

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NGO RUN AND STATE RUN CHILDREN HOMES OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The study is an attempt to assess the academic performances of the Children in Need of Care and Protection living in the Children Homes of Assam, a state of the Indian Union. Attempt has been made to compare the performances of the children living in children homes run by the State and ones run by NGOs. Though both types of children homes are to follow the same Act, i.e. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children), 2000, yet there is much difference between both types regarding issues like administration, fund, infrastructure etc. The study encompasses 8 (Eight) Children Homes situated at 7(seven) districts of Assam with total 180 respondents. For the study 4(four) numbers of Children Homes from each type i.e. State-run and NGO-run, have been considered. It is seen that the respondents living in both types of homes have performed differently at different levels. Since the children living in the children homes are integral part of our society and they do have the right to proper education measures to be ensured so that the achievers will be encouraged for further education and remedial action can be chalked out for the average or below average children for better and continuous education.

Keywords: Academic Performance, Children Home, Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), Assam.

INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the primary means that helps the child in conforming to the standards of the real world. It is a Fundamental Right in India which facilitates a child to accomplish his inborn qualities. After signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children in 1992 the Indian Government is committed to protect and provide the right of education to every child as

Fundamental Right. India has a child population of 420 million of the age of 0-18 years. (Census 2011).

In Assam, a state of the Indian Union located at the North Eastern region of the country total child population between the age group of 0-18 are 12.77 million. (Census 2011). Unfortunately, a sizable number of these children are vulnerable or facing difficult circumstances such as poverty, fractured homes, violence, drug abuse, substance abuse etc. They are often either illiterate or school drop outs who are deprived of their right to education. Provisions of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 defines such children specially those who are homeless, orphaned, abandoned and surrendered as Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP). Children living under threat of sexual abuse and exploitation, mentally or physically challenged children without support, whose parents are unfit, street or working children found begging, missing or run-away child, children affected by civil unrest or victim of armed conflict etc. are considered as CNCP under the stated act. The Juvenile Justice Act 2015 has expanded the definition of CNCP with includes children who are at risk of child marriage and children residing with people who are offenders under any child protection laws. When cases of such children are placed before the District Child Welfare Committees then they are to be provided with residential care and protection during pending of any enquiry and subsequently for their long-term care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation. In Assam every year a considerable number of CNCP are institutionalized and moved out phase wise in the children homes run by the State and NGO.s.

In this paper an attempt has been made to study the education of these Children on the basis of academic performances and to compare the children of NGO Run Children Homes with the State-Run Children Homes in Assam regarding academic performances. Academic Performance is the ultimate way to ascertain the picture of the education that they have attained in the schools.

Children in Need of Care and Protection who are deprived of their right to education are tried to be integrated with the main stream education system by admitting them to age appropriate classes after entering the Children Homes. These children are deprived of the natural ambience and face many difficulties. They are separated from their families and are deprived of the much-needed parental care at the crucial stage which are important factors that effects on academic performances. Academic performance is the base of the children for further studies and the way to reach the goals of life. This study will throw light into the academic performances of these Children so that the achievers will be encouraged for further education and suggestive measures can be chalked out for the average or below average children for better and continuous education.

Children homes run by the Govt. and by Non-Governmental Organizations are encompassed for the study. Though both types of Children Homes are to follow the same Act i.e. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, yet there are many differences between both types regarding issues like administration, fund, infrastructure etc. State run Children Homes are funded by state government regularly while in NGO run Homes after incurring the entire expenses throughout the year receive grant in aid from government. State run Children Homes have their own buildings and other facilities NGO run Children Homes survive in private or rented houses. There is provision of a school in the Children Home campus itself in the State-run Children Homes for the primary level students which is not available in NGO Run Children Homes. It is considered necessary to compare the academic performances of the children between the NGO Run and State-Run Children Homes to find out whether these conditions affect the education of the children.

OBJECTIVES

To compare the Academic Performances of Children in Need of Care and Protection living in the Children Homes run by the NGOs with the State.

METHODOLOGY

The study is conducted under the descriptive method. For the study a sample of 8(eight) Children Homes from 7(seven) Districts of Assam have been selected.

There are 4(four) Children Homes in Assam run by the State while 21(twenty-one) are run by different NGOs. Since the study is concentrated on normal Children in Need of Care and Protection those Children Homes exclusively meant for physically and mentally challenged are excluded as their process of education is different than the normal ones. After exclusion of these 3(three) such special Children Homes run by the NGOs total 22(twenty-two) Children Homes compose the universe of the study.

all 4 (four) state run Children Homes Namely Jalukbari Girls' Children Home, Fatasil Boys' Children Home, Nagaon Girls' Children Home and Lakhimpur Children Home as well as 4(four) NGO run Children Homes namely, Bokakhat Nirman Gut Children Home in Golaghat, Swapnalaya Children Home in Sivasagar, Prerona Children Home in Dibrugarh and Sri Sri Sewa Ashram of Dhemaji District have been selected for the study. The entire 180 school going children from the selected children homes have been selected as the respondents for the study.

The research work is mainly based on both primary and secondary information collected from the related sources.

The primary data are collected from the children in need of Care and Protection living in the children homes using Interview Schedule.

The secondary data are collected from Children Home authorities and school records, books, journals and reports, relevant documents, internet sources etc.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The names of the selected Children Homes along with districts and number of respondents have been presented in table 1.1. In the subsequent tables the names of the NGO run Children Homes have been substituted with the names of the places where these are located.

Table 1.1: Profile of the studied area.

Run by	Names of Children Homes	District	No. of respondents
State	Jalukbari Girls'	Kamrup	48
	Fatasil Boys'	Kamrup	22
	Nagaon Girls'	Nagaon	16
	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	3
NGO	Bokakhat Nirman Gut	Golaghat	21
	Swapnalaya	Sivasagar	36
	Prerona	Dibrugarh	21
	Sri Sri Sewa Ashram	Dhemaji	13
Total	8	7	180

The respondents are studying in different classes from class I to XII. To show their performances in a systematic manner the respondents have been divided separately into six levels, i.e. I to V (Primary level), VI-VIII (Upper primary level), IX-X(High School level), H.S.L.C, XI-XII(Higher Secondary level) and XII completed level. Following table records distribution of respondents according to their educational status viz. children who are continuing school.

Table 1.2: Distribution of respondents according to their Study Levels

Sl. No	Classes	Study Levels	No. of respondents
1	I to V	Primary Level	107
2	VI to VIII	Upper Primary Level	50
3	IX to X	High School Level	13
4	X passed	H.S.L.C Passed	7
5	XI to XII	Higher Secondary Level	2
6	XII passed	H.S Passed	1
Total			180

Academic performances have been measured by the percentage of marks which are corresponding to grades that are achieved. From class I to VIII standards i.e. the Primary and Upper Primary level marks of the respondents are shown corresponding to the grades as calculated following guidelines of State Council of Education Research and Training. Table 1.3 shows the conversion of percentage of marks into respective grades.

Table 1.3: Grading system in primary and upper primary level.

Grades	PC of marks
A+	91-100
A	81-90
B+	71-80
B	61-70
C+	51-60
C	41-50
D	40 and below

Out of total 180 respondents 107 are studying in primary level. Academic performances and comparison of these respondents between the State and NGO run Homes are shown below-

Table 1.4: Comparison of Academic performances of the respondents in the Primary Level (Class I-V).

Run by	Homes	Total	Grades						
			107	A+	A	B+	B	C+	C
State	Jalukbari	21	1	3	1	6	2	8	-
	Fatasil	14	1	3	1	5	2	1	1
	Nagaon	8	-	1	-	5	-	1	1
	Lakhimpur	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total (pc)		45 (42%)	2 (4.44%)	8 (17.78)	2 (4.44%)	17 (37.78%)	4 (8.9%)	10 (22.22%)	2 (4.44%)
NGO	Bokakhat	18	2	7	2	3	2	2	-
	Sivasagar	23	3	4	6	4	-	4	2
	Dibrugarh	12	-	4	2	3	-	3	-
	Dhemaji	9	-	2	1	2	-	4	-
Total (pc)		62 (58%)	5 (8.06%)	17 (27.41%)	11 (17.74%)	12 (19.35%)	2 (3.22%)	13 (21%)	2 (3.22%)

Table 1.4 presents that out of total 107 school going respondents of Primary Level 45(42%) respondents are from State run Homes and rest 62(58%) are from NGO Run Homes. No of respondents achieving A+ in the Sate run Homes are 2(4.44) while in NGO run Homes 5(8.06%) respondents have secured A+ grade. So as 8(17.78%) respondents from State run Homes have secured A grade while 17(27.45%) respondents from NGO Run Homes have achieved the grade. As compared to the State-Run Homes in both the Grade A+ and A (81%-100%) the respondents from NGO Run Homes have shown better academic performance than the State-Run Homes. There is vast difference between the two types of Homes in respect of grade B+. Only 2(4.44%) respondents have secured B+ grade in State Run Homes whereas 11(17.74%) respondents secured the grade in NGO Run Homes. In State Run Homes maximum number of respondents totaling 17(33.78%) have achieved B grade. In respect of both types of homes respondents achieving C grade are in second position from numbers point of view. Number of respondents securing D grade is 2(4.44%) and 2(3.22%) in State run and NGO run homes respectively.

Table 1.5: Comparison of Academic performances of the respondents in the Upper Primary Level (Class VI-VIII).

Run by	Homes	Total	Grades						
			50	A+	A	B+	B	C+	C
State	Jalukbari	18	-	2	2	2	2	8	2
	Fatasil	4	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
	Nagaon	4	-		-	1	-	3	-
	Lakhimpur	1	-		1	-	-	-	-
Total (pc)		27 (54%)	-	3 (11.11%)	3 (11.11%)	4 (14.82)	2 (7.41%)	12 (44.44%)	3 (11.11%)
NGO	Bokakhat	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Sivasagar	7	-	-	1	3	1	2	-
	Dibrugarh	9	-	3	1	1	-	4	-
	Dhemaji	4	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
Total (pc)		23 (46%)	2 (8.70%)	4 (17.39%)	3 (13.04%)	7 (30.43%)	1 (4.35%)	6 (26.09%)	-

Table 1.5 shows that number of school going respondents decreasing gradually at upper primary level. 27 (54%) respondents from the State run Homes and 23(46%) respondents from the NGO run Children Homes have continued their education at this level. No student from state run homes have achieved A + Grade while 1(8.70%) each from NGO run Homes of Bokakhat and Dhemaji have achieved it. While no respondents from the NGO run Homes have secured less than 40% marks 3(11.11%) respondents from State Homes have secured less than 40% in examinations. 3(11.11%) respondents from State run Homes have secured A Grade while the figure is 4(17.39%) for NGO run Homes. Maximum 12(44.44%) respondents from the State-run homes have secured C grade while maximum 7(30.43%) respondents from NGO run Homes have secured B grade.

Comparatively in Upper Primary Level also respondents from NGO Run Homes have shown better performances than the State-Run Homes. It reveals that up to Grade B percentage of respondents from NGO run Homes are higher than State Run Homes.

From class IX onwards, Academic Performances are shown in percentage of marks of all respondents. The marks obtained by the respondents have been converted into corresponding percentage for the ease of tabulation and understanding.

Table 1.6: Comparison of Academic Performances of the respondents in High School Level.

Run by	Homes	Total	Percentage of marks						
		13	91-100	81-90	71-80	61-70	51-60	41-50	Upto 40
State	Jalukbari	6	-	-	1	3	1	-	1
	Fatasil	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Nagaon	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Lakhimpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (pc)		8 (61.54%)	-	-	1 (12.5%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)	-	1 (12.5%)
NGO	Bokakhat		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sivasagar	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-3
	Dibrugarh		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dhemaji		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (pc)		5 (38.46%)	-	-	-	-	-	2 (40%)	3 (60%)

Table 1.6 shows out of 13 respondents studying in High School Level only 8 (61.54%) respondents of State run Homes have continued education at this level while the number is 5(38.46%) in respect of NGO run Children Homes. 1(12.5%) respondent from the State-Run Homes has secured between 71-80 while maximum 4(50%) respondents from these homes have secured between 61-70. In comparison the situation is very poor in respect of NGO Run Homes. 2 (40%) respondents have secured 41-50 while rest 3(60%) have secured less than 40. In case of State run Homes 1 (12.5%) respondent has secured less than 40.

In the High School Level, the respondents of State Run Home have shown better performances i.e. 7(87.50) respondents have secured 51 to 80 percentages of marks than the NGO run homes.

Table 1.7 Comparison of Academic performances of the respondents in H.S.L.C. Examination.

Run by	Homes	Total	Percentage of marks							
			7	91-100	81-90	71-80	61-70	51-60	41-50	Upto 40
State	Jalukbari	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
	Fatasil		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Nagaon	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
	Lakhimpur		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total (pc)		6 (85.71%)		-	-	-	-	4 (66.68%)	1 (16.66%)	1 (16.66%)
NGO	Bokakhat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Sivasagar	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	Dibrugarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Dhemaji	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total (pc)		1(14.29%)	-	-	-	-	-	1(100%)	-	

Table 1.7 shows that maximum respondents 6(85.71%) from State Run Homes have completed HSLC Exam. No respondent from any type of Homes has secured above 50%. 2(33.33%) respondents from State run Jalukbari Home have secured between 41-50%. Similarly, 2(33.33%) respondents from State run Nagaon Home have secured between 41-50%. 5(71.43%) respondents from the State run Homes have passed H.S.L.C Exam while 1(100%) respondent from the NGO run Homes who is the respondent from Sivasagar Children Home, has passed. In Nagaon Home the only respondent has failed in H.S.L.C Exam.

Results in respect of respondents studying at XI and XII.

Only 2 respondents from the State run Fatasil Home were found to have cleared class XI examination with 53% and 49% marks in Arts stream while 1 has cleared class XII examination in Commerce stream securing 49% from the same home. No respondent from this group was found in NGO Run Homes.

Major Findings:

1. More respondents are found in the NGO Run Homes 62(58%) than State Run Homes 45 (42%), at primary level.
2. Academic Performances of the respondents of NGO Run Homes are found better than State Run Homes at Primary Level. While number of students securing the best three grades (from A+ to B+) is 33(53.23) in NGO Run Homes the number is 12(26.67%) in State Run Homes.
3. Even though number of respondents continuing education is higher in State Run Homes 27(54%) than the NGO Run Homes 23(46%) in Upper Primary Level the number of respondents securing the best three grades (from A+ to B+) are higher in NGO Run Homes, 9(39.13%) than State Run Homes 6(22.22%).
4. More respondents are found in State Run Homes numbering 8(61.54%) than NGO Run Homes 5(38.46%) in High School Level.
5. Respondents from the State-Run Homes have shown better performances than NGO Run Homes in High School Level. In High School level 7(87.5%) respondents from the State-Run Homes have secured 51%-71%, no respondent from the NGO Run Homes have scored more than 50% in this level.
6. In respect of H.S.L.C. Exam out of total 7 respondents who have passed 5 are from State Run Homes.
7. Only in Fatashil State Run Home respondents found continuing education in Higher Secondary level and 1 completed the H.S. Exam securing 49% of marks.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings it can be concluded that no. of respondents as well as Academic Performance of the Children in Need of Care and Protection living in the NGO run Homes is better than State Run Homes at Primary Level. But from Upper Primary Level onwards no. of respondents is gradually decreasing on NGO Run Homes. The respondents from the State-Run Homes have shown better performances up to H.S.L.C Examination. Only on State Run Homes respondents are found to stay & continuing their education for long time. It is noticed that in spite of adverse situation after separation from their families they are continuing their education successfully and some of them have really fared well. The respondents of poor performances or respondents who are even unable to pass should be supported by special care at respective Children Homes. The problems faced by the Children Home authority while supporting the children must be redressed so that they are able to provide conducive atmosphere to the children.

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