

P01-337

THE CHILDREN LIVING IN ORPHANAGES IN KASHMIR: AN EXPLORATION OF THEIR NURTURE, NATURE AND NEEDS

Y. Rather

Psychiatry, Govt Psychiatry Disease Hospital, Srinagar, India

Introduction: One of the only few options available for rehabilitation of orphans in eastern societies is orphanage rearing. A lot many factors, however, go into determining the level of cognitive, behavioral and emotional development of children in these institutions.

Objectives: A study was conducted on four major orphanages located in Srinagar city, to assess the existing differences in available facilities and their impact on the psychological adjustment of these children.

Methods: The UCLA loneliness scale was used to assess levels of loneliness, an indicator of psychological distress, among the resident children.

Results: High scores were associated with adverse living conditions, like poor residential setup, rigid timetables, poor recreation facilities, poor nutrition and lack of modern educational facilities.

Conclusions: These facts could prove seminal in planning for better rehabilitation modules for orphans, especially in the wake of their exponential increase in the chronic conflict and disaster affected regions.