



Gratification of Socio Psychological Needs of SOS Children

Jasdeep Kaur

Abstract: SOS Children's Villages has been working since 1949 to meet the needs and protect the interests and rights of orphan children. This study is focused on the orphan children of SOS village who are regularly gratifying all the facilities such as home, food, clothing, education, extra-tuitions, vocational training, computer labs, play grounds etc. provided by SOS Children's Village. SOS children are becoming successful professionals and leading well settled lives as doctors, engineers, software professionals, chefs, nurses and so on. SOS Children's Villages not just provide the basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter but also ensure that the children are educated, employed and well settled in life by the age of 25. Human development is about equal life chances for all. It involves not only expanding capabilities to broaden people's present choices to live healthy, productive and safe lives but also ensuring that these choices do not compromise or restrict those available to future generations. This study also reveals the bonding, belongingness of SOS children with their colleague and with the SOS mother who is living 24 hours with them.

Key Words: Social security, Socio- psychological needs, gratification, Children, Orphan.

I. INTRODUCTION

In India, poverty is a major issue people suffer from poor infrastructure. Only 84 per cent of the population has access to clean drinking water and only 21 per cent to adequate sanitation facilities. The literacy rate continues to be low around 73 per cent for men and about 48 per cent for women. The access to quality health care is also a concern. At present the life expectancy rate is relatively low at 65.7 years for men and 67.9 years for women. It is estimated that 2.4 million people live with HIV/AIDS (2009 est.). Simply the priority of a family living in poverty is to survive. Any additional income from a child working gives them a better chance of having enough food and shelter.

UNICEF reports that the lack of adequate health care results in high infant, child and maternal mortality rates. The school attendance rate is low in India-only 72 per cent of children between the ages of 6 and 10 attend primary school. Child labour is a conspicuous problem, with around 12 per cent of children between ages of 5 and 14 involved in child labour. Many children are trafficked as forced to work as domestic workers, in factories or prostitution.

Children of SOS villages are always secure in terms of housing, health and nutrition, access to education and appropriate care system on the lives of a family set up. According to Socio-Psychological theory individual and society are interlinked.

It is also called Neo- Freudian theory which believes that social relationships are fundamental to the formation and development of personality. In Psychology, Social Psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviours are influenced by the actual, imagined or implied presence of others. (G.W. All Port, 1935).

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

This study "Gratification of Socio- psychological needs of SOS Children" is based on a survey conducted on SOS Children's Village. By providing social security it wishes to the welfare of needy, impoverished, poor, disabled, socially and economically burdened individuals of the society and systematize communities into productive self-supporting units of evolution. It is running projects for the welfare and rehabilitation of underprivileged and susceptible children of our society, e.g. for the lost, Kidnapped and runaway children, abandoned babies home, centre for the treatment and rehabilitation of mentally retarded children (Evaluation report on Project 2013).

The Human Development Report 2014 by UNDP while underlining these indicates for progress of people further focus on need of responsive institutions for building human resilience. The report states that in principle everyone is vulnerable to some adverse event or circumstances, but some people are more vulnerable than others. Children everywhere in the world have been most vulnerable due to various reasons. Those who are parentless and abandoned have been more vulnerable. Those who find a responsive institution are lucky as they get a home, protection and an environment to develop their capacities. This paper is an attempt to explain how the family based care and support has been contributing in their capacity building. This research paper also deals with explaining the social security of SOS children in Socio – Psychological context.

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To study educational perspective in capacity building setup of SOS village.
2. To study social security of SOS children in Socio- psychological contexts.

Revised Manuscript Received on October 30, 2019.

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TIME SPAN OF THE STUDY IS SEPTEMBER 2019

IV. METHODOLOGY

Research Design: For this research study descriptive research attempts to describe systematically a situation, problem, phenomenon, service or programme that provides information about say, living conditions of a community and describes attitudes towards an issue.

Method: The study is based on specific survey that was conducted in SOS children’s villages at Rajpura situated in Punjab. A survey is carried out to provide both quantitative and qualitative approach to the research.

Tool: In survey the questionnaire is structured which is closed-ended as well as open ended and formulated in English as well as in Punjabi.

Sample Size: The sample size of 100 children i.e. 50 boys and 50 girls between the age groups 10-13, 13-15, 15-19 is selected. The questionnaire tool is used to conduct survey. The researcher had selected SOS Children’s Village Rajpura (NGO) to carry out the research. From 1996, SOS Children’s village was set up in Rajpura to care for a large number of children rendered homeless and parentless after a decade long violence and terrorism in Punjab. It has 14 family houses for 217 children, a Kindergarten which takes care of pre-school education and prepares children for formal schooling, a community house, a guest house, learning centre comprising of library, computer lab and a music room, tailoring hobby centre, workshop, dispensary

and sports facilities which are all a part of the Village facility. (www.sos-children-s-village-rajpura)

Sampling: The sampling used here is ‘probability sampling’ i.e. sample members have been chosen randomly from the entire population. This can further be stated as ‘simple random sample’ where every member of the population has a known and equal chance of being selected and then it becomes ‘stratified random sample’ i.e. population has divided into two groups boys and girls, allocation of equal quota to the state was done to ensure that the findings could be generalised for the whole of SOS children’s villages of India.

V. MAJOR FINDINGS

This data is focused on 100 respondents i.e. children from SOS village Rajpura. 50 boys and 50 girl respondents chosen for the study and all the respondents are teens and students at following standards. The age wise selection from ten years onwards was done to facilitate the interview with grown up children from class 5 to 12.

Study Profile of the Respondents

Table no. 1

Class	Boys	Girls
5 -8 th	60%	40%
8 -10 th	36%	64%
10 -12 th	20%	80%

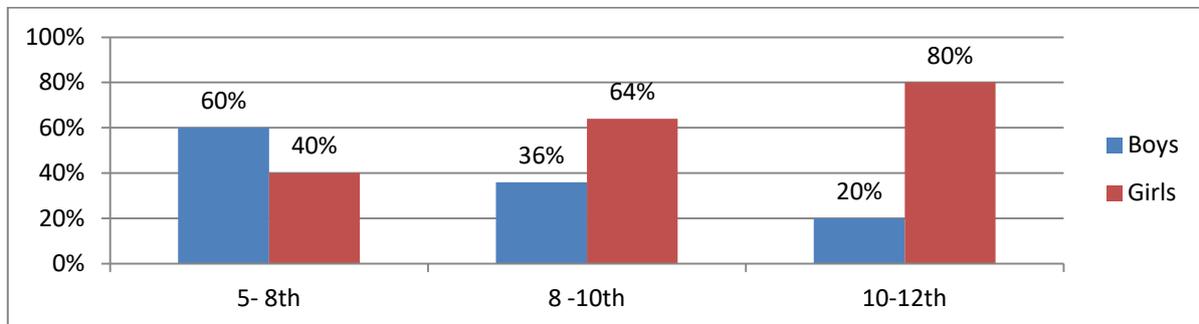


Figure 1.1

Majority of the girl respondents are studying in post metric class and boys in middle class. SOS Children village provide all the study related material such as books, note books, stationary etc. It also has the privilege of tuitions for the weak students. So, they can get good marks by improving their performance in studies. There is a facility of accessing internet in computer labs for making their assignments. The researcher observed that various newspapers and magazines are received by each house in SOS Children’s Village in different languages such as Hindi, Punjabi and English. A newspaper provides each and every update about the world. Through Newspapers children

are becoming aware about the current affairs and everyday happening of the world.

Educational streams chosen by the respondents

Table no.2

Streams	Boys	Girls
Humanities	56%	44%
Science	20%	80%
Commerce	30%	70%

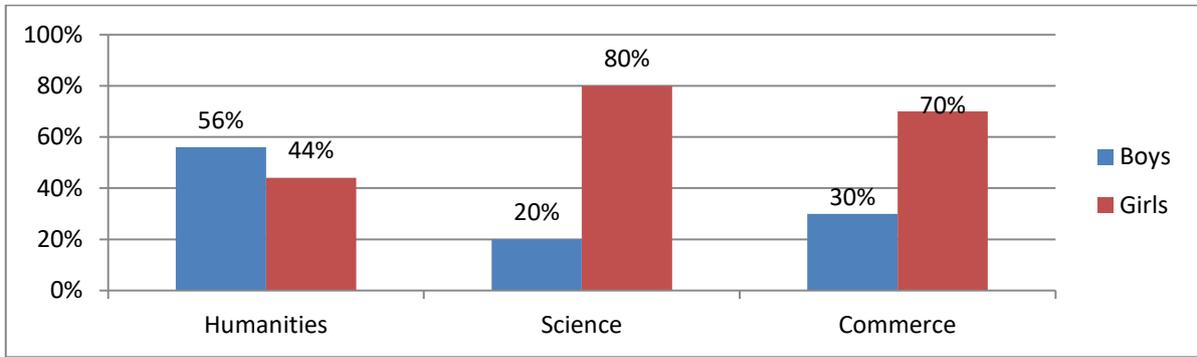


Figure 2.1

The data reveals that children of SOS are very brilliant in studies. 80% of the girl respondents have selected the science stream. The data shows that children of SOS are enthusiastic about their studies. For their career guidance counseling courses are arranged by SOS villages to help the children for their better future. 70% of the girls selected the course for study in commerce stream. 56% boys choose humanities as their course of the study. The researcher found that these children take admissions in reputed colleges and universities after the completion of their post metric.

Schools in which respondents are presently studying.

Table No. 3

	Boys	Girls
Government School	20%	10%
Private School	80%	90%

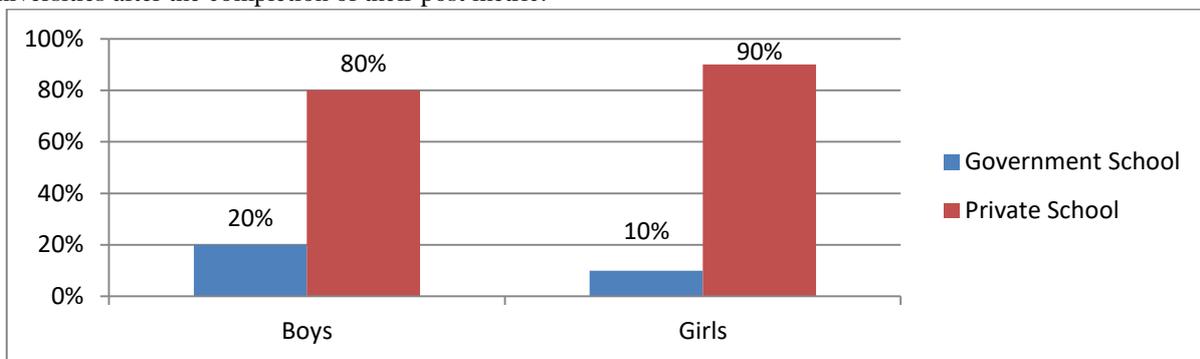


Figure 3.1

According to the data analyzed that majority of the respondents are currently studying in private school. Very less percentage of respondents are studying in Govt. school. The reason for these students in a Govt. school was their weak hold over English. This data shows that private schools, despite being comparatively costlier than Private School, are being preferred over Govt. Schools. This shows that education is not being compromised in such schools. This way the SOS inmates are quite fortunate that they belong to an organization which is there for quality education. It also shows that schools have access to the

resources to enable themselves to work for quality assurance in terms of human resource development.

The age at which the respondents joined SOS village.

Table No. 4

	0-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Boys	14%	34%	52%
Girls	40%	22%	38%

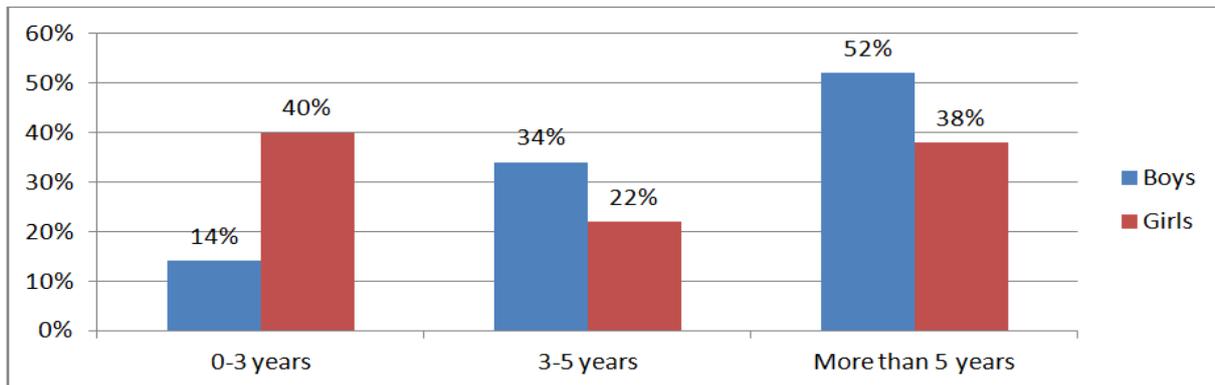


Figure 4.1

Gratification of Socio Psychological Needs of SOS Children

More than half percentage of the boys were in more than five years of age when they came to SOS Children's Village whereas 40% girls were of less than three years of age at the time of their joining with SOS Children. Through interaction researcher found that some respondents even don't know about their biological family. According them, SOS is their family. They have good bonding and belongingness with their SOS mother, colleague and neighbours.

The number of years for which the respondents have been in SOS Children's Village.

Table No. 5

	0-3 years	3-5 years	5-7 years	More than 7 years
Boys	16%	10%	14%	60%
Girls	10%	10%	16%	64%

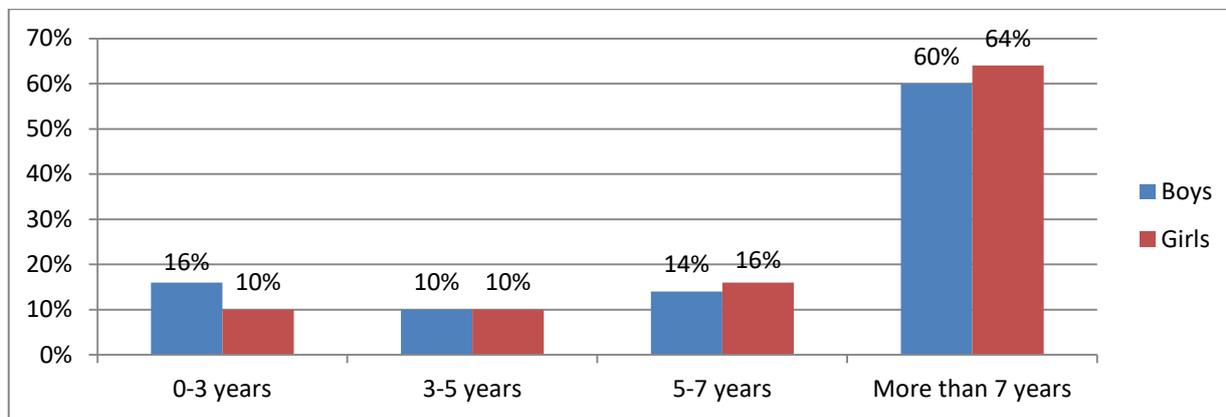


Figure 5.1

Maximum of the respondents have spent more than seven years in SOS Children's Village. So, majority of the respondents have long association with their SOS family. In every SOS house average of 10 to 12 children are living with different age groups. Through interaction researcher found that there is a condition in SOS Children's Village when boys reach the age of 14, they begin to live in separate Youth Hostels until they reach the age of 18. SOS provides all the facilities until the children reached at the age of 25 after this they are expected to be employed and independent.

Support of others while making major decisions in life regarding personal problems, career options etc.

Table No. 6

Support in decisions	SOS Mother	Teachers	Siblings
Respondents	76%	18%	6%

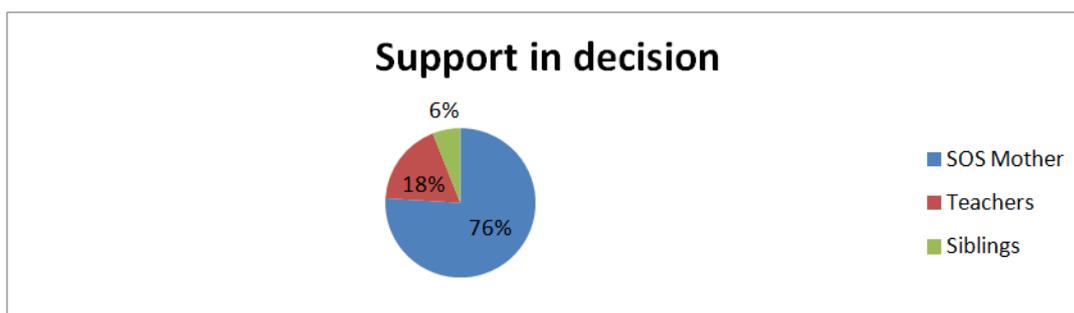


Figure 6.1

Majority of the respondents agree that SOS mothers have been very supportive as they help them in making important decisions; career options and solving their personal problems etc. 18% of the respondents find this support from their teachers as the teachers play a great role in child's development. Less than 10% of respondents find their brothers and sisters very supportive to them

Therefore it can be seen that the role of SOS mother is important in capacity building of these children. If 76% children appreciate here the role of their SOS mother, then it gives a sense of gratitude towards these women who have been helping the parentless children in fulfilling their aims and goals.

Skill development exercises taken up by the SOS boys.

Table No. 7

Skill Training	Very keen	Off and On
1. Practical skills:		
a) Cooking	10%	90%
b) Cleaning	58%	42%
c) Shopping	10%	90%
d) Budgeting	30%	70%

2.Health and Lifestyle:			
a) Personal hygiene		76%	24%
b) Healthy diet		62%	38%
c) Fitness		60%	40%
d) Awareness against alcohol/drug abuse		80%	20%

3.Interpersonal and Emotional skills		
a) Making friends	90%	10%
b) Personal relationships	68%	32%
c) Communication skills	36%	64%

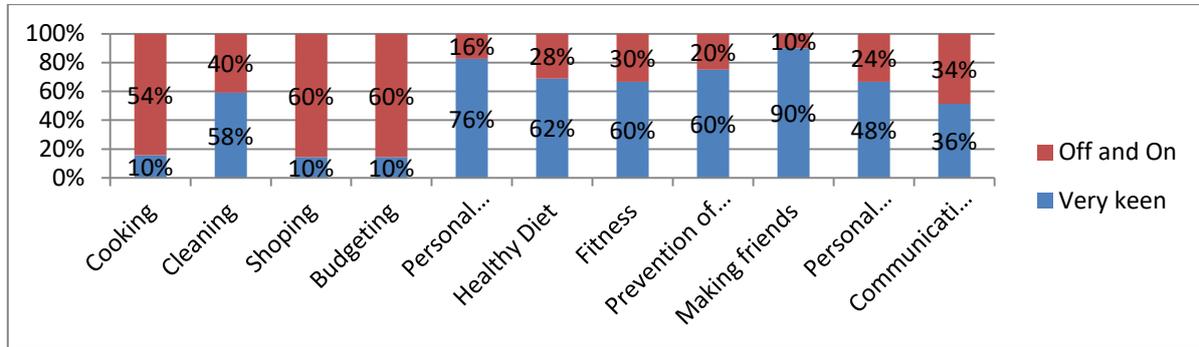


Figure 7.1

The various exercises mentioned under the practical skills, health and lifestyle and Interpersonal and emotional skills are regularly taken up by the SOS family whereby the children are taught to be involved in the family and the environment. The data shows those respondents who have been very keen in learning such exercises and those who are involved off and on. Jobs assigned to them by their SOS family time to time.

Very remarkable thing is 90% believe in making friends 68% believe in personal relationships. Children are sharing their views, opinions and ideas with others through social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter etc. They want to be socially accepted by the outside world. 80% respondents have been part of awareness campaign against alcohol/drug abuse. They all are aware about the consequences of drinking alcohol or taking drugs. 76% are very conscious about personal hygiene. 62% are very conscious about healthy diet and fitness respectively. The researcher observed that fresh fruits and vegetables are provided to the children by SOS in every home on regular basis.

VI. CONCLUSION

Yes, definitely SOS Children Villages providing a good capacity building opportunities to the SOS children. Quality education is a key to a successful future. Children from SOS families attend local public schools and make use of existing education systems in areas where public education is available and adequate. If quality private schools are available, SOS children's Village assists with school fee, uniforms and school supplies for the children in their programmes. Children of SOS are enthusiastic about their studies. For their career guidance counseling courses are arranged by SOS villages to help the children for their better future. SOS strives continuously to improve the quality of care and capacity building services through collaboration and adapting innovative approaches.

SOS children get a socially secure environment whereby they get an emotional & social strength. In SOS village girls and boys of different ages are living together as brother and sisters. These children and their SOS mother

build emotional ties that last a lifetime. SOS mother builds a close relationship with every child entrusted to her, provides the security, love and stability that each child needs. The data here confirms that the majority of children are those who have strong belongingness with SOS village. It is good that they feel SOS belongs to them and they belong to SOS village. Children say that they have strong bonding with this institution. This SOS village means real home to them. To further reaffirm their belongingness with SOS home, they were asked if they really loved their SOS family. In response to this question 95% children said that they really love their SOS family. In SOS village, families share experiences and offer one another in helping hand.

SOS children have access to basic facilities and amenities in SOS village. These are varying levels of needs. Psychologists divide these needs as primary and secondary. According to Maslow, gratification of needs is a source of motivation. The very basis of survival depends on fulfilment of physiological needs, safety needs, love/belonging needs, esteem needs and self-actualisation needs. Every human being needs to attain fulfilment. Physiological needs are just the very basic needs. The findings here justifies that SOS villages are taking good care of the needs of these parentless children. SOS children get opportunities to personality and skill development. SOS helps children to recognise and express their individual abilities, interests, and talents and also ensure that children receive the education and skills training that need to be successful and contributing members of the society.

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