criminal activity requires more experience and skills from the street children, being a more risky activity. The former on the other hand, requires less experience and skills from them, and is also dependent on environmental factor such as their potential customers.

Among male street children, the ratio of their involvement in petty crimes is higher than their involvement in prostitution activity. On the other hand, among female street children, the ratio of their involvement is higher in prostitution than in petty crimes. This is because prostitution activity is a relatively passive activity while petty criminal activity requires more physical strength. Such observation is further explained by Dr. Cornelio Banaag, chairman of the Psychiatry Department of the

Philippines General Hospital, and author of the book *Resiliency*. He stated that, " generally, boys are higher in their risk-taking behavior... than females." In general however, the involvement of male street children is higher in both prostitution and petty criminal activities, as compared to their female counterpart. One reason is that the population of male street children is higher than female street children. According to the book *Resiliency*, authored by Dr. Banaag, there are about 56% to 90% of male street children in a given population.

Another reason for this is the socio-cultural standards prevailing in our society. Prostitution activities among male street children are more tolerated and acceptable. But among female street children, there is stigma attached because of the high regard for their virginity.

Street children engaged in prostitution generally earn income ranging from one hundred to five hundred pesos. Some of them, however, earn more, especially if their customers were foreigners. Aside from the money they get, street children also get material benefits from their customers. On the other hand, those engaged in petty crimes have a larger income that range from five hundred to five thousand pesos.

Street children primarily allocate their earnings to their basic necessities such as food. However, it is important to take note that a large part of this income also goes in purchasing prohibited drugs and other addictive substances. The most common of these is metamphetamine hydrochloride, or locally known as *shabu*; and other known adhesive substances.

Aside from these, they also spend their money on other recreational activities such as watching movies, playing video games and even entering into motels with a hired prostitute among boys. It is particularly interesting to note that most street children are fond of watching movies. Also, their other expenses involved spending and sharing with their fellow street children and peer group.

Whenever a street child conducts prostitution and petty criminal activities his fellow street children or adult peer almost always accompanies him. Because of the risks involved in these activities, their company is always deemed necessary, both as a source of emotional support and as an accomplice or aid in the activity.

The present involvement of street children in prostitution and petty crimes elicits mostly negative reactions and perceptions on these

street children from most of us. Street children on the other hand, perceive the present state of their involvement in these activities differently.

Most street children admitted that these activities were "wrong." The economic gains however, were given more emphasis by these street children, i.e., they needed to earn money in order for them to survive. Thus, the issue of decency and morality in their kind of activities becomes irrelevant to these children.

However, when probed deeper, the prevailing socio-cultural norms and standards are also seen to have affected the opinion of street children on this issue. Among females, they regard prostitution as an indecent and "dirty" job. They exhibit a sense of guilt and shame whenever admitting that they are involved in such activity. However, among males, there were those who were even proud of their work and showed no regret or remorse about it. They even express their satisfaction or pleasure they get from the activity.

Recommendations

The situation of street children engaged in prostitution and petty crimes involves sensitive and delicate issues. One should have an open mind and a deeper understanding of their backgrounds whenever dealing with these children. It is therefore important that social workers and other groups dealing with street children to have a full comprehension of the historical background of these children so as to better address their problems.

Police officials and other law enforcers should also be made aware of the proper handling of these children. It is further suggested that a social worker or a personnel who represents any duly recognized institution or organization dealing with street children should always accompany any arrests or detention made. Furthermore, these officials should always remember to isolate the juvenile offenders from adult criminals or offenders so as to protect the child from further negative influences.

Because street children are used to freedom outside, drop-in center, orphanages and other institutions housing and dealing with street children should provide a freer environment inside the center.

Too much rules imposed on street children tend to push these children back to the streets.

Furthermore, it is recommended that an employment center, hiring only street children, should be created so as to provide alternative source of income for these street children involved in prostitution and petty crimes. Consideration shall be given in their type of work so that no rights of children will be violated. Since street children are already used to earning on their own, providing such alternative work for these children would keep them away from prostitution and petty criminal activities.

Community-based organizing and educational discussions should also be carried-out by concerned government and non-government organizations so as to make the families aware of how they can better improved their living condition.

Lastly, national government should make a serious effort to solve the issues concerning the marginalized sectors of society and the unequal distribution of resources of the country. The issues concerning street children, after all, are rooted in the bigger picture of unequal economic distribution of resources.

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APPENDIX

History of Kanto

History of Kanto

Has an interesting history in a long time?

Antarctica of Kanto

☐ Climate is

☐ Climate

☐ Weather

☐ The

Has been the most important in the history of Kanto

Has been the most important in the history of Kanto

☐ History

☐ History

☐ History

☐ History

Has been the most important in the history of Kanto

Pangalan: _____ Edad/ Kasarian: _____

Tirahan: _____

Uri ng Gawain o Trabaho: ☐ Prostitusyon ☐ Pandurukot o Snatching

Pangalan ng Ama: _____

Trabaho/ Pinagkakakitaan: _____

Halaga ng Kinikita: _____

Pangalan ng Ina: _____

Trabaho/ Pinagkakakitaan: _____

Halaga ng Kinikita: _____

Bilang ng Kapatid: _____

Ilan sa inyong pamilya ang nag-aaral? _____

Antas ng Pinag-aralan:

☐ Elementarya _____ ☐ Kolehiyo _____

☐ Highschool _____ ☐ Iba _____

Ilang taon ka unang napasok sa gawain o trabahong ito? _____

Paano napasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho?

☐ Niyaya ☐ Pinilit ☐ Aksidental ☐ Iba _____

Ano ang dahilan kung bakit ka napasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho?

Sino ang nakaimpluwensiya sa iyo upang mapasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho?

☐ Magulang

☐ Kaibigan/ Kakilala

☐ Kapatid

☐ Sariling Desisyon

☐ Kamag-anak

☐ Iba _____

Magkano ang iyong kinikita tuwing ginagawa mo ang gawain ito? _____

Saan mo ginagamit o ginagastos ang inyong kinikita?

☐ Pagkain

☐ Pamilya

☐ Pananamit

☐ Kaibigan/ Kabarkada

☐ Bisyo

☐ Iba _____

☐ Alkohol o droga

Gaano mo kadalas ginagawa ang trabahong ito?

☐ Araw-araw:

☐ 1-2 beses sa isang araw

☐ 3-5 beses sa isang araw

☐ higit sa tatlong beses sa isang lingo

☐ Bihira o paminsan-minsan

☐ Iba _____

Mayroon ka bang kasama tuwing ginagawa mo ang ganitong gawain o trabaho?

- ☐ Oo Kung Oo, sino ang iyong kasama? ☐ magulang
- ☐ kapatid
- ☐ kamag-anak
- ☐ kaibigan/ kabarkada
- ☐ Iba _____

☐ Wala

Ilan sa pamilya, kaibigan o kabarkada mo ang pumasok sa ganitong klase ng gawain o trabaho? _____

Anu-anong problema o suliranin ang nararanasan mo sa ganitong trabaho o gawain?

- ☐ nagkakasakit ☐ aksidente
- ☐ hinuli ng pulis o nakulong ☐ depresyon o problemang sikolohikal
- ☐ binugbog o minaltrato ☐ iba _____
- ☐ ginahasa o rape
- ☐ pinagamit ng bawal na gamot

Ano ang iyong sariling pananaw o pagtingin sa ganitong klase ng trabaho?

Komento ng Interviewer:
