

Acknowledgements

This project and this resulting report came to life thanks to the efforts of many people, all of whom believe that children are invaluable members of the society and all of whom share a common objective: protect children at all costs, irrespective of their geographical locations and their socio-economic, ethnic or religious backgrounds. This conviction creates hope and hope keeps us moving in a direction that we all feel may be the correct path to address Violence against Children (VAC)

In this journey, there are many who must be thanked. I would like to especially express my gratitude to the local community of Murree, security forces and the local administration (in general) as well as Mr. Azhar Ali Shah, Mr. Afzal Abbasi, Colonel (r) Babar Masood, Mrs. Babar Masood, Mr. Gul Khetab and Mr. Saad Mushtaq (in particular) without whom this entire exercise may not have taken place. My gratitude also to Ms. Valerie Khan, Ms. Kashf Manoob and Mr. Syed Irfan Haider of Group Development Pakistan who aside from the encouragement, very generously helped us to “make this happen”, in partnership with Acting for Life and with financial support from the European Union. I am also greatly indebted to my mentor and colleague Mr. Tahir Ali Khilji, who came to my rescue in the most trying times during this three year long process. He not only facilitated us as a team but also encouraged us to consider different perspectives in order to make this project effective, insightful and inclusive.

The Abbottabad and Lahore team of Vision remains invincible; Muhammad Wasim and Nasir Habib's support can never be appreciated enough.

My special thanks to the young and energetic team of local male and female students of Murree, who not only had the resolve to take this challenge upon themselves but who also had made sure that they would do a job par excellence. It is my honor to mention all the names of this dedicated team: Mr. Adnan Abbas, Mr. Adnan Abbasi, Mr. Ali Rasheed Abbasi, Ms. Asma Abbasi, Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Mr. Adil Zahoor, Ms. Andleeb Jameel, Mr. Muhammad Yasir, Ms. Bushra Muhammad Din, Mr. Hammad Shabir, Ms. Shabana Bibi, Mr. Shahid Ahmed, Mr. Muhammad Javaid, Mr. Tauseef Ahmed, Mr. Touseef Hussain Kiyani, Mr. Qasim Ali, Mr. Waqas Ayyub and Ms. Zahra Mumtaz.

I once again thank all those who were equally important for this process and who- due to a limitation in space- may not have been mentioned here.

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Listen To My Voice

Murree (Punjab), Pakistan

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Acronyms Examples

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
DIC	Drop-In-Centre
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LTMV	Listen To My Voice
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TOT	Training of Trainers
VAC	Violence against Children

Executive Summary

Background

Listen to My Voice (LTMV) is a European Union funded project which has been focusing on **establishing** and **enhancing** pilot initiatives in Pakistan in order to 1) Mitigate environmental factors leading to CSA/CSEC, and internal child trafficking 2) Develop local capacities to respond to child abuse 3) Develop peaceful democratic processes to promote child protection, based upon dialogue, solidarity and equity. It is based on a partnership comprising four members: Acting For Life, Group Development Pakistan, SACH and VISION, and it is located in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and in Murree.

In the context of LTMV, VISION's process specifically aimed to counter internal/domestic child trafficking. For clarity purposes, we will revert to child trafficking as indicated in the Palermo protocol¹ but will also extend its definition to wider parameters as specified in article 3 (c) of the same protocol². Over the past **3 years**, **VISION team** was able to reach out to **1504 street children** between the ages of 4 to 15 years. A total of **137 abuse cases** have been reported by caregivers, stakeholders and/or children themselves; these reported cases were properly documented in a Management Information System (MIS). More than **244 children** have been provided with shelter, food, clothing, educational, protective and medical services. **Twenty nine children** have been rescued from dangerous situations and **15 children** have been reunified with their parents. VISION is working closely with a network of local stakeholders and volunteers to ensure protection and rescue for children. This network of stakeholders consists of individuals and institutions from diverse background for example, the police, local government, medical institutions, other security offices, shopkeepers, local unions and their representatives, as well as media and educational institutions.

Methodology

This report relies on primary data collected during outreach activities mostly. This data was later on entered, collated in an MIS and analysed. The data was collected by individuals who were trained on child protection and research ethics. Those same individuals were also monitored during the whole process and all data has remained anonymous. More precisely, on the very onset of the project, a team of 15 caregivers were taken through an extensive training exercise with the following objectives **a)** understand the main protection issues faced by children in Pakistan (and their impact as well as magnitude (based on VISION's previous research work and other experiences). **b)** Analytical skills necessary for understanding the patterns in the data (research) and for dealing with situations that may arise during work (direct service delivery). **c)**

¹ Article 3(a) defines trafficking in persons as: "...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, or fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs"

² Article 3(b) of the Palermo protocol explains that 'consent' – for example to take up work in prostitution – is irrelevant where any of the means set forth in 3(a) have been used

Interpersonal as well as communication skills. The training of caregivers was followed by a mapping exercise of the town of Murree which included the identification of key areas where children are concentrated/more prone to risks or can be reached out to, the development of an outreach strategy in order to reach out to children in the streets of Murree, establishing shelter/DIC, initiating data collection and maintaining quality of data through daily and weekly reflections on daily reports, developing and maintaining a Management Information System (Database of street Children)

A mixed quantitative and qualitative approach was adopted to analyse the data collected through this process.

Key Findings

- Out of 1504 documented children, 11.88% were internally trafficked from other areas of the country.
- Modern forms of slavery and emerging forms of child labour are coming to existence in Murree and hence in Pakistan.
Internal child trafficking and modern slavery are two interlinked issues

Key Recommendations

-
- Reinforce the institutionalisation of child rights in Pakistan
- Improve policy and legal framework to prevent and respond to internal child trafficking
Increase budget allocations to better respond to child trafficking
Develop synergies between government and civil society to address child trafficking on an evidence-based and participatory logic

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

VISION started its work with street children from Lahore in 2004. The earthquake in 2005 in the Northern Areas of Pakistan compelled VISION to expand its work and conduct a survey in the camps of Abbottabad. Later, VISION established a resource center on child rights in Abbottabad. Through its work both in Lahore and Abbottabad, it was visible from the data collected that children were mobile and controlled. The survey did establish the fact that children were prone to abuse and trafficking, however, the scope of the survey was confined to an event (in this case a natural disaster only). Data collected later in the process from Abbottabad was quite clear in establishing clear patterns of seasonal movement of children; for example, during winters children would move from mountainous areas i.e. Mansehra, Thandiani and Kashmir etc to cities like Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Lahore and Multan etc, using Abbottabad as a transit point; the same cycle would get repeated in summers but in opposite directions i.e. flow of children from large cities to hill resorts (Tourist destinations).

Murree being another tourist destination and hill resort, VISION considered mapping the town and, based on that mapping, implemented a 6 months pilot intervention. The findings of the pilot intervention establish that children are brought into Murree in large numbers. These children can be as young as 5 years old and as old as 17. These children are then forced into various forms of labour, they may speak different languages and may have different facial structures or be of very close ages (indicators for verification of relationship between children who call each other brothers or cousins, etc) and may pretend to live as a family (in that case, the family is termed as “occupational”³).

According to online sources, there are between 1.2 million to 1.5 million street children in Pakistan⁴. Natural disasters such as the earthquake of 2005 or floods in 2010 and continuous war on terror are few major factors contributing to the growing number of children in the streets of Pakistan. This large population of children on the streets is prone to commercial as well as sexual exploitation. While most of the street children are involved in labour one way or another, some of the mainstream print media articles highlight more worrying facts around child labour in Pakistan where the population of children forced into labour in 2012 was estimated at 3.8 million (DAWN,⁵).

The findings of another VISION's pilot intervention in 2009 in Murree provide some insight into the following matter: there is a possibility that these children are trafficked from one location to another. However, the patterns established by the collected data then, are not sufficient to prove, with clear evidence, the occurrence of internal child trafficking. Hence, a need for a more comprehensive research process that could explore

³ An “occupational family” describes a group of adults and children who pose as a family usually for exploitative, commercial or displacement purposes.

⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/714378/pakistans-street-children-concrete-dreams/>

⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/731264/child-labour-in-pakistan-3>

and study whether internal children trafficking was happening in Pakistan or not -how and by whom?-, arose. This 3 years and 4 months action-research process titled “Listen to My Voice” in partnership with EU, Acting For Life and GD PAKISTAN is therefore an attempt to answer those questions in a more scientific manner.

1.2 Objectives

The core objectives of VISION's intervention within Listen to My Voice are:

1. To collect data on Internal Child trafficking, compile it in a database and then analyse this data.
2. Mitigate environmental factors leading to CSA/CSEC, internal child trafficking
3. Develop local capacities to respond to child abuse
4. Develop peaceful democratic processes based upon dialogue, solidarity, equity to improve child protection
 - Developing sustainable community based child safety nets to combat child abuse, protect and reintegrate victims.
 - Empowering children and youth to promote/enforce child protection.
 - Initiating a systemic and societal change to improve child protection, through advocacy and lobbying.

2 Methodolog

2.1 The Process

The strategy used in the inception and execution of LTMV process is explained below:

- i) Identification of the location for the office and hiring of the project team
- ii) Training the project team
- iii) Mapping the town of Murree
- iv) Identification of key areas where children are concentrated, prone to risks and where they can be reached out.
- v) Setting up the Shelter/Drop-In-Center (DIC)
- vi) Execution of the project activities.

2.2 Research Questions

The research questions to be answered by this research are the following:

1. Is the data collected through this process going to prove the existence of internal child trafficking?
2. If Yes, why are children internally trafficked?
3. If No, what are the other factors/reasons behind the influx of children on streets?
4. What are the emerging forms of modern slavery and how are they linked with trafficking?

2.3 Research Design

The LTMV process has used a mixed (quantitative & qualitative) method to answer the research questions. The following table summarises the methods used to answer each question:

Table 1 Methods used to answer research questions

Research Question	Method Used to Answer Questions
Is the data collected through this process going to prove the existence of internal child trafficking?	Mixed
If Yes, why are children internally trafficked?	Mixed
If No, what are the other factors/reasons behind the influx of children on streets?	Mixed

2.4 Instruments

Following are some of the data collection tools used in the process

- Observations
- Unstructured interviews
- Focus Group Discussions

Observations: Field observations by caregivers is a tried out tool for collecting data around the behaviour of children, the change in behaviours, the interaction and level of comfort/discomfort with caregivers and other community members/stakeholders in an environment etc. Observation as a data collection tool is also effective in minimizing bias, by maintaining high quality in documenting these observations and in effective monitoring.

A trained team of 14 caregivers did the observation and documented it on a daily basis. These observatory reports were counterchecked on a weekly basis with monitoring reports from the field and shelter supervisors to see consistency and/or difference in the data collected/documented/reported through observations.

Unstructured interviews: This tool of data collection was used as per need while doing unstructured discussions with stakeholders/volunteers and/or children in the field on issues linked with project activities; this data would then get documented in the daily reports of caregivers. In this case, the caregivers had no predefined questions although the caregivers, as mentioned earlier, had certain topics in mind that they wished to cover in an interview. This method was useful in getting information from local stakeholders and volunteers around behaviours of children, their whereabouts, their own understanding around issues faced by children, etc.

Focus Group Discussions: Consultative meetings with community members on monthly and quarterly basis was another method used to collect data from the field.

2.5 Sample

Through several mapping exercises in 2008, 2009 & 2011 and through a pilot intervention in 2009, there were assumptions, though not proven, about the existence of internal child trafficking in Murree. Parents and contractors seem involved and other key players were not actually aware of the technicalities of internal child trafficking. In other words, VISION already had much information regarding various cities of Pakistan (work of Resource Centre on Child Rights in Abbottabad) and thus Murree was selected as a convenient sample because the project area was defined.

2.6 Data Collection

Data for the three years long research was collected by the project staff i.e. 8 Outreach staff members and 4 Shelter staff members. The data was collected and documented (both in hard and in soft version) in Urdu language. Children on the streets of Murree are from various geographic locations and thus speak various languages, therefore, the structure and combination of data collection and caregiving team was such that it could respond to the linguistic needs of the context at any time.

2.5.1. Team division: A team of 12 caregivers got divided into two teams i.e. outreach caregivers (unstructured environment) and shelter caregivers (structured environment) consisting of 8 & 4 members.

2.5.2. Outreach caregivers: 8 outreach caregivers made 4 teams (two in each team), three teams (Team A, B & C) were assigned duties in daylight hours i.e. from 9AM through 5PM. Similarly,

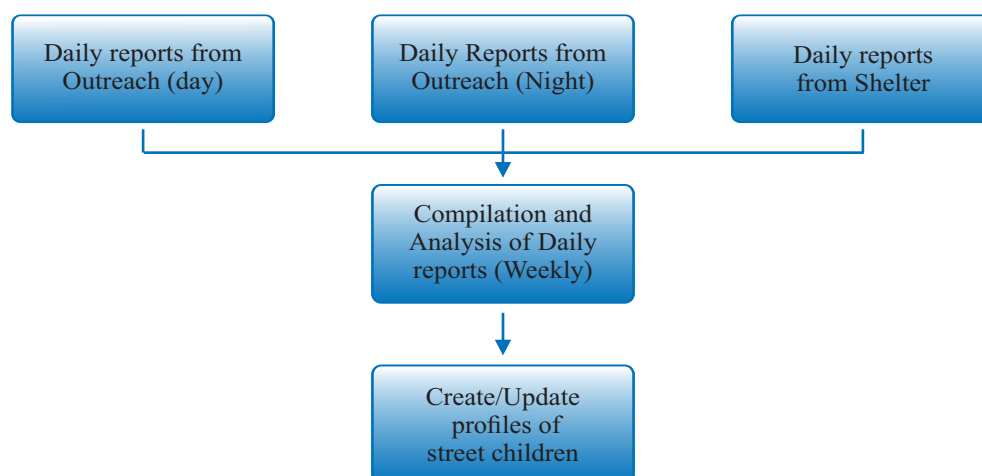
team 'D' was assigned duties for night hours i.e. 6/7PM through 2/3AM). The data collected by outreach caregivers (both day and night) got accumulated and analysed on a weekly basis which later got incorporated to the MIS/Database.



2.5.3 Shelter caregivers: Children directed to the shelter from the outreach were involved in activities such as informal education, infotainment⁶, Life Skills Based Education through tools such as the Bank of Creative Ideas, etc. These children were also given food, medical assistance, shelter and clothing. The shelter being a semi-structured and closed environment, it allowed caregivers to develop rapport with children and spend more time with them, in other words more opportunity to observe, work, monitor and document behaviour change in children. Thus, daily reports of caregivers from the shelter constitute other instruments of data collection.

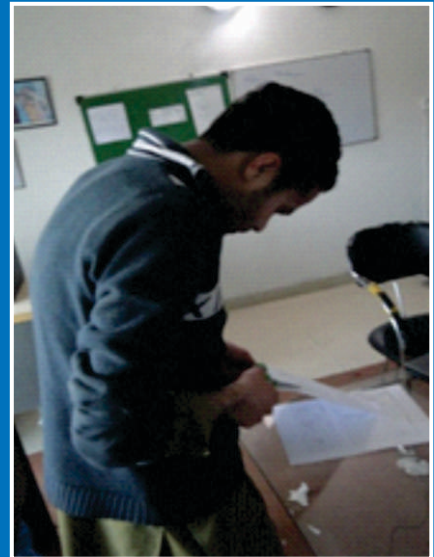
2.7 Data Analysis

The purpose of this action research was to collect data around children on the streets of Murree. The profile of children followed certain headings and was predefined (Please refer to Annex for format of the child's profile) with a flexibility: more columns and/or rows could be added as per need. Therefore, the data collected from the field (both in the shelter and in outreach) got assembled in the office and got analysed by a team on a weekly basis. Important information from these daily reports of caregivers got highlighted and added to the particular profile of the child in the Management Information System. The diagrammatic illustration of the process of the data analysis is described below:



In the photograph below, the documented daily reports (data) of caregivers from the shelter and outreach activities is analysed by the analysis team.

⁶ Entertainment that also enables children to acquire knowledge



2.8 Limitations

This study does not claim to present an overall view of the phenomenon of internal child trafficking in Pakistan: it only proposes responses to specific questions based on one sample: street children in Muree during a specific time frame.

All efforts were made to ensure that no duplication remained in the data and that all ethical research principles were implemented.

We therefore consider that this research can stand as a reliable and encouraging first step to scientifically document internal child trafficking in Pakistan and provide relevant information that can be used for policy/legal reform. However, this statement also insists on the fact that further research and further evidence is yet definitely required to complement the findings of this report and effectively contribute to countering one of the worst violations of our children's rights: internal trafficking.

3 Discussion on Important Findings

This part of the report will provide information on various populations of children visible in the streets of Murree, various forms of labour these children are forced to get involved in, places that these children access or are made to live in, behaviour patterns of children, link between internal child trafficking and modern forms of child slavery and level of awareness of local community on issues linked with children.

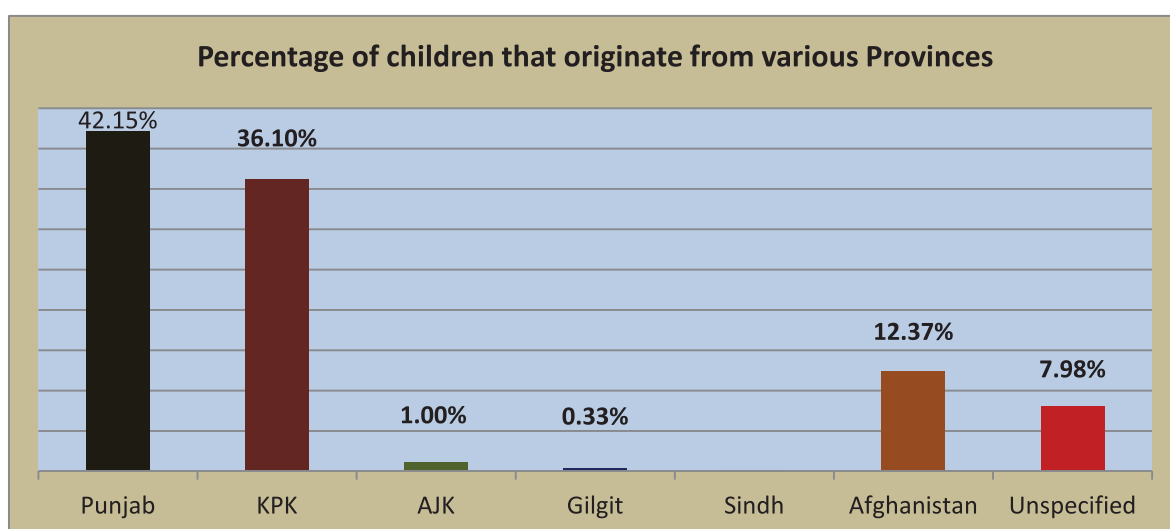
3.1 Populations of children

From February 2012 through April 2015, VISION documented and reached out to **1504** children on the streets of Murree. Populations of children can be differentiated in two different ways i.e. A) place/area of origin (geographic) or B) behaviour patterns and way of living.

If children are classified on the basis of their place of origin (A), then there are four different populations of children that are visible on the streets of Murree from time to time:

- i) Local children
- ii) Children of Azad Kashmir
- iii) Children from Afghanistan
- iv) Children from Hazara & KPK
- v) Children from Gilgit Baltistan
- vi) Children from Southern, Central Punjab and from the region of Potohar
- vii) Unspecified

Figure.1 shows the percentage of street children in Murree originating from various destinations/provinces.



However, if populations of children are classified on the basis of their behavioural patterns and their way of living/lifestyle, interesting information arise along with additional questions whose answers are still to be explored in their entirety. Various populations of children classified on the basis of their lifestyle/behaviour patterns are as follows:

Table.1

1. Children who live with their biological parents (confirmed)	68.72%
2. Children who live with their “Aunts/Uncles/Elder Brothers/mothers/fathers etc” (Occupational families)	3.91%
3. Children who are independent and mobile	4.99%
4. Children who are in groups and mobile (moved & controlled by contractors)	2.97%
5. Local Children	5.19%
6. Unknown/Unspecified	14.22%

Table.1 indicates that there are **68.72% and 5.72% (74.44% total)** children who are though on the streets but are living with their parents. Row 2, 3 and 4 are populations of children (**11.88% combined**) who are moved and controlled through different means and thus fall in the definition of trafficking i.e. children being trafficked internally.

While children who are brought into Murree in groups by contractors are clear cases of Children being internally trafficked, it is important to talk about two other populations i.e. Children who are living with their “Aunts/Uncles/Brother/Mother/Fathers etc and Children who are independent and mobile.

Some children who reported that they were living with their so called Uncle/Aunt/Brother/Mother/Father (Mostly single person, male or female), were counter checked by the project staff: it got established in several cases that the relationship between the child and that particular adult was self-made and that there were no biological ties. This population of children are generally of 7 to 14 years of age. The socially acceptable relationships were created in order to be able to keep the child, exert his/her authority on the child without being questioned (socially acceptable relationships and behaviours). The reality of the matter in most of the situations was that the child and the adult might have been from the same place/city/village but did not have any blood relationship with the child. The child would be sent with this adult by the parents (reported by the child) after some financial arrangement e.g. monthly income and/or one-time payment to parents of the child for a few month services of the child in Murree

Example: A 12 years old child came to Murree with his “uncle” and started selling *Papar* like his uncle; caregivers remain in contact with the child and the child benefitted from informal education provided in the street. The child eventually developed rapport with caregivers. One day when the child had bruises on his face and neck, caregivers asked the reason for it, the child revealed that the man that he called his uncle, had punished him for not earning enough the other day. The child further added that his (so called) uncle was not his biological uncle (which was later confirmed through local police) but his father's friend and that the father had sent the child along with this man to work for him (uncle).

In this case study, it is worth noticing that the man pretending to be the uncle of the child and responsible for putting the child in labour was not the biological uncle of the child, neither was this man the legal guardian of the child: he had no documents on him; in this case, the man also had no moral or legal authority to move the child from one place to another. Similarly, there was no evidence that the man that the child called his father, actually was his biological father... This was a clear case of internal child trafficking but it seems there are more layers to this case and it is not very simple...

The other important percentage of children stands for independent mobile children i.e. 4.99%. This population of children is slightly older in age compared to the other child populations, for example, these children usually are between 13/14 years to 17 years old. These children have basically spent much time on the streets and are well aware of their surroundings and relevant stakeholders. However, they are still prone to hawkers who are on the lookout for such populations and who use different means to control and move these children. For example:

A 15 years old boy ran away from his home in Attock after failing his Matric examination, fearing that his father would punish him severely for his bad results. The child left home and boarded a local transport bus heading towards Rawalpindi. The child kept on talking over the phone and was in contact with different friends. There was another person seated beside the child and listening to the conversation of the child. The man developed rapport with the child and then convinced him (child) to come with him to Murree where the child would have a place for his stay and a job to earn from. The child in distress agreed and came to Murree.

The child was put into work and was asked to collect garbage every day, which the child did and was compensated accordingly. After trust was gained, the child was given a suggestion by the man that if the child allowed him, he would keep and save the money that the child earned, to which the child agreed again. After a few months, when the child asked for the money that he had saved, the man refused and started using different control tactics to keep the child in Murree. At this point, the child revealed the whole story to VISION's caregivers and they intervened with the support of the local police; the money of the child was retrieved and the child was sent to VISION's.

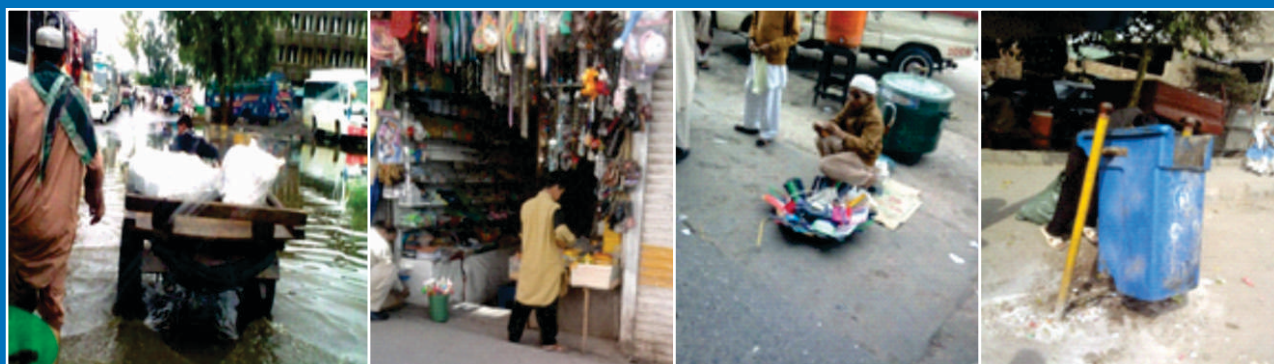
In the above mentioned case, the owner of a local Kabab-Khana was himself involved in luring children into his work. In most of the cases, independent children are mostly involved in Garbage collection, small robberies from local shops, snatching and theft cases, etc. The role of a hawker or the role of the person who spots and recruits children from this population is not limited to adults only. Some of the street children are trained, kept and used for achieving these goals too.

3.2 Various professions these children are put into and their income

Based on the data collected, children were observed and/or reported to be engaged in the following professions. These professions are either adopted by children or imposed by their contractors. These professions are listed below:

- Children asking for money
- Children in garbage collection
- Children in vending
- Selling bubble gum
- Selling boiled eggs
- Selling cakes and pastries

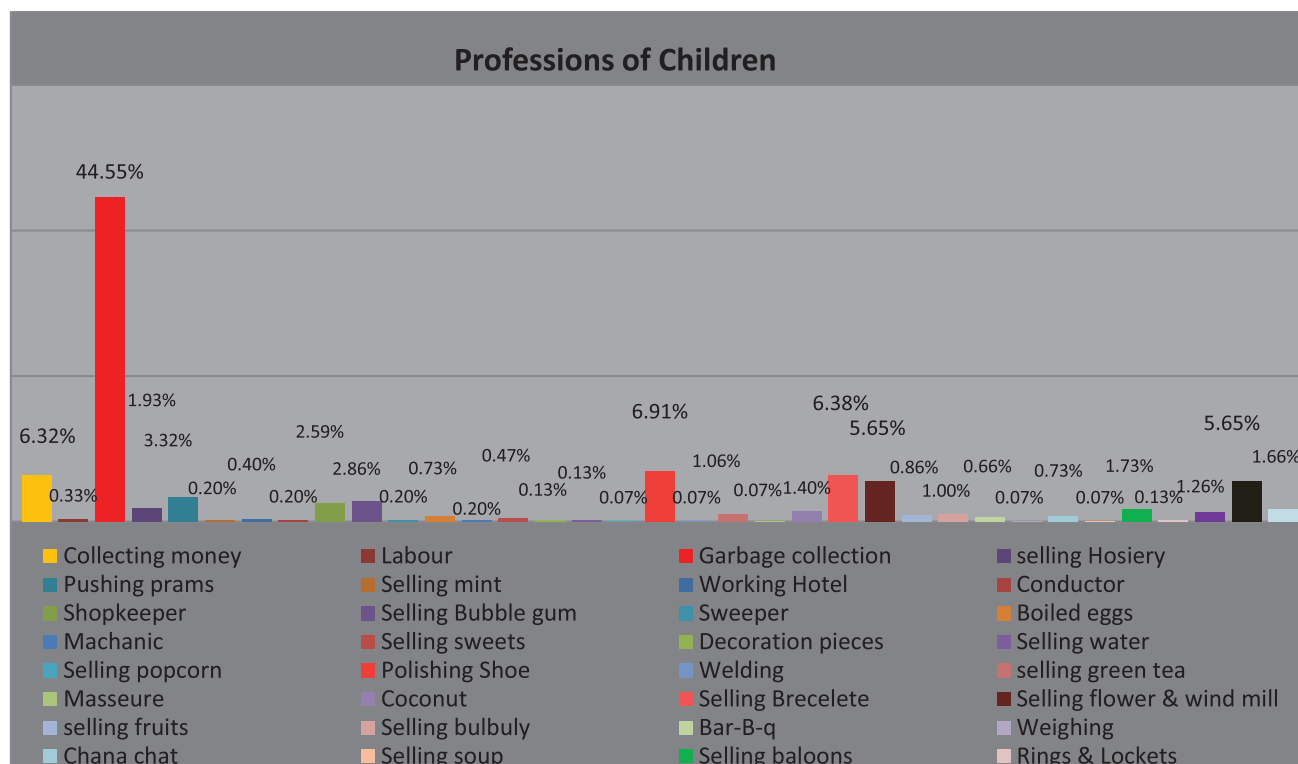
- Selling toys
- Selling corn or maize
- Children polishing shoes
- Selling *qahwa* (green tea)
- Selling coconut
- Selling fancy caps
- Selling female purse
- Selling plastic flower windmill
- Selling *pateesa* (local sweet)
- Selling Beetle leaf and beetle nut
- Selling Berries and figs (a local fruit)
- Selling dates
- Selling local form of pickles
- Selling kheer (local sweet made of custard)
- Pakwan (small sweet bread made from flour and sugar)
- Chicken or beef chunks barbequed on a skewer
- Earning money through weighing tourists
- Children pushing or pulling carts
- Children employed in hotels



It has been observed that generally any change in the environment of the children triggers change in their occupation/professions. In some cases, an adult is reported to be observed providing material to children for them to sell to tourists, or the same adult is seen collecting sale money from children. In other cases, slightly older children would change their professions in no time as soon as anything changes in the environment, for example, children would be selling bubble gums or boiled eggs, but as soon as it starts raining, these children will be carrying umbrellas to sell them to tourists. This and many other similar behavior patterns in the data collected establish the fact that there is a very sound understanding of the demand and supply concept of the local market. These behavior patterns are very similar even though the populations of children may change from time to time (new children are brought into Murree while old would leave), which signifies that perhaps the forces behind these children are constant or may have common strategies.

Figures given below is the graphical representation of three years data collected and compiled in Murree. Figure 2 is showing the percentage of children in various professions, while figure.3 is showing the percentage of children earning a specific amount/day while being in these professions. The income of children per day has a high significance, if linked with the issue of trafficking; it will be explained later in this report.

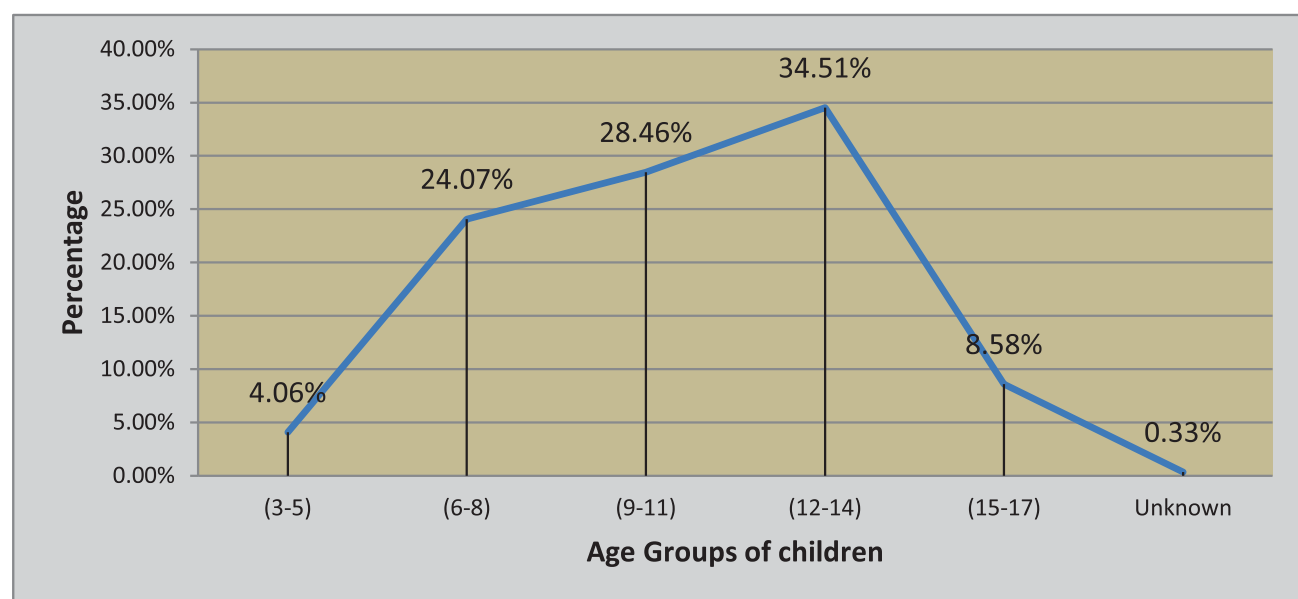
Figure 2. Percentage of children in various professions



3.3 Age groups of children visible on the streets of Murree.

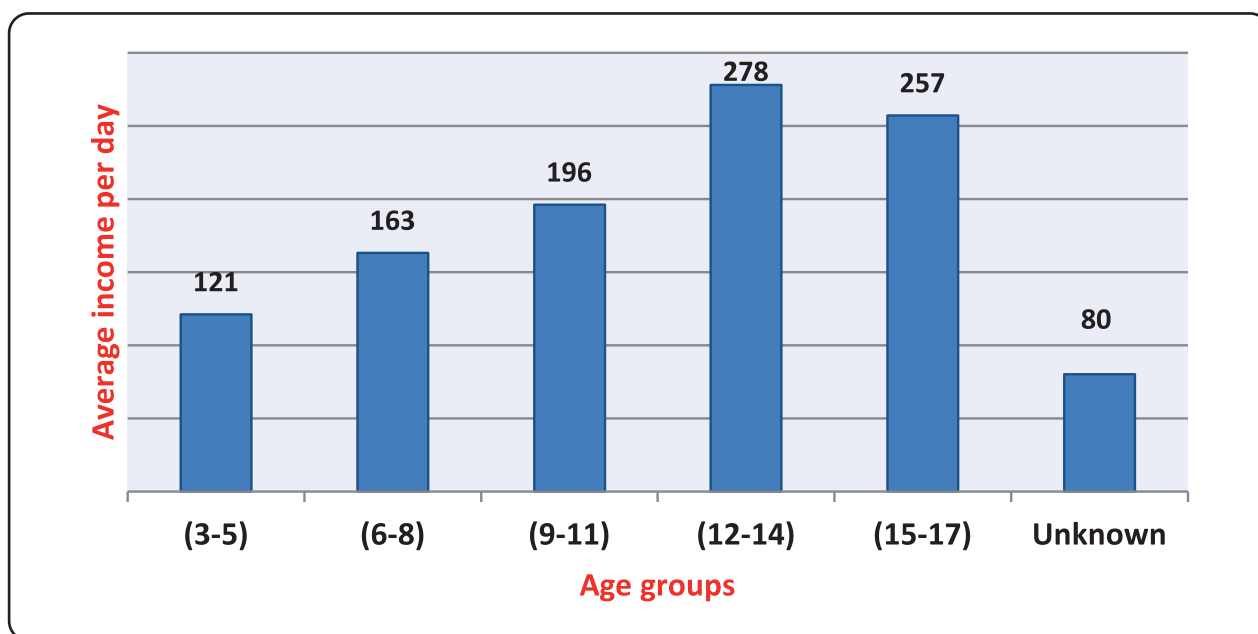
The data from the Management Information System shows that the age of a child on the streets of Murree is as low as 3 years old and as high as 17 years. 12-14 years of age (34.51% of the documented street children), however, makes the largest percentage of children being observed and documented on the streets of Murree.

Figure 3. Percentage of children in various age groups



As illustrated in the figure given above, most of the percentages of children are between ages 6 years to 14 years.

Figure 4: Average daily income of children in various age groups



3.4 Internal Child trafficking

From 2012 through 2015, VISION documented a total of 1504 street children (male and female). The population of children tends to increase during summer months i.e. May through Aug/Sept, however, these numbers decline in the months that follow. As per data, the number of children on streets has a direct relationship with the number of tourists in Murree, in other words, if the number of tourists rises and if Murree gets crowded, a new population of children emerges and their numbers gets multiplied too.

Before we go into detailed facts and figures, it is important to build upon our previous section which defines human trafficking (in general) without any further classification. In addition to our previous definition of child trafficking it is important to be aware of the fact that since December 2000, human trafficking in the United Nation's protocol is defined as follows:

“Trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person(s) by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation”.

As reported in the beginning of this report, in figure 1, the population of street children who come and/or are brought into Murree can be classified on the basis of 'how and with whom they are living'. Based on the table given below, there are **68.72% and 5.72% (74.44% total)** children who are on the streets of Murree but who are living with their parents. Row 2, 3 and 4 are populations of children **(11.88% combined)** who are moved and controlled through different means and thus falls in definition of

trafficking i.e. children being trafficked internally.

TABLE 1: REPRODUCED HERE FOR REFERENCE

1. Children who are living with their biological parents (confirmed)	68.72%
2. Children who live with their “Aunts/Uncles/Elder Brothers/mothers/fathers etc” (Occupational families)	3.91%
3. Children who are independent and mobile	4.99%
4. Children who are in groups and mobile (moved & controlled by contractors)	2.97%
5. Local Children	5.19%
6. Unknown/Unspecified	14.22%

Children who live in groups, or live with an adult (female/male), generally have a space to reside in. In such situation the child is not alone and there are many other children in the same group or under supervision of the same adult (male/female). The majority of the children falling in the category of 'unspecified' are children who stayed in Murree for a very short time and thus spent little time with the teams, resulting in little info in our database regarding those children.

Similarly, the percentage of children originating from different provinces and percentages of children and their linguistic skills etc are reflected in two other graphs. When analysed, it gives a picture about the mobility of children, from their origin through the various cities they travelled through and to their finally arrival in Murree. For example, graph 1 indicates that Punjab is contributing **42.15%** towards the population of street children documented in Murree and Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa is contributing **36.10%** to the total population of children on streets of Murree. However, when we look at a graph where we have the percentages of children and their abilities to speak various languages (native languages and other languages that the child might have picked up), the percentage of Pashto speaking children and Pashto/Urdu speaking children is way higher than the original **36.10%** of children who originated from KP. The difference in both percentages is an indicator that there is some percentage of children who are mobile and who have travelled between cities from time to time, hence it is difficult to tell their exact originating point/city/town.

Murree being a summer tourist hill resort in Pakistan remains a focal point for tourists from all over Pakistan. This tourism creates a seasonal market for consumption of all kinds of businesses. In summer, it becomes a town that changes its geography in terms of its spaces each month e.g. in the month of May, a shop may sell fabrics but the same shop in the month of June, may become an Internet café and in July, it may host a have food restaurant and in August, may become a cheap sleeping space for daily visitors (observations based on the mapping of Murree in 2009, 2010 & 2011).

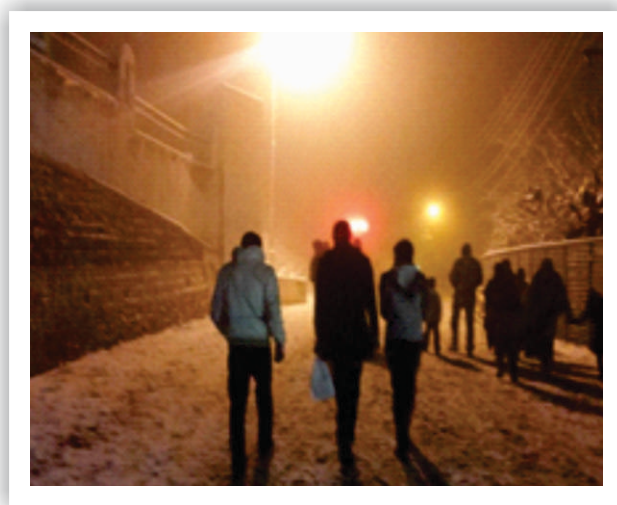
This market also creates a niche for all those who may want to get some quick money within the summer months. Children belong to a group which is considered to be profitable if brought to Murree during these summer months. The reason apparently is that children are easily transported and are easy to manage and considered excellent for purposes of on-road vending of candies, varying eatables and different cheap toys (please refer to **graph3** of percentages of children in various professions)

In other words, children are brought to Murree throughout the year, the only difference being the types of groups of children who are brought to Murree. A good example of this would be, while at the very onset of the season in March till August/September, children are usually between 4-5 years to 8-12 years of age, whereas during the Holy month of Ramadan -i.e. if Ramadan is during the summer-a new population of children starts becoming visible, slightly older. These children are mostly in to beg or ask for charity. Immediately after this month, another set of children is brought in and these children may be

slightly older than 9 years but not more than 14 or 15 years of age. These children are made to stay in Murree throughout the winter months to cater to the winter tourism in the town.



Project night outreach staff (on duty)



Economics plays a major role in bringing these children to Murree, keeping these children in town and engaging them in various roadside vending. This is where the issue of internal child trafficking gets linked with modern forms of Slavery.

Root causes of internal child trafficking, as per data analysis are as following:

- Domestic violence and disintegration of the family structure
- Lack of relevant laws and regulations
- Unaware and untrained (on issues of internal child trafficking, modern forms of slavery and emerging forms of child labour) law enforcing and implementing state units
- Situations of armed conflict/terrorism/counter terrorism.
- Lack of political, social and economic stability
- Lack of access to education
- Unsafe traditions and cultural practices that are easily exploited by contractors in their favour.

3.5 Modern Slavery

The analysis of the data indicates that children are treated as a commodity, where they are sold or rented for a specific period by contractors. To make it socially acceptable, the child would always call the person “who owns the child” as uncle or elder brother or even father but in reality they have no blood relations together. For example, in one case, a 12-14 years old child was purchased by one person from Lahore at a cost of PKR 20,000/- who brought the child to Rawalpindi. The child worked for this man for two months in Rawalpindi and then was sold to another person for the second time for the summer months at the same price. The child was then brought to Murree and thus came in contact with VISION through Listen to My Voice caregivers and was rescued and reunified with his biological family.

The data indicates that children who come with contractors have to earn a specific amount for the day otherwise these children are beaten and punished brutally. The daily earning goal for the child is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Principle amount} \\ \text{paid to owner/} \\ \text{guardian of} \\ \text{the child} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Cost of living/} \\ \text{mobility of} \\ \text{the child} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Profit} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Average per} \\ \text{day income} \\ \text{of children} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The fear of punishment (in case the amount set per day is not earned) forces the children to stay on the streets for more than 14 hours (on average) a day. These children are watched and controlled. If a caregiver spends too much time with a child, an adult usually approaches and intervenes in order to separate the child from the caregiver. It is also observed and reported that at some point of the day, an adult would approach a group of children and take money from children (usually the money that the child has earned).

If we look at these realities, the child is purchased and then sold to several hands. No one has any control on the child but the one who 'owns' the child; it is extremely difficult to trace and verify biological parents of the child (in LTMV process coordination with local police remained a key element to ensure that the child was handed over to her/his biological parents).

Moreover, if the children are not able to earn their assigned targets by vending they resort to other means, for example allowing paedophiles to come close to them (usually from video game parlours, mini cinema's and/or Mall road). In one case study, a street child was picked up by two men from a video game parlour and taken to their room; the team of caregivers followed them and rescued the child from the room of the men. There are several reported incidents where an adult approaches the child with an intention to convince the child to perform sexual activities.

4 Conclusion

The research clearly demonstrate the prevalence of internal child trafficking in Murree. The main reasons behind this phenomenon appear to be domestic violence, corporal punishment, poverty and abuse. The impact of natural disasters and war on terror on children's mobility and their inherent vulnerability to labour, exploitation and trafficking can also not be ignored.

It is also important to take into consideration the fact that internal child trafficking is not a linear pattern on the contrary, influx of children vary according to several factors such as but not limited to: climate, market reality (demand-supply), law and order situation, level of law enforcement etc.

Last but not the least internal child trafficking cannot be countered without addressing other inter linked forms of violence against children: Child labour, Corporal punishment and child education, child sexual abuse and exploitation and domestic violence.

While highlighting a distressing reality, Vision's report also sheds light on potential solutions that must be further documented and capitalised upon. The cooperation with the law enforcement agencies in Murree and the positive outcome it generated for the child who was reunified with his family constitutes a ray of hope that reminds us that our work must continue and that all together we can make a difference and provide our children with the society they deserve.

5 Recommendations

Based on the findings exposed in this research, the following recommendations are made:

- At a structural level, it is crucial to improve the Pakistani policy and legal framework relating to domestic violence, child sexual abuse, corporal punishment, pornography, commercial and sexual exploitation of children as well as internal trafficking. Those forms of violence directly impact children, building upon their vulnerability, and they are interlinked with the presence of children in the streets and the abuses they face in various environments. Establishing and operationalizing a National Commission on the Rights of the Child to promote those laws and policies and monitor their implementation by the state is also critical. Additionally, it is imperative to conduct mass media awareness campaigns on peace, child protection and gender equity to empower the population and promote non –violence: too many children end up in the streets or in an unhealthy controlled and exploitative environment to flee domestic violence, abuse or corporal punishment.
- At an institutional level, relevant budget must be allocated, pertinent programmes developed to address child trafficking, propose child friendly welcoming structures and provide dignified and effective rehabilitation and reintegration services. Adequate training for law enforcement agencies and government functionaries is a must. In general, curricula must be revamped and include gender equity, non-violent strategies, child protection and rights. Good practices must be documented, disseminated and replicated by state agencies. Complementary research is highly required to provide objective guidance: academia and public research institutes can play a pivotal role to this effect.
- At a functional level, livelihood enhancement and reduction of domestic violence and corporal punishment along with real education for all till 16 years of age will certainly greatly contribute to countering internal child trafficking. Reporting suspicious cases to relevant authorities can also be useful.

Overall, additional evidence based advocacy and lobbying is needed to protect children from internal trafficking. To this effect, a strong but child and gender sensitive liaison with media is also required as well as collaboration between civil society and the state to engage communities, youth, policy makers, mobilise resources and enhance local capacities. A stronger social and political acknowledgment and eventually disapproval of child trafficking is the need of the hour.

6 Appendices

6.1 Murree training process report

Training process of caregivers in Murree (LTMV) July, 2012

Introduction

This is a brief report of the training process designed for the caregivers/outreach workers. This training was designed to respond to the needs of the process and improve upon the skills of the caregivers that are required for effectively working with children both in outreach situation as well as Drop-in centre (DIC). Adapting a more holistic approach, following contents were the main focus of the training process:

1. An orientation with the research processes (in general).
2. Process of data collection and tools of data collection (in general).
3. Observation as a data collection tool and its various types (focused).
4. Mapping a particular area e.g. city/town etc.
5. Documentation and report writing.
6. Bias and possible means of mitigating elements because of which bias can creep in.
7. Personal barrier of caregivers.
8. Developing an understanding around different issues directly or indirectly linked with children living on street such as various types and manifestation of abuse, sexuality, trafficking and its types, laws (International, national and provincial) related to child abuse and trafficking.
9. Stigma and labelling (linked with work or the population for whom we are working).
10. Interpersonal skills e.g. communication, language, general conduct during and after work hours, developing rapport with community and/or children and listening skills etc.
11. Dealing with emergency situation linked with work (children in outreach and shelter)

Core objectives of the training process

Training was designed with intent to improve upon the skills of potential caregivers to equip/enable them to perform their responsibilities i.e. caregiving to children both in shelter and outreach situation with heavy emphasis on rapport building with local community along with the required documentation and reporting skills. However, in order to build the capacity of caregivers, following were key objectives of the training process (considering the key objectives of the project and needs of children):

- i. Developing an understanding around research processes
- ii. Developing an understanding around issues linked with children living on the street.
- iii. Improving upon the required skills of reporting and documentation.

- iv. Enabling caregivers to deal with emergency situations that may arise in field during or after work hours (linked with children living on street or shelter/home)
- v. Improving upon the caregiving skills of caregivers to have them provide a comfortable friendly learning environment to children.
- vi. To improve upon the analytical skills required for effective implementation of the process “LTMV”
- vii. Orienting caregivers with the concept note of the process named “Listen to My Voice”.

Methodology

The training process was divided into 4 different phases that are as following:

Phase-1: from Monday 2nd July through Friday 6th July, 2012 (5 days)

After getting introduced to each other the team was given some basic information about one of the data collection method i.e. observation. Then individuals in the team were asked to do general observation in different areas (assigned to them at the time of sending them off) for 30 minutes. Once the team meets up again after 30 minutes of observation, they were asked to write down whatever they have observed in their 30 minutes observation. After writing it down, the team was facilitated by trainers to reflect on their documentation and information they have brought and documented. They were assisted in identifying various weaknesses in their report where improvement was required. This day they were sent 3-4 times repeating the same exercises to improve their observation skills and writing report in terms of:

- i) Documenting it with minimum possible personal bias
- ii) Improving the writing speed
- iii) Writing information in an organized manner

Phase-2: Saturday 7th July through Tuesday 10th July, 2012 (4 days)

In this phase more work was done on the conceptual clarity of potential caregivers around main issues linked with children living on the street such as various types/kinds of abuse and its various manifestations, commercial sexual exploitation of children, internal trafficking of children, child labour and laws related to these issues etc.

Phase-3: Wednesday 11th July through Sunday 15th July, 2012 (4 days)

Phase-2 was followed by introducing potential caregivers with a tool i.e. 4 days workshop design for caregivers who works with children directly. The workshop is meant for full three days which was stretched to 4 days to make sure all the contents are delivered effectively and caregivers are not burdened with too much information (avoiding exhaustion). The first three days were designed to take the participants through a process and the fourth full day was for reflection and discussions. At the end of the fourth day the participants were encouraged to share their learning from the process. This workshop has been designed after a research process. The relevancy of this workshop is specifically for the care givers working directly with children who are totally or partially living on streets.

Phase-4: Monday 16th July through Wednesday 18th July, 2012 (3 days).

In this phase participants were oriented with the concept note of the process/project titled “Listen to My Voice” (LTMV). They (participants) were thoroughly taken through each step of the concept of LTMV. To conclude this phase, the participants were encouraged to come up with a strategy or suggestions of how they would implement this project followed by reflecting on the suggestions came from participants. Later, they were introduced with the actual strategy (to be implemented) to have them reflect on the gaps (between actual strategy and strategy suggested by participants).

Finally, before the team could be taken to actual working environment, the whole training process was concluded after taking the fresh team through a mapping exercise (mapping Murree from the perspective of population and safety and security situation of children). This exercise resulted in identification of the key points where the children could be reached out to, concentrated and/or more vulnerable.

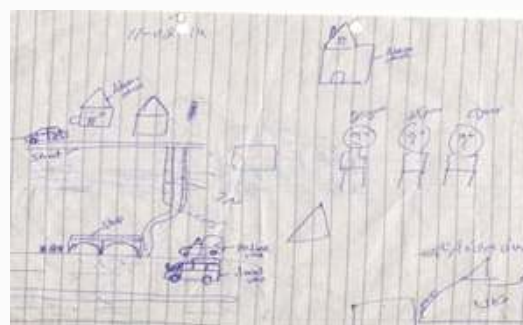
6.2 Photographs of Community meetings, reflection sessions, trainings, puppet & theatre acts and other field/out-reach activities







6.3 Drawings of children



6.4 List of documents/reports that are relevant to this research

- Murree Pilot Intervention Report 2009
- Quarterly and annual reports of LTMV process
- Reports generated from database
- Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey on Child Labour, Trafficking and relevant laws
- etc