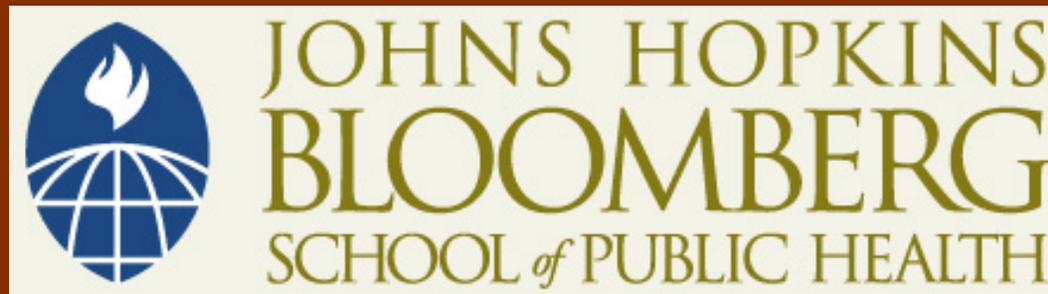


This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Your use of this material constitutes acceptance of that license and the conditions of use of materials on this site.



Copyright 2011, The Johns Hopkins University and Judith Bass. All rights reserved. Use of these materials permitted only in accordance with license rights granted. Materials provided "AS IS"; no representations or warranties provided. User assumes all responsibility for use, and all liability related thereto, and must independently review all materials for accuracy and efficacy. May contain materials owned by others. User is responsible for obtaining permissions for use from third parties as needed.



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section B

Qualitative Research on Street Children

Definitions

- Children of the street
 - Boys and girls who have no adult supervision and have made the street their “home”

- Children in the street
 - Boys and girls who spend a substantial portion of their time working in the street environment

- Children at high risk
 - Boys and girls who live in poverty and are at risk of migrating to the street

Qualitative Study for Street Children in Mexico City

- Describe the problems experienced by street children
- Discover the problems that caused them to go to the street
- Define the activities that they feel are important and want to improve

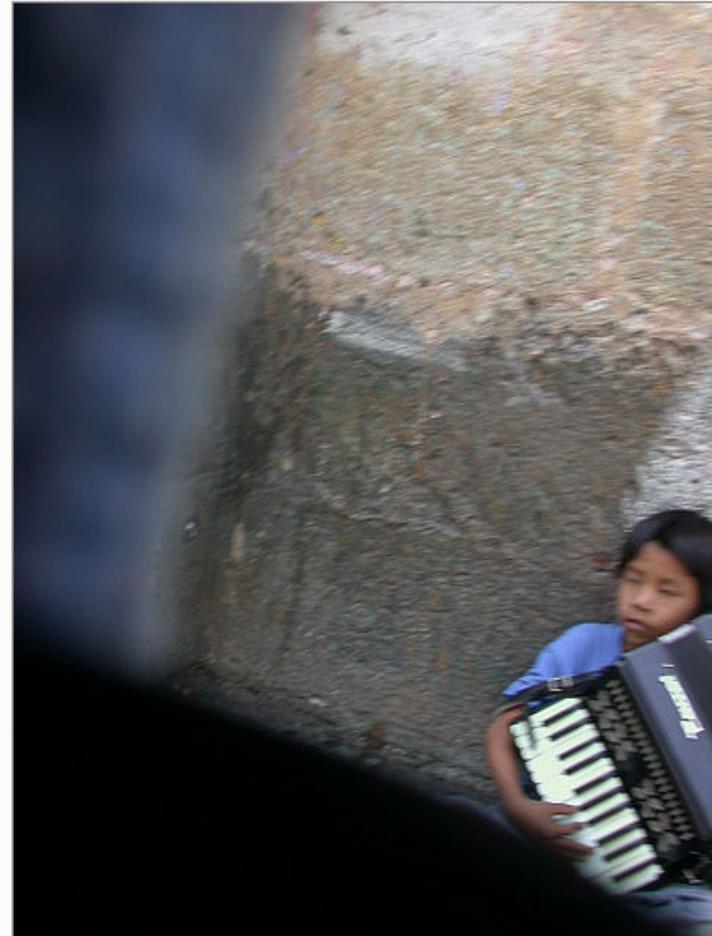


Photo by ashabot. Creative Commons BY-NC-SA. Retrieved from <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ashabot/3256359591/sizes/m/>

Results: Free Lists

- Major problems
 - Violence—among children, by police or authorities, at home, including sexual exploitation
 - Family problems
 - Drug abuse and addiction
 - Poverty and exposure to illnesses
 - Humiliation and discrimination from people other than the authorities

Results: Key Informants

- Family problems
 - Disputes or mistreatment at home resulting in either leaving home or being thrown out
 - Physical, sexual, and mental abuse by parents and their partners and by other relatives
 - Rape and drugs among family members
 - Lack of affection, attention, or care by parents

Results: Key Informants

- Good things about being on the streets
 - Freedom to go wherever
 - Street has its own rules, but not restrictions compared with home
 - Better treatment of each other on the streets, children supporting each other, sharing, people who can provide advice
 - Drugs—they help children to forget problems
 - People/organizations give food and money and take you to shelters or centers

Results: Key Informants

- Bad things about being on the street
 - Drugs, physical, and mental abuse—police lock children away on spurious charges
 - Abuse, rejection, discrimination, and exploitation by society—while begging, being offered demeaning odd jobs with very little pay and accompanying humiliation
 - The street is dangerous—violence, fighting, rape (pregnancy), and death (suicide)
 - Lack of food, clothes, and shelter
 - Children become aggressive, low self-esteem, false friendships

Results: Key Informants

- Humiliation and other emotions
 - People humiliate them for food and money
 - People criticize them/make fun of them
 - Children humiliate each other
 - Feel sad, rejected, abandoned, anger, hatred, depression/ desperation
 - People don't understand them/consider them worthless
 - Humiliation causes children to retaliate/be aggressive against each other and outsiders
 - Drugs to escape/forget emotions and problems

Albania Study Results

- Child exploitation
 - By their parents who force them to stay all day in the street, risk of being sexually exploited
- Psychological and physical abuse/violence
 - Being insulted and sworn at and beaten by parents, other adults, peers, and sometimes by teachers, other beggars, or police
- Risky behaviors and delinquency
 - Drugs, gambling money, stealing and fighting between children
- Emotional problems
 - Fear connected to the dangers of street life, shame and guilt, sadness and feelings of suffering

Myanmar Study Results

- Consequences of being on the street
 - Discrimination by others and peers
 - Injuries from hard labor
 - Beatings by business owners and other adults
 - Always tired
- Mental health and psychosocial problems
 - Sadness, fear, inferiority, shame, hate, worry, bored, feel not loved, jealousy, lack of confidence
- Coping mechanisms
 - Run away, drink alcohol, waste time with friends, sleep/lie in bed, fight