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# A Study of Regulations & Legal Provisions of Street Children Bill 2014

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## Street Children

Street children are children who depend on the streets for their survival. Whether they live on the streets; whether they sleep on the streets, whether they work on the streets, the road remains their whole world. These children develop the habit of chewing tobacco, drug and smoking. Apart from this, lack of education, poor health, abusive, mental trauma, sexual abuse is the main reasons. The biggest of all the problems is that street children in India have not officially received any recognition and do not even have proof of their age and residence. Even schools offering free education demand such important circulars before giving admission.

## Objective of the Study

The objective of the study of this paper A Study of Regulations & Legal Provisions of Street Children Bill 2014 is that to explore the above bill.

## The Street Children, Rehabilitation and Welfare Bill, 2014

For the betterment of street children, the Government of India has presented the Street Children Rehabilitation and Welfare Bill 2014. This bill covers all children who polish shoes, sleep on the streets and beg, and have no registration. All these children will be registered district wise under this bill, they will be provided social security so that they can live with dignity, they will be provided health services and their education will be properly arranged. It extends to the whole of India.

## Definition of children living on the streets by UNICEF,

"Any girl or boy for whom the road (in the broadest sense of the word, including empty houses, wastelands, etc.) has become her habitat and or source of livelihood; Which is insufficient reason for protection, management or responsibility by responsible adults"

## Why do children leave their home?

Almost all studies and surveys on Street children suggest that the problem of Street children is an urban problem and is directly linked to poverty, family disintegration, urbanization, resource insufficiency, and a growing population. But family violence is a major factor that forces these children to leave their homes and make the pavement their real home.

## Main Features of the Bill

- 1-Taking custody of orphaned children, providing them residence and basic facilities to live.
- 2-Creating courage in street children so that they can live with dignity.
- 3-Providing employment opportunities for street children so that they can go to it after finishing their education.
- 4-Providing free education for street children, to arrange vocational training for them and to arrange skill based programs.
- 5-To arrange annual and half-yearly grants for social welfare of street children.
- 6-To undertake programs in collaboration with social organizations and other organizations for the study of street children.

## Statement objects and Reason of the Bill

Children are the future of any country and gain an edge as a citizen. Therefore, it is necessary to provide them with a beautiful future as well as provide them with the basic necessities of life. They complete education in their life and enjoy every moment of their life and also enjoy childhood. Situations should be created in front of children to feel equality and an atmosphere of brotherhood around them. Therefore, it is necessary that only the best tools are made available to the children. Unfortunately there is no such system in our country, there are millions of such children who are orphans, they have no education, no home to live and no means of living are available. Street girls are worse off than street boys. Sexual harassment of girls is done at an early age and they are prostituted. The reason for all this is lack of basic amenities, poverty and uneducated as well as helplessness of the family. Therefore, the purpose of bringing this bill is for the benefit of street children. This bill is expected to raise the standard of living of street children and they will be able to live in the country with dignity and enjoy every comfort.

### **Problems of the Street Children**

The old saying that "child is the father of the man" is true in more sense than one. The qualities a person imbibes as child deepen as he grows and appears in several obvious and subtle ways in his conduct and character as an adult. Therefore, what affects the interests of children affects the well being of the entire group, of which the child is but one member. On their welfare and satisfaction depends, not only the health and welfare of the community, but the claim of the nation to civilization itself. In most of the advanced countries, childcare has been accorded the highest priority and only the best is supported to be good enough for children. The problem of street children is becoming acute due to urbanization and Industrialization. Children in the age group of 5-18 years leave their homes due to poverty, abuse and dysfunctional families. They commit theft, take to begging or loafing about in the cities. Because of absence of love and security in their homes, they come out and try to earn their bread but when they meet with failures, they adopt various fair and foul methods for the existence. They have every potential of becoming delinquent. Welfare of street children should have integrated and comprehensive services in health, education, nutrition, recreation, training and deployment designed to meet the needs of these children. Therefore, it is in the interest of these children, there is urgent need to address this problem in institutionalized way.

- 1- Street children are targeted by addicts.
- 2- Street children may be admitted to the gangs.
- 3- Street children have to be victims of violence.
- 4- Street children may be involved in drugs and havetual also.
- 5- Street children may suffer from mental health issues.
- 6- Street children use drugs to deal with the reality of social discrimination.
- 7- Street children often suffer from depression, trauma and anxiety so sometimes commit suicide.
- 8- Social exclusion has a negative effect on their mental well-being.
- 9- Little girls living with street children often fall into prostitution.
- 10- Anti-social elements seduce street children and smuggle their body parts.

### **Types of Street Children**

- 1- Children returning to their family at night after work on the road.
- 2- Children working on the road with decreasing family ties.
- 3- Children, who work and live with their family on the road.
- 4- Children who work on the street but have no connection with their family.

### **Life Style of Street Children in India**

We celebrate each festival with great pomp but we are surprised to see how the children living on the street spend their lives and how they celebrate their festivals. They



spend their entire lives near bus stations, railway stations, markets, footpaths, roads etc. Although not fully structured data and numbers of children living on the sidewalk are available, it is estimated that more than 4,00,000 children in India spend their lives living on the sidewalk.

Most of the children living on street in India are boys, but this does not mean that girls are not homeless. Homeless girls are subject to worse conditions in prostitution than all boys. According to UNICEF, about 72% of children living on sidewalks are 6 to 12 years old and 13% of children under 6 years of age.

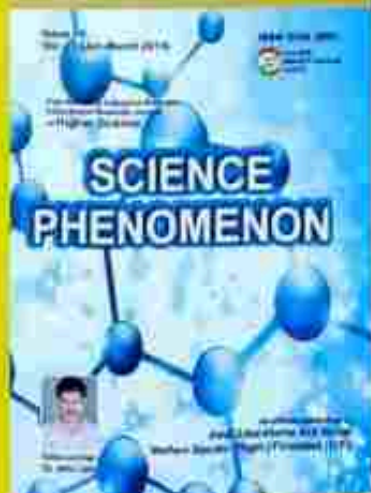
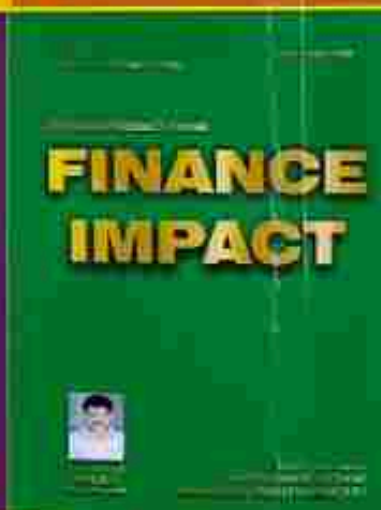
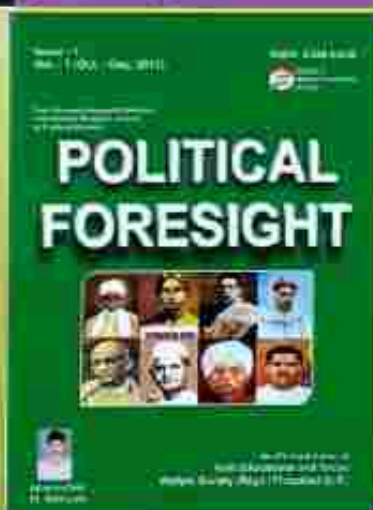
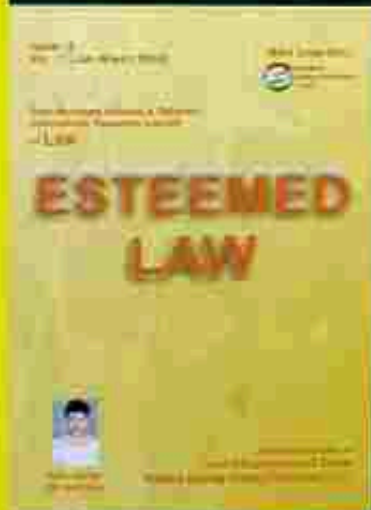
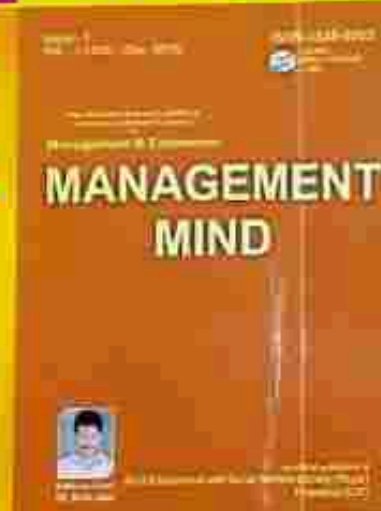
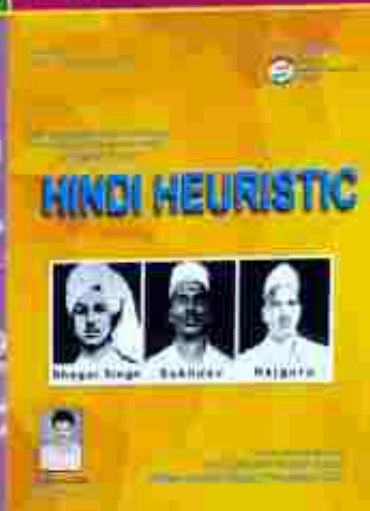
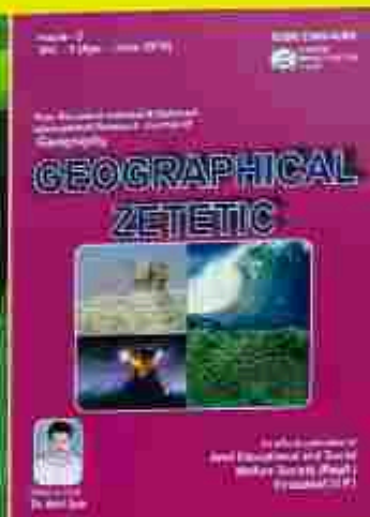
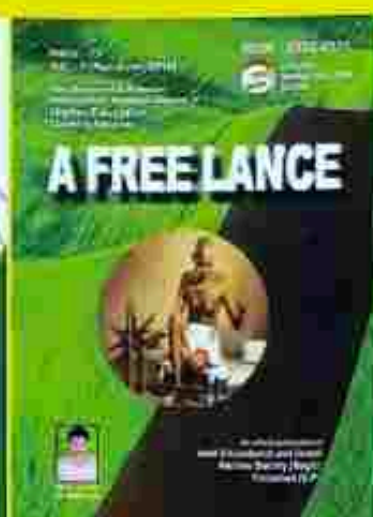
### Conclusion

The children who lose all the chances of human love, come to the railway station and stay a period struggling for daily bread in unhealthy and oppressive condition, with fear and submissiveness have to be considered and cared with humanity. Rescuing them as early as possible from the railways stations and providing them chances of rehabilitation and put into mainstream of life is very essential. A bill was presented in Lok Sabha in year 2014 so as to provide for the rehabilitation and welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and the State Governments for the street children who subsist on rag picking, begging, shoe polishing, working as potters or performing acrobatics at road crossings or public places and for their rehabilitation by taking their custody and providing them due care, protection, education, vocational training and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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