Spatial Distribution of Street Children in Pune City, Maharashtra

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Abstract

Pune city is a highly urbanized metropolitan, IT hub, well-known smart city, and globalized city. Due to these characteristics, the emerging migration of population turns into a growing number of street populations. The main aim of this research is to study the spatial distribution of street children and to demarcate the hotspot area of street children in thePune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Pune City of Maharashtra. In this research paper data collected from January 2019 to January 2020. Total 123 street children were selected from the PCMC zone and 420 were selected from the PMC. The major hotspots are the public places such as Pune and Shivaji Nagar Railway Station, City bus stops and ST stands, the bridges, flyovers, places of worships, etc.,

Keywords: Street Children, Spatial distribution, Hotspots area, Pune PMC & PCMC)

Introduction

The phenomenon of street children is a worldwide issue and almost every country is facing the same issue, India is not an exceptionfor it. Children are the future of the country and street children are the most vulnerable part of our society. According to UNICEF, a street child is "Anyone under the age of 18 years either lives or works on the street most of the time"They are found in different corner of the cities; near the traffic signals, around the railway station, outside temples, under bridges and flyovers, near bus depot. They spend most of the time on the street and often faced inhumane environments for their livelihood.Street children deprived of basic needs like food, clothing, and home. Illiteracy and starvation are common things in street children.

Street children largely comprise of migrants who abandon rural habitats due to: (i) Natural or man-made calamities (ii) Socioeconomic distress and (iii) Those who are pulled to cities in search of jobs for a better life. Many street children work in the informal sectors as child workers. They live in abject poverty that compels them to start earning at an early age and take responsibility for themselves and at times even their parents and siblings.
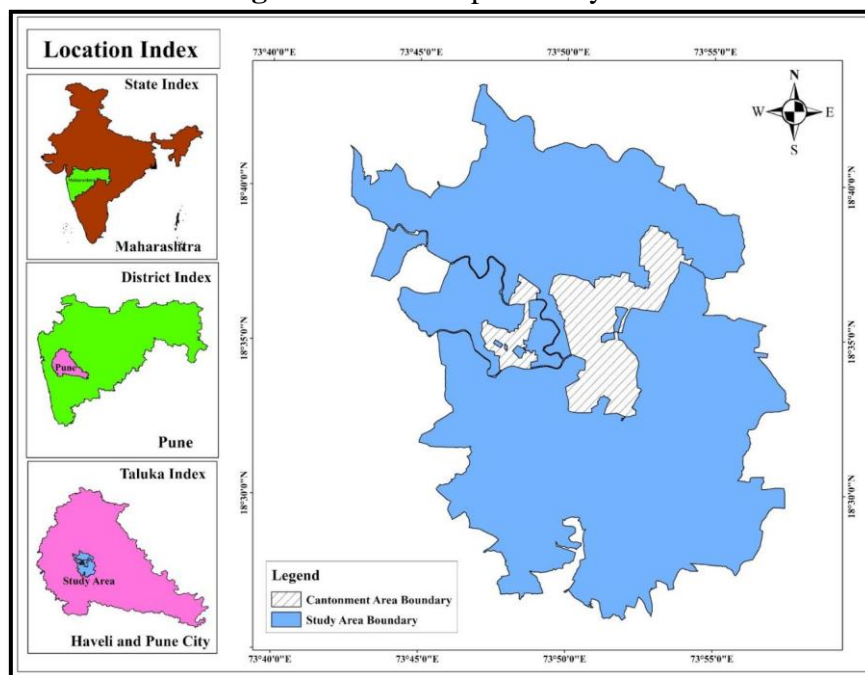
According to Chikarmane (1996) "Street Identity", "Street identity is created by the media and social work interventionists" actually right of these children to create their own identities is a debatable issue for children living without families such as social intervention may provide their only

support.**Poonam R.Naik and et al. (2011)** analyzed demographic profile and substance abuse of Mumbai's street children. They applied interview method, universal sampling method to collect the data. Chi square non-parametric test has been applied to this study. The researcher concluded that overall majority of substance abuse wasin boys (44.2%) and mostly belongs to Muslim religion and continuing school education has beneficial role in prevention of substance abuse of the street children.

Study area

Pune city occupies a central place in the Pune district of Maharashtra State. Situated 560 meters above sea level on the Deccan plateau.Pune city extension between $18^0 31'13''$N latitude and $73^0 51'24''$ E longitudes. Pune city is the cultural capital of Maharashtra and one of the smart cities in India. In this research paperselected Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) along with Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) because this area is a highly developed IT hub, Educational institute and many more job opportunities that's why the large scale of people migrated towards the Pune city due to survival and street people is also one of them for live the better life. According to the**Children in street situations, PMC's 2016 report.** There are total 10427 street children in Pune city.

Fig 1: Location map of Study Area

(**Source: C**rated by researcher)

Objective
1. To study the spatial distribution of street childrenin Pune City of Maharashtra.
2. To demarcate the hotspot area of street children.

Database and Methodology
Primary and secondary data have been used. This paper is mainly focused on primary data. Primary data is collected through Self- structure interview method to gathering information. Total543samples were taking form study area.

Random sampling techniques have been used to select the samples from Pune city. Quantitative data has been analyzed with statistical techniques and showing the graphical chart with the help of MS Excel. GIS technique has been used to analyze, represent and prepare **thematic maps** with the help of **interpolation techniques** using the ArcGIS Pro.

Result and Discussion

Spatial Distribution of street children: A spatial distribution is arrangement of the street children with the help of graphical representation by using suitable colours to differentiate. There are a total of 16 administrative wards in the Pune Municipal Corporation area and 15 zones in Pimpri - Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. The study identified 543 street children in Pune City during the survey period of January 2020 to January 2021. The total ward-wise 420 children were enumerated in the PMC zone and 123 were selected in the PCMC area. Those children who filled the forms, as many as 68.37% were boys, 31.62% were girls.**(Table 1)** shows the ward-wise and zone-wise distribution of street children PMC and PCMC area.
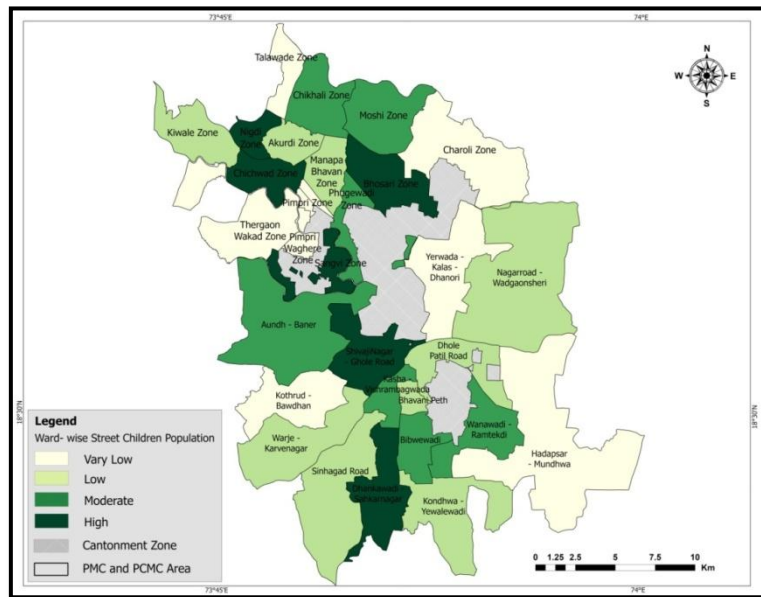
Table 1: Ward-wise spatial distribution of street children (in Percent)

Sr. No.	PMC Ward	No. Of Street Children	Percent Street Children	Sr. No	PCMC Zone	No. Of Street Children	Percent Street Children
1	Wadgaonsheri	16	3.8	1	Akurdi Zone	7	5.69
2	Shivajinagar	57	13.57	2	Bhosari Zone	16	13
3	Kasaba	49	11.66	3	Charoli Zone	4	3.25
4	Kothrud	2	0.47	4	Chinchwad Zone	14	11.38
5	Yerwada	3	0.71	5	Chikhali Zone	5	4
6	BhavaniPeth	27	6.42	6	Kiwale Zone	4	3.2
7	Aundh – Baner	33	7.85	7	ManapaBhavan	8	6.5
8	Hadapsar – Mundhwa	6	1.42	8	Moshi Zone	5	4
9	Wanawadi	33	7.85	9	Nigdi Zone	15	12.19
10	Warje	18	4.28	10	Phugewadi Zone	16	13
11	Dhole Patil Road	22	5.23	11	PimpriWaghere	3	2.43
12	Sinhagad Road	27	6.42	12	Pimpri Zone	2	1.6
13	Bibwewadi	51	12.14	13	Sangvi Zone	18	14.63
14	Kondhwa – Yewalewadi	12	2.85	14	Talawade Zone	3	2.43
15	Dhankawadi	64	15.23	15	ThergaonWakad	3	2.63
		420	**99.9**			**123**	**99.9**

(Source: Data collected and computed by researcher**)**

PMC and PCMC is the twin city of the country. The highest concentration of the street children found in PMC area as compare to the PCMC area. Because of the availability of the income sources and the shelter.
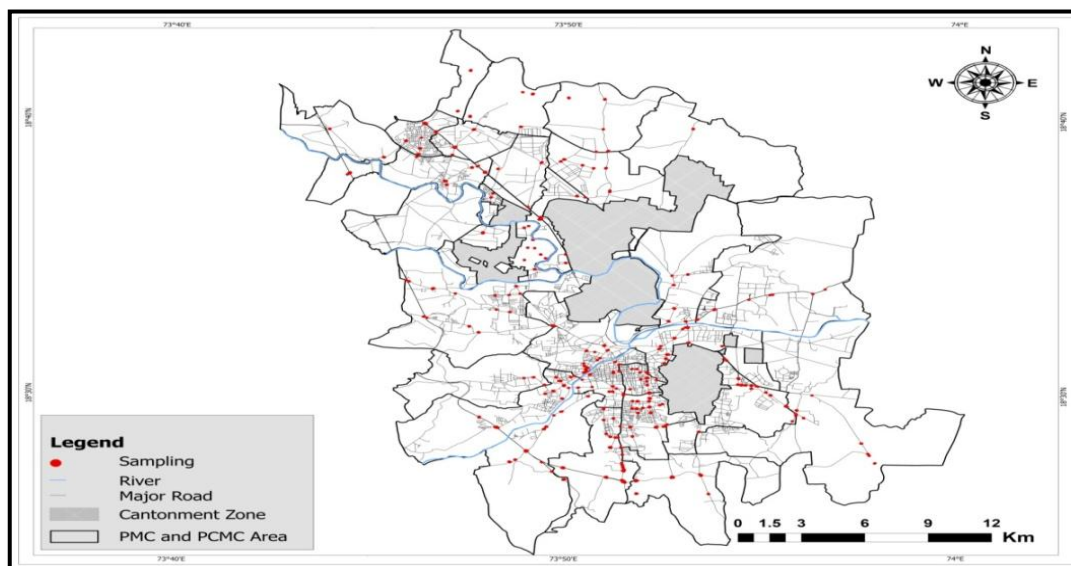
Fig 2: Spatial distribution of street children

(Source: Data collected and map created by researcher**)**

Fig 2 :The following mapshowing the spatial pattern of street children. There are four classes has been shown in map e.g. High, Moderate, Low and Very low with different colour scheme. The dark green colour shows the high density of the street children Bhosari, Chinchwad, Nigdi, Sangavi, Shivajinagar-Ghole road, Dhankwadi and Sahakarnagar these ward showing the high density of the street children. Chikhali, Moshi,Phugewadi, Aund-Baner, Bibwewadi, Wanwadi-Ramtekdi these area is showing moderate density. Kiwale, Akurdi, Manapabhavan, Nagar road wadgaonsheri, Dhole patil road, WarjeKarvenagar, Sinhgad road are showing the low density of street children and Talawade, Charoli, Kalas, Dhanori, Pimpri and Thergaon, Wakad zone showing very low percentage of street children.

Fig 3: Major Hotspot Area in Pune City

(Source: Data collected and map created by researcher**)**

Fig3 :Hotspot Areas: Hotspot is an area where five or more children are working together (PMC report, 2016). In Pune city hotspots are found in public places such as bus stops, every signal, under the bridge, railway stations, outside of the temple, flyover, outside of companies. Street children are found more

frequently near these hotspots for various reasons.Some hotspots shelter to sleep at night, while some others offer free food, drinking water, and opportunities to work are also important criteria for an area to become a hotspot**(Ogunkan D. V. et.al. 2010, Mehta D, 2000)**. **Fig 3 :** showing the concentration of Street children is mainly found in Market Yard, Pune Railway station, PMC Bus stop, Janatavasahat, Canal, Parvati, Balewadi Road, Phata, DudhBhatti, GanjPeth, BhavaniPeth, Appar Indira Nagar, Katraj snake park, DMartPimpri, Pimpri market area, PCMC main building, Dinosaur Garden, Khadaki railway station, JunaBajar, Near Wonder city, Sarasbag, P.L.Deshpande Garden, Nigdi Bus stop these are the main hotspot area of the Pune City. Z Bridge and Bhide Bridge are main hotspot areas of Pune.

Conclusion

There are a total of 15 admin wards in the Pune Municipal Corporation area and 15 zones in Pimpri - Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. Bhosari, Chinchwad, Nigdi, Sangavi, Shivajinagar-Ghole road, Dhankwadi and Sahakarnagar these ward showing the high density of the street children. Chikhali, Moshi, Phugewadi, Aund-Baner, Bibwewadi, Wanwadi-Ramtekdi these area is moderate density. Kiwale, Akurdi, Manapabhavan, Nagar road wadgaonsheri, Dhole patil road, WarjeKarvenagar, Sinhgad road are showing the low density of street children and Talawade, Charoli, Kalas, Dhanori, Pimpri and Thergaon, Wakad zone showing very low percentage of street children. Hotspot is an area where five or more children are working together. In Pune city hotspots are found in public places such as bus stops, every signal, under the bridge, railway stations, outside of the temple, flyover, outside of companies. The main purpose of this study is to find the spatial distribution of street children. Pune city is the commercial centre of the city. Majority of the children belonging to the Hindu religion and highest literacy was found in the 10-12 years age group. The survey revealed that street children are involved in a wide variety of income-generation activities.

Suggestions

Children are the future of a country. These street children should be facilitated in getting identity proof which the Government accepts as an entitlement document so that they can get admission into the school and make a bright future for themselves and the country as well. Efforts should be made to initiate vocational training programs for these children and mainstream these programs with regular school so that right to education reaches street children. The government needs to work on strategies that can facilitate their rehabilitation and integration into the mainstream, starting with getting them enrolled in schools. Also improve their standard of living or provide houses through government policy so they can't settle any were.

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