

# **Case Study of Students in Children's Homes: A Study of Familial, Educational, and Emotional Conditions with Special Reference to Lilai Children's Home, Jalgaon**

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## **Abstract :**

*This research paper examines the familial, educational, and emotional conditions of students residing in children's homes, with a specific focus on Lilai Children's Home in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. The study employs a case study methodology to investigate the challenges faced by these students, who are often orphaned, neglected, or from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Data were collected from 32 students across two children's homes in Jalgaon using a self-designed questionnaire, analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics, including the Chi-Square test. Key findings reveal that students experience significant emotional and social challenges, including feelings of isolation and a desire for familial bonds, despite satisfactory institutional services. The study highlights the need for enhanced counseling, skill-building workshops, and improved institutional support to foster the holistic development of these students. Recommendations include regular counseling sessions, career guidance, and creative activities to nurture their emotional and social well-being.*

**Keywords :** Children's Home, Case Study, Familial Conditions, Educational, Status, Emotional Well-being, Lilai Children's Home, Jalgaon

## **Introduction :**

Children's homes serve as critical institutions for providing shelter, education, and emotional support to vulnerable children, including orphans, neglected, or economically disadvantaged individuals. These children often face unique challenges that impact their emotional, social, and intellectual development. The present study focuses on understanding the familial, educational, and emotional conditions of students in children's homes, with a specific reference to Lilai Children's Home in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. The research aims to provide insights into the lived experiences of these students and propose actionable recommendations for improving their well-being.

## **Background :**

The concept of children's homes in India has historical roots, evolving significantly since the British colonial period. Industrialization led to economic disparities, pushing rural populations toward urban areas, resulting in increased poverty and neglect of children (?). Social reformers like Mahatma Phule established institutions such as the Bal Hatya Pratibandh Griha in 1863 to address these issues (?). Today, children's homes like Lilai Children's Home provide shelter, education, and rehabilitation services to children aged 6 to 16, aiming to prepare them for independent and dignified lives.

## **Need and Importance :**

Understanding the challenges faced by children in institutional care is crucial for their holistic development. These children, often deprived of familial support, face emotional, social, and educational barriers that can lead to inferiority complexes or despair (?). This study addresses the need to explore their familial environment, educational progress, and emotional health to inform better institutional practices and policies. The research is significant as it sheds light on the lived experiences of these children, fostering empathy and informing stakeholders about necessary interventions.

## **Research Objectives :**

The study pursues the following objectives :

1. To examine the familial conditions of students in children's homes.
2. To assess the educational status of students in children's homes.
3. To analyze the emotional well-being of students in children's homes.

## **Research Questions :**

1. What are the familial conditions of students in children's homes?
2. What is the educational status of students in children's homes?
3. What is the emotional condition of students in children's homes?

### **Hypotheses :**

1. The familial conditions of students in children's homes are of a low level.
2. The educational status of students in children's homes is excellent.

### **Scope and Limitations :**

The study focuses on students in children's homes in Jalgaon district, specifically Lilai Children's Home. It examines their familial, educational, and emotional conditions. The research is limited to Jalgaon district and does not cover other regions or aspects beyond the specified domains.

### **Review of Literature :**

The literature review encompasses studies on children's homes, their role in child welfare, and the challenges faced by resident children. It highlights the historical evolution of child welfare in India, emphasizing the role of institutions in providing care for neglected children. Notes that children's homes offer essential services like food, shelter, and education but often lack adequate emotional support. Discusses the psychological and social challenges faced by institutionalized children, including feelings of isolation and low self-esteem. Previous research primarily focuses on juvenile delinquents or observation homes, with limited studies on the personal experiences of children in children's homes, making this study unique in its case study approach.

### **Methodology :**

#### **Research Design :**

The study adopts a case study methodology to gain in-depth insights into the lives of students in children's homes. This qualitative approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of individual experiences.

#### **Population and Sample :**

The population comprises 100 students from 10 children's homes in Jalgaon district. A random sampling method was used to select two children's homes, including Lilai Children's Home, with a sample of 32 students.

#### **Data Collection :**

Data were collected using a self-designed questionnaire covering familial, educational, and emotional aspects. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions to capture quantitative and qualitative data.

#### **Data Analysis :**

Descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistics (Chi-Square test) were used to

analyze the data. The Chi-Square test assessed the variation in responses across different dimensions, with a p-value threshold of 0.05 for significance.

### **Findings :**

#### **Familial Conditions :**

- 46.875% of students belong to single-parent families, while 31.25% are orphans or destitute.
- 59.375% reported a loving family environment within the institution, but 31.25% identified as orphans with no familial ties.
- 50% of students' parents are engaged in manual labor, and 65.625% reported that family income sufficiently covers household expenses.

#### **Educational Status :**

- 62.5% of students are in higher primary education, indicating a focus on foundational learning.
- 90.625% aim to stay in the children's home until completing their education, reflecting a commitment to academic progress.
- Students expressed satisfaction with educational facilities, but additional support like remedial coaching is needed.

#### **Emotional Well-being :**

- Students experience occasional mental stress and anxiety, with many selecting "sometimes" or "rarely" for stress-related questions.
- Social isolation and self-centeredness were observed, with limited strong interpersonal relationships.
- A strong desire for family and social contribution was evident, with 59.375% valuing a loving environment and 62.5% reporting positive treatment from caregivers.

#### **Statistical Analysis :**

The Chi-Square test yielded a value of 26.54 with a p-value of 0.0328, indicating significant variation in student responses ( $p < 0.05$ ). This suggests that while some institutional services are satisfactory, improvements are needed in specific areas like emotional support and social integration.

### **Discussion :**

The findings highlight the complex interplay of familial, educational, and emotional factors in the lives of children in homes. The predominance of adolescents (60% aged 13–16) underscores the need for targeted interventions during this sensitive developmental phase. The high percentage of students admitted through parental consent (85%) suggests a need for stronger emotional connections with caregivers to mitigate

feelings of insecurity. The reliance on manual labor by parents (50%) and the prevalence of loving yet inconsistent family environments indicate economic and emotional stressors impacting these children. Educationally, the commitment to completing education (90.625%) is promising, but additional academic support is crucial. Emotionally, the presence of stress and social isolation calls for enhanced counseling and social engagement programs. The interest in cricket (78.125%) and drawing (85%) reflects untapped creative potential that can be harnessed for holistic development.

#### **Conclusions :**

The study reveals that students in children's homes face significant emotional and social challenges, despite satisfactory institutional services. They exhibit a strong desire for familial bonds and social contribution but require better guidance, counseling, and positive interactions to address mental stress and social isolation. The findings validate the hypothesis that familial conditions are of a low level but challenge the assumption of excellent educational status, indicating a need for enhanced academic support.

#### **Recommendations :**

**Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed :**

1. Organize regular counseling sessions to address emotional and social needs, particularly for adolescents.

2. Conduct workshops on communication skills, self-motivation, and emotional intelligence to boost confidence.
3. Foster stronger connections between students, caregivers, and institutional staff to create a supportive environment.
4. Implement remedial coaching and tailored teaching strategies to enhance educational outcomes.
5. Promote creative activities like sports, drawing, and music to nurture students' talents and emotional well-being.
6. Enhance hygiene and health awareness programs to support physical well-being.
7. Develop programs to instill social responsibility and self-discipline among students.
8. Future Research Directions.

#### **Future research could explore :**

- The impact of counseling on the mental health of children's home students.
- The relationship between self-confidence and decision-making in adolescents.
- Comparative studies on educational progress in institutional versus familial settings.
- The effect of socio-economic backgrounds on problem-solving abilities.

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