

## Government's Policy towards Orphanages in Mardan

**Sumayya Feroz**

*M Phil Scholar, Department of Political Science  
Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan  
[Sumayyaferoz47@gmail.com](mailto:Sumayyaferoz47@gmail.com)*

**Shoukat**

*Lecturer, Department of Political Science  
Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan*

**Shahab Ali**

*Lecturer, Department of Political Science  
University of Swabi, Swabi  
[shahab.ali@uoswabi.edu.pk](mailto:shahab.ali@uoswabi.edu.pk)*

### **Abstract**

*An orphanage is an institution dedicated to the care and up-bringing of children who have lost their parent(s). All over the world countries have devised policies and programs for protection and well being of the orphans. This study aims to analyze Government policies in the orphanages of District Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Only one orphanage named Sarhadi Yateem Khana has been selected for my research and data collection. The main focus of this study is to analyze the educational, nutritional and recreational aspects of the policy. Similarly a brief view of environment of the orphanage and interaction between the orphans and caretakers is also taken. The overall educational and food facilities were satisfactory in the orphanages however there were gaps between the policy and its actual practice mostly regarding skill development, career counseling and menu system. Having a detailed analysis some recommendations have been given at the end.*

**Key words:** *Orphanage, education, Environment, Recreational activities and Policy*

### **Historical Background**

Children are one of those species, which are vulnerable individuals i.e. they are badly affected by the conflicts happening around the world. Child population makes up 2.2 billion of 7 billion world's population. Exact figures are not available; no all nations have accurate census information. But according to the recent report, "The Report on the Situation of World Children" published by UNICEF in 2014, there are 153 million of orphans. The regions where most orphans live are Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. According to the report, among the orphans over 71 million orphans live in Asia. Similarly, about 40,800,000 live in South Asia. Pakistan is among the top ranked countries in this regard and ranked as No.8 having approximately 4,200,000 orphans. The definition of orphan is not absolute. The definition of orphan varies from country to country and region to region but in the light of its main indicators, an orphan is defined as a child up to 15 or 18 years of age, who has lost his father, mother or both parents (Smart, 2003). Although the definition of orphan varies but I will use the term orphan as defined by Rose Smart in my research study.

An orphan requires care, love and protection but these children remain deprived of love and affection from their loving parents (Tsheko, 2007). There are many factors which makes children orphans i.e., wars and natural calamities like cyclones, earthquake, floods, fire and road accidents (Rather & Margoob, 2006). Similarly, sickness, historically high mortality rates and diseases like HIV/AIDS etc results in orphan hood (Tsheko, 2007). Similarly young ladies also conceive children by taking wrong steps in life and they either leave them in hospitals or run away. The orphan child who loses one or both parents due to war, invasion, natural disasters, conflict, chronic poverty (Rather and Margoob, 2006) and terminal illnesses like diseases such as AIDS are left vulnerable and without anyone to care for them (Tsheko, 2007). In these cases, due to the anarchy in regions of crisis orphan face numerous dangers such as human trafficking adoption against will, recruitment as child soldiers, child labor, organ mafia, prostitution etc (Child Protection Policy FATA, 2012). Similarly such disowned children sometimes are adopted by people who were barren and where there are more orphans; they seek admission into the orphanages because they have no other option (Sangadji, Kusdiyanti & Rosmawati, 2014).

It is every child's birthright to live, get education, healthcare, shelter and protection against physical, moral and psychological abuse. International community has responsibility to guarantee these basic rights of children and to protect them. Due to orphan hood these children are deprived of the above mentioned basic requirements and facilities. In order to fulfill its commitment of safeguarding and developing the well-being of the orphans, the people place deprived children in large residential institutions like orphanages, destitute homes and charity educational institutions in socio-economically poor Asian countries. An orphanage is an institution dedicated to the care and up-bringing of children who have lost their parent(s) (Rather & Margoob, 2006).

More than 50 years of research provides convincing evidence that the type of institutional care provided in Western countries had a detrimental effect on cognition, behavioral, emotional and social development of young children (Rather & Margoob, 2006). In the history of many developing countries, institutional care is a relatively recent import. In most cases, it was introduced early in the twentieth century by missionaries or colonial governments, replicating what was then familiar in their home countries (Tolfree & David, 1995). Millions of children around the world currently reside in residential institutions. Globally, it is estimated that over 2 million children are living in orphanages. In most developing countries, no one knows how many children reside in such care and in many of these countries; no one even knows how many residential institutions are presently working (Williamson & Greenberg, 2010).

### **Orphanage**

An orphanage is an institution dedicated to the care and up-bringing of children who have lost their parent. The practice of putting orphans in this type of institutional care is prevailing in the poor Asian countries from the last many years (Rather and Margoob, 2006). Most of the researchers and people are against the orphanages on the basis that orphanages are expensive to operate and have little to fulfill the emotional needs of the orphans (Drew, 1998). Similarly orphans in orphanage can face social and emotional problems (Ahmad & Mohamad, 1996).

In the history of many developing countries, institutional care is a relatively recent import. In most cases, it was introduced early in the twentieth century by missionaries or colonial governments, replicating what was then familiar in their home countries (Tolfree and David, 1995). More than 50 years of research provides persuasive evidence that the type of institutional care provided in Western countries had a detrimental effect on cognition, behavioral, affecting and social development of young children (Rather and Margoob, 2006). Millions of children

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### **Education**

According to Muhammad Yunus (2003), the Nobel Prize winner and founder of the Grameen Bank, education is one of the primary mechanisms for eradicating the poverty of the poor. UNAIDS, task team conducted a research (n.d), which reported about education as; “Education has the power to bring enormous improvements in the lives of orphans by granting knowledge and life skills. Education has a great role in the psychosocial development of orphans. It gives them hope in chaotic times. The access of the orphans must be ensured to quality education. Many researches in different countries show that being orphaned has a harmful impact on the educational indicators. Educational institution is the only institution that reaches more than other public institutions. But the problem is, its resources and potentials are not utilized up to the benchmark. In order to make best use of their potential, schools must facilitate and co-ordinate multi-sect oral approaches.” According to the research conducted by Miller (2008), education is development. It reduces the poverty and diseases in the children by creating choices and opportunities to the children. It gives them a voice in the society. The advantages of education are well known in the developing countries. Education increases workforce productivity, increases incomes, increases political participation and reduces social inequality. Education creates a labor force that opens doors to economic and social prosperity. Educating orphan is an important element in their social well-being and reducing poverty.

Education is a basic human right for all children, as recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) and Education for All is a compelling goal for all nations. Education is important for the children’s psychosocial development as well as their economic productivity in their future. Miller further states, school provides children with a safe, ordered environment and emotional support of other adults in the society. School helps children to interact with each other and make social networks. Schools impart important skills to the children. Education is something, which can change lives. If there are barriers to children in attaining good quality education, they become vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and different disorders.

### **Food Facilities**

According to The Framework for the protection, care and support of orphans and vulnerable children, 2004, the orphans are at extreme danger from malnutrition and sickness and they are less likely to get the required medical care. Further according to Lang (2003), one of the important components for the support of orphans is Food and nutrition. Under nutrition causes more than one half of deaths in children in developing countries. The report by Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (n.d) summarizes about food provisions, “The focus of food security and nutrition interventions should be to: Provide nutrient–dense and sufficient food to the orphanages for the orphans. To improve the productivity, quality and storage of food in the house holds for orphans. To assist the community to recognize sources of food, to assemble capital assets and equipments to help in strengthening food security of such households, it must be ensured that the houses have access to nutrient-dense food on regular basis by heartening them to start income generating initials. Nutrition based education must be provided to the orphanages. They must be encouraged to start nutrition gardening.”

**Recreational Facilities**

According to strategic framework for orphans and vulnerable children, 2001, it is essential to incorporate effective measures into other activities of the orphans which include structured recreation, art culture and sports activities that allow isolated orphans and other vulnerable children to integrate socially. Ratey (2008) suggests that exercise and physical activity helps brain cells grow, modify, and work together, promoting memory maintenance and learning. Sport, culture and recreational facilities play a significant role in the community development. These facilities and services give personal, social, economic and environmental benefits to the individuals and the overall communities (Recreation facility plan, 2010). According to the reformers play has a great contribution in an Urban-Industrial society for example, developing moral ideals, social interaction skills, reduction of individualism, group making and means-end activities. It encourages fitness, moral and social improvement (Cavallo, 1976). Recreation through physical, social, and creative expression provides opportunities for the individuals to develop their health. It helps them to socialize and interact with others. Through recreation a person learn new skills, he gets fun and achieve stability in their lives. Park is a place for providing recreation. It is advantageous for both the consumer and non consumer in the same way. It provides a sense of place for the people to access nature, interpretive education, escape and recreation. (Recreation facility plan, 2010).

Organized activities help to build competencies in the youth and helps in their development. This participation has an important role in the academic success, mental health, identity development and positive social relationships and behaviors of the youth. It paves their way to their educational success (Mahoney, Larson, Eccles, & Lord, 2005). Historically there is a link between crime and recreation to justify bond issues for recreational facilities as the chief of police of Los Angeles argues in 1926, play grounds have become the most important to the police department than any other department.

**Relationship with Caretakers**

According to Skinner (2006), a caregiver is a person who plays the most important role in the care and rear of the orphan. The role of a caregiver is to provide all features of care and he must be responsible for the child under his care. The duties of caretakers are to protect the rights of the children in their care, provide them basic requirements of life and development for instance, shelter, food, education, clothing and health care; to provide them environment for psychosocial development and to support them, to give them moral, cultural and religious instructions, similarly hygiene, he must be responsible if anything happens to the child. Similarly he must be there to attend to the child. He must provide a condition to the child, which is suitable for their emotional development. Orphanages may face a great deal of problems related to the staffing of the orphanage. In concurrence with Furhmann and Munchel (1995), orphanages face a lot of problems related to the staffing of the institutional care places settings which include limited training of the caretakers, lack of proper supervision, no opportunities for their professional advancements and better understanding of the needs of the orphans. Similarly Due to the difference in the culture and language of the caregivers and orphans and lack of experience, the orphans and teachers face communication problems regarding their needs (Rather and Margoob, 2006). The care givers must be educated to provide care and support to the children who are under their care (Tsheko, 2007). Effects of quality care continue till adulthood. The children should be reared independently without useless restrictions from the caregivers. The environment should be built in a way where children should be put up in those places where the caregivers can

keep close supervision and help children to develop independently .it helps the children to develop confidence and makes him able to face the challenges of the world. It builds in them new skills and makes them able to take responsibilities (Simons & Korangteng, 2012). Moreover Morantz and Heymann (2010) finds, the other children after facing multi problems in the orphanage, the newly enrolled orphans develop strong and ancestral bonding with the caretakers.

### **Environment**

According to Rosbo (n.d), a person has different habits and patterns depending on his life. If we develop a specific habitués in life we will continually have this habitués for the rest of our lives, even if the surrounding affects the habitués. So if a child comes from different habitués which was a not supporting and a bad one to an environment which is good and supporting, he will definitely experience a good and progressive growth in his new surroundings. To get proper and well educated primary socialization the child need support from its primary group which will help him to develop an appropriate social identity Cooley (1922). When a child is born he do not have a culture, but through different processes of socialization a child develop cultural norms (Giddens, 2003). If a child is up-brought in a bad environment and is living in an orphanage, has a still opportunity to do something different in his life. If the attitude of the people around him and the institution in which he is living is supporting then he is capable of doing anything (Rosbo, n.d). The Convention on the Rights of the Child 1990 states that in each and every decision affecting the child, the various possible solutions must be considered and due weight given to the child's best interests. We have to do and each and every thing to give the children priority, protection and a bright future. This argument must be at the core of all agendas. This is a call of action. (Macel, 1996). The discussion is divided into two parts. Part A contains analysis and discussion of different facilities in the light of the policy and Part B contains the profiles of the orphanage on the basis of analysis of the facilities separately. The primary data has been compared with the literature and the policy on orphanages. The discussion starts with the general information of the respondents and then facilities at the orphanage as well as profiles of the orphanage are discussed.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

#### **General and Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The current study is conducted in only one orphanage of District Mardan namely, Sarhadi Yateem Khana Shamsi Road Mardan. The information was obtained from a total of 23 respondents through interview method using interview schedule as method of the study. Among 23 respondents, 12 orphans and 7 caregivers were interviewed. President together with the Manager Operations of the Sarhadi Yateem Khana Mardan were also interviewed. The demographic information of the orphans shows that the orphans which were interviewed belonged to almost the same age group i.e. 13 to 14 years of age. On the basis of education, two respondents among the orphans were from class 4<sup>th</sup>, one from class 5<sup>th</sup>, five from class 6<sup>th</sup>, one from class 7<sup>th</sup> and three from class 8<sup>th</sup>. All the orphans were fatherless orphans and belonged to the families with poor socio-economic position.

#### **Educational Facility**

According to the policy on orphanages in Pakistan under Pakistan Bait-ul-mall Act the orphanages in Pakistan shall ensure the provision of free quality education to the orphans in the best schools of the area to the highest level. This statement in the policy is highly obeyed by the orphanages in district Mardan. Most of the orphans of Sarhadi Yateem Khana go to the Government schools and only talented students of the orphanage are provided with a chance to

appear in the entry tests for enrollment in the private schools which are Services public School and the Leads Public School. In this regard the interviews from the authority of Sarhadi Yateem Khana reveal that they are financially unable to enroll all the orphans in English medium private schools. They wish to open their own school but the funds were not supporting their idea. The Managing Director said the community makes many promises to cooperate in their educational plans but they do not fulfill their promises. As the Managing Director of the orphanage argued: *“...many organizations, schools and the affluent people promises us to support us in initiating better educational initiatives for the orphans but the problem is, the people forget their promises and as usual the plans remain unaccomplished but we are working on our own school building and hopefully soon we will get into a school In Sha Allah. . .”* (9-K-21). Another important aspect of education is the provision of materials to the orphans that are helpful in the studies. For example books, pencil, notebooks etc. As it is evident from the literature and the policy, the policy on orphanage says that the orphans must be provided with free uniform and books. According to (Miller, 2008), the children not only need to be enrolled in the schools but they also need compulsory uniform, shoes and school supplies. These things seem like insignificant but it is a hurdle for children to attend the school.

Similarly The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2007), also argue that severe barrier to the enrollment of the children is not only the school fee but also textbooks, school supplies and uniforms. So in the light of the literature when it was asked from the respondents they told me that they are satisfied from the provision of necessary materials for their study. The Sarhadi Yateem Khana provides all these necessary materials to the orphans in the orphanage. The policy on the orphanages further states that after getting education till Matric or above, the orphans will receive career counseling. There is also no proper career counseling of the orphans at Sarhadi Yateem Khana. The policy on orphanages also acknowledges the importance of religious education. According to the policy, “the orphanage shall meet the spiritual needs of the orphans. The religious education must be provided to the orphans”. Similarly the policy also states that “there must be a prayer room for the orphans for their religious needs”. So the religious education has got much importance for the spiritual well-being of the orphans. In concurrence to the secondary data the religious facilities in all the three orphanages are satisfactory. There is a proper arrangement of religious education of the orphans. The religious education is provided on routine to the orphans, two to three times daily. Most of the orphans of Sarhadi Yateem Khana read in Government schools and the quality of education of those Government schools cannot be ensured, that the education there is up to the bench mark or not. However the orphans are satisfied from the educational facilities.

#### **Food Facility**

According to the policy on orphans and orphanages, “The orphanage will ensure the provision of free nutritious balanced diet according to the weekly menu, keeping in view the age of the orphans. The committee can also decide the menu.” One of the important components for the support of orphans is Food and nutrition (Lang, 2003). According to Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, The focus of food security and nutrition interventions should be to: Provide nutrient–dense and sufficient food to the orphanages for the orphans. Similarly the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development further states, that It must be ensured that the houses where orphans are living, have access to nutrient-dense food on regular basis by enriching them to start income generating initials. Nutrition based education must be provided to the orphanages. They must be encouraged to start nutrition gardening. Another

research concludes that, under nutrition causes more than one half of deaths in children in developing countries (Lang, 2003). When asked there was no menu system in Sarhadi Yateem Khana. The provision of food depends on charities from the community. The affluent people of the community send mutton to the orphanage which is then served to the orphans time by time. An extract from the interview of an orphan of Sarhadi Yateem Khana is:

*“ . . . The food is very good, there is meat, rice and everything here but there is no menu. Although our likes and dislikes are considered and there is a dining room, we all sit there for our lunch, tea and dinner. The food is presented and served in a good manner .... ” (I-S-3)*

### **Recreational Facilities**

Sport, culture and recreational facilities play a significant role in the community development. These facilities and services give personal, social, economic and environmental benefits to the individuals and the overall communities (Recreation facility plan, 2010). Similarly, According to strategic framework for orphans and vulnerable children 2001, it is essential to incorporate effective measures into other activities of the orphans which include structured recreation, art culture and sports activities that allow isolated orphans and other vulnerable children to integrate socially. The above secondary data has been significantly acknowledged by the policy on Orphanages in Pakistan. According to policy on Orphanages regarding recreational facilities in the orphanage, the mental and physical health has a significant impact on the personality of children. Keeping in view their mental and physical health, the orphanages shall ensure the availability of recreational facilities in the orphanages which include;

- Indoor and outdoor games
- Mini library
- Trips to parks and scene places
- Social gathering
- T.V and cable facility
- Recreational Club

In the context of games facility, the literature shows that physical and mental activity like game has positive impacts on the individual as Ratey (2008) suggests that exercise and physical activity helps brain cells grow, modify and work together, promoting memory maintenance and learning. In this regard the field data from Sarhadi Yateem Khana reveals that the orphans of Sarhadi Yateem Khana mostly play outdoor games but the indoor games are limited. The orphans play outdoor games outside the building of the orphanage in a ground called The Company Bagh as the ground inside the orphanage is short and the orphans cannot play outdoor games. Most of the orphans in the orphanage demanded for a vast and large ground in the orphanage. The authorities of the orphanage appealed to the government that the government should come forward and support the orphanage financially. The building of the orphanage is small and old, so the government should take interest in the repairing and the enlargement of the building and hence enlargement of the ground.

According to the policy, there must be a mini library in the orphanage. In this perspective, the field data and observation discloses the fact that there is no mini library in the Sarhadi orphanage. According to the interviews there was a library in the past, but now it has been promoted to a Computer lab. Similarly the primary data from Pakistan Sweet Home also reveals that there is no mini library in the orphanage. On contrary the data from Al Islah Center reveals that there is a mini library in the orphanage but the children use to go to library just on Sunday as they are only free to go there by that day, otherwise their routine was so tough that they had no extra time to go

to library and read books there. But the library there needs to be updated. According to the policy, the orphanage must ensure the trips of orphans to parks and scene places. These kinds of tours are very important for the mental well being of the orphans as it is evident from the literature; Park is a place for providing recreation. It is advantageous for both the consumer and non consumer in the same way. It provides a sense of place for the people to access nature, interpretive education, escape and recreation (Recreation facility plan, 2010). Similarly, Parks and other recreational facilities and activities help the young to develop relationships with non-parental adults. These adults may serve as important guides for them. In the context of present study the data from Sarhadi Yateem Khana reveals that there is no proper system of tours or picnics of the orphans. The arrangement of tour or picnic depends on the sponsorship and the funds available. The interviews reveal that some prominent affluent people sponsors the tour and take the orphans to nearby scene places, similarly the NGOs sometimes take the orphans to scene places.

As an extract from the interview of an orphan is:

*"....we used to go to parks in the Shahbaz Garhi and near hilly areas. There is a rich person who takes us to his own park in Shahbaz Garhi after two, three months. He has his own parks and is very rich. The places are very beautiful and we enjoy there a lot..." (8-Z-12)*

#### **Relationship with Caretakers**

A caregiver is a person who plays the most important role in the care and rear of the orphan. The role of a care giver is to provide all features of care and he must be responsible for the child under his care. The duties of caretakers are to protect the rights of the children in their care, provide them basic requirements of life and development. Similarly he must be there to attend the child. He must provide a condition to the child which is suitable for their emotional development (Skinner, 2006). Care takers are the persons who benefit the children through social and health support. Caretakers help the orphans in their homework; reading stories and gives them advices on education and attends their school meetings. A caretaker gives the orphan protection and support with honesty and closeness (Cluver and Gardner's, 2007). Similarly For the pleasant life in the orphanage, there should be a good interaction between the children and their caregivers (Moore & Wong, 1997).

On the contrary the interview from the Sarhadi Yateem Khana revealed that there is only one care taker by definition and the total personnel consisted of 15 persons. The presence of only one care taker is defended by the argument, that all the other personnel are also involved in the care of the orphans. The clerk, the cook, even the Manager Operations and the president is a caretaker.

The presence of only one caretaker in the orphanage can be challenged but the field information and observation shows that all the other personnel of the orphanage also took active part in the care and need fulfillment of the orphans. The primary data from orphanage reveals that the behavior of the caretakers with the orphans is good and they give love to the orphans.

Similarly one of the care takers from Sarhadi Yateem Khana argued:

*". . . We take care of the likes and dislikes of the children i.e. when they wish for ice cream or other food stuff, the president give me money to buy them ice-cream or chips, I go and buy it for them, and then distribute it one by one according to their own taste and choice. Similarly on Eid occasion, I go to market and take them with myself and buy those shoes on their own will. Sometimes every child gets two pairs of shoes for only one Eid . . ." (4-I-10)*

Due to the difference in the culture and language of the caregivers and orphans and lack of experience, the orphans and teachers face communication problems regarding their needs (Rather

& Margoob, 2006). In this regard the field data and observation reveal that the care givers in all the three orphanages belonged to the same culture and language and there were no any communication problems between the orphans.. In this regard the interviews from the authority of Sarhadi Yateem Khana reveal that there is no such criterion for the selection of a caretaker.

### **Environment of the Orphanage**

Orphanages can be seen as workable option for the care of the orphans as kinship care cannot handle and provide that much care and attention to the orphans. The experiences at the orphanage shows that although the orphans faced problems to adjust in the environment of the orphanage in the early stage of their enrollment but with the passage of time and experiencing love and care from the caretakers the orphans start feeling like in home (Morantz & Heymann, 2010). The environment of an orphanage has a huge impact on the socialization of an orphan. As it is evident, an orphan, enrolled in the orphanage gets all his primary socialization in the orphanage that is why it has a very important role in the character building and life of the orphan. According to Giddens (2003), when a child is born he does not have a culture, but through different processes of socialization a child develop cultural norms. Similarly Goldfarb (1955) claimed that developmental discrepancies resulted in poor institutional care can only be overcome through placing them in more loving and caring environment. Similarly according to Dennis (n.d.), improving the environment of the children improves the social and cognitive deficits of these children.

The policy on orphanages further states. “The orphans should be allowed to keep relations with the outside community”. In this context the field data and observation revealed the opposite picture that in all the three orphanages the orphans were not allowed to keep relations with the outside community as they thought that if the orphans were allowed to keep relations with outside, it will create bad habits in the orphans, however the orphans were allowed to meet their school friends and relatives. In this regard the president of Sarhadi Yateem Khana told that they do not allow the orphans to interact outside because of some bad past experiences.

*“ . . . as a child grows, he becomes vulnerable to many abuses. If he is given free hand and allowed to openly interact outside, he acquires bad habits, starts smoking and becomes at risk to many other abuses. You know better, what is the situation outside that is why we do not give them much permission to interact outside however they can meet their school friends . . . ” (6-H-4)*

We have to do and each and every thing to give the children priority, protection and a bright future. This argument must be at the core of all agendas. This is a call of action. (Macel, 1996). If a child is up-brought in a bad environment and is living in an orphanage, has a still opportunity to do something different in his life. If the attitude of the people around him and the institution in which he is living is supporting then he is capable of doing anything. (Rosbo, n.d)

In the context of attachment with their co-fellows in the orphanage, the orphans also stated in the interviews that the other orphans are like their brothers. They have made strong and long lasting friendships with them. In the light of secondary information and policy and analyzing the primary information, it is concluded that the environment in all the above mentioned orphanages of District Mardan is good and satisfactory. The main problem that the researcher faced during the research was that there was no proper and organized policy for the orphans and orphanages. The social welfare centers and NGOs did not have any proper policy on orphanages and orphans. The field information reveals that the authority of Sarhadi Yateem Khana was not knowledgeable of the proper policy for the orphans or orphanage. Similarly proper effort was also not made to access the policy.

### **Sarhadi Yateem Khana (SYK)**

Sarhadi Yateem Khana is the oldest orphanage in Pakistan it was started in 1938. The specific date of construction of the building is unknown. According to the current President of Sarhadi Yateem Khana, the building of Sarhadi Yateem Khana is 100 years old. Sarhadi Yateem Khana is run by Qazi family from decades.

#### **General Information**

- Opening: 1938
- Total Number of children: 70 children
- Total Capacity: 100 children
- Age limit for admission: 5 to 12 years
- Orphans visiting SYK: 250 to 300 per month
- Number of children leave SYK: 1500
- After metric examination the child will leave SYK (Sarhadi Yateem Khana).

#### **Staff of SYK**

Qazi Muhammad Husnain (President)  
Qazi Muhammad Zulqarnain (General Secretary)  
Qazi Muhammad Khizar Hayat (Manager Operation)  
Alamzeb (Supervisor)  
Abdul Jabbar (Wardan)  
Muhammad Ismail (Office Assistant)  
Hafiz Arshid Bilal (Care taker)

#### **Donation**

Donation of public

Donation of Organizations

No funding from government.

Through analyzing the policies for Educational, food and recreational facilities, along with the environment and behavior of the care takers the following field information was obtained:

#### **Education**

The field data from the interviews reveal that the orphans in the Sarhadi Yateem Khana go to different schools. Some of the orphans go to Government Primary School, some to Centennial Model School at Bank road Mardan and some to private school i.e. Services public School and the Leads Public School. The criterion of enrollment in a specific school depends on the talent of the orphan. If an orphan is talented and clears the entrance test for the private school, he is enrolled in that school. The materials like pencils, books, notebooks etc is provided to the orphans. Currently there are no skill development initiatives in the orphanage and similarly no proper career counseling of the orphans. In the past there were skill development programs in the orphanage but they have been abandoned due to lack of interest of the children.

The Manager Operations of the orphanage told that they are planning a hall in the orphanage which will be facilitated to give the orphans skill development education. The orphans insisted that attention must be given to skill development programs and career counseling. Similarly they suggested that computer knowledge must be also given attention. The Manager Operations said formal education is nothing; we have to give the orphans proper informal education. They must be given chances to appear in seminars and different educational meetings and programs, the focus on co-curricular activities must be laid. Similarly focus on their psychological counseling must be done.

The authority wished that to open their own school and they are looking forward to it but presently it is not possible in the current funds. There are various projects which are under consideration regarding the education of the orphans, the community makes many promises with us about the quality education but most of them go unaccomplished. In the past there was a library in the orphanage which is now converted into a computer lab. There is proper system of religious education like, reading the Holy Quran, memorizing The Holy Quran by heart and learning Qaida. They are taught Madrassa education two times a day. They can stay in the orphanage till their metric. The field data shows if more and more orphans are sponsored by the Government or Affluent people, it will help in the enhancement of quality of their education.

**Food**

There is no menu system in the orphanage. In the past attempts were made to follow a proper menu but it did not happen. The food interventions are done according to the charities. The affluent people of the community send mutton meat to the orphanage which is then served to the orphans time by time. Although the food items are selected by the responsible authority but the quality of the food is good and the food is according to the likes and dislikes of the orphans. Similarly the food is fresh and is provided in a clean and satisfied environment.

**Recreational Facilities**

The orphans use to play both indoor and outdoor games. But the indoor games facilities are limited. They mostly play outdoor games. The materials for the outdoor games are provided by the orphanage. There are no proper social gatherings of the orphans. The orphans sit with the elders of the orphanage at evening and that is their only social gathering. There is a TV in the orphanage; the orphans use to watch it in the noon and at night. There is no library in the orphanage. There was a library in the orphanage in the past but now it has been converted into a computer lab. In addition there is no proper system of tours or picnics of the orphans. The arrangement of tour or picnic depends on the sponsorship and the funds. The interviews reveal that some prominent affluent people sponsor their tour and take us to nearby place similarly the NGOs.

The ground inside the orphanage is very small, it is not enough to play an outdoor game that is why the orphans use to go to Company Bagh, a ground situated near the orphanage. Most of the orphans in the orphanage demanded for a vast and large ground. The children are offered recreational time at noon time and some orphans said that is at night. There is no concept of recreational club. The authorities of the orphanage appealed that the government should come forward and support the orphanage financially. The building of the orphanage is small and old, so the government should take interest in the repairing and the enlargement of the building. The ground must be extended.

The orphanage has come across many crises and only the ANP government has made some contribution otherwise the performance of the Government regarding the orphanage is very poor. Similarly the authority invited the expertise and people from different private and Government sector to come and do something for the orphans in the field of modern and informal education. The authority of Sarhadi Yateem Khana stressed that awareness about the orphanage and orphans must be spread.

**Relationship with Caretakers**

The personnel of the Sarhadi Yateem Khana consisted of 15 persons. There is only one caretaker in the orphanage by definition. The presence of only one care taker is depended by the argument, that all the other personnel are also involved in the care of the orphans. The clerk, the cook, even

the Manager Operations and the president is a caretaker. The interviews from the orphans and the authority reveal that the behavior of the care givers with the orphans is good. The caretakers give them love and attention. The care takers keep themselves involve in the affairs of the orphans. All the personnel are acting well to give the orphans proper love and attention. Attention is given to the character building of the orphans. The orphans feel good in the orphanage like at home.

### **Environment**

The environment of the orphanage is good and satisfactory. The orphans are provided with religious and healthy environment. The orphans of Sarhadi Yateem Khana are famous for their good behavior and good morals in the surrounding area which shows that the rearing of the orphans is done in a very good environment. The environment is free of abuses and bad actions. The orphans feel safe in the orphanage. The orphans are satisfied from their residence in the orphanage. The orphans are not allowed to keep relations with outside community because they had experiences in the past for allowing the orphans to interact outside. There is proper security camera system in the orphanage to keep them aware that they are properly monitored, which has a good impact on the environment.

### **Recommendations and Suggestions**

It is the inherent right of every child to live, get education, health care, shelter and protection against physical, moral and psychological abuse. Due to orphan hood many children becomes deprived of all these rights and facilities. The international community has the obligation to provide all those facilities and give the rights to the orphans and other vulnerable children. In order to fulfill its commitment of safeguarding and developing the well-being of the orphans, the people place deprived children in large residential institutions like orphanages. An orphanage is an institution dedicated to the care and up-bringing of children who have lost their parent(s). All over the world countries have devised policies and programs for protection and well-being of the orphans. In correspondence, Pakistan has also devised policies and programs for caring and rearing of children in the orphanage, with focus on their health, education, shelter, psychosocial protection, security, nutrition etc.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Education Facilities**

1. Various government agencies, companies and foundations need to fund programs aimed at providing quality education for the orphans.
2. Most of the orphans of Sarhadi Yateem Khana go to Government schools; the quality of education in those schools is not up to the benchmark. For this reason the community should sponsor maximum number of the orphans for their quality education in English Medium Schools.
3. It is also obvious from the field information that Sarhadi Yateem Khana is planning to open her own school inside the orphanage.
4. Stress should also be laid on income of generating abilities in orphaned children through skill development initiatives in all the orphanages, keeping in view the interest of the orphans.
5. Keeping in view the utility and demand, the children must be trained in computers for better future prospects. For this purpose the computer labs must be made functional at all the orphanages.
6. It is obvious from the findings that the root cause of all the problems is the lack of proper funds. So the removal of the financial barrier is crucial in this regard.

7. The caregivers and teacher did not know about the national and international standards for caring and teaching the orphans. They were having limited training, lack of appropriate supervision, few opportunities for professional advancements. The government should arrange trainings and provide them opportunities for professional advancements which will make them efficient to properly care and rear the children.
8. The orphans should be offered formal education as well as informal education. They must be given chances to appear in seminars and different educational meetings and programs.
9. There must be career counseling of the orphans both at the orphanage and at the school.
10. There should be psychological counseling of the orphans.

#### **Recreational Facilities**

1. Indoor games facility should be made available in the orphanages.
2. Mini libraries should be built in all the orphanages.
3. Social meetings and gatherings of the orphans must be given proper attention.
4. The picnic facility should be made functional on constant basis without any interruption.
5. The ground should be widened in Sarhadi Yateem Khana. Similarly proper attention should be given to the care of the ground, to facilitate the orphans for playing games in the ground.
6. TV facility should be made functional in Pakistan Sweet Home.
7. The orphans mainly play cricket and football games. Their exposure to other games should be made possible.
8. Attention should be given to the recreational club.
9. The picnic facility should be given proper attention because this facility is not regular in the orphanages.

#### **Food Facilities**

1. A menu system for food should be followed in Sarhadi Yateem Khana and Al Islah Center.
2. Balanced nutrient diet should be provided in the orphanages.

#### **General**

1. There is a lack of a document on statistics of the orphans and orphanages in Pakistan and in the context of the present study statistics are not available on orphans and orphanages. So work on the statistics of the orphans is crucial. Similarly it must be made accessible to all.
2. The registration of the orphans with Government, social workers and departments is essential. Poor people do not register orphan because it is shameful for them to expose their poverty similarly wealthy people do not register because they do not need any assistance from Government. So the orphans must be registered, So that they are benefited from different programs.
3. Awareness should be spread in the society about orphans, orphanages and their needs.
4. Ensuring that all orphans are well cared for in the orphanages, takes the active involvement of and collaboration between government, nongovernmental organizations, local communities, the faith-based community, families and caregivers, as well as children and youth. There is a role for each of these groups and a need for group effort and a shared understanding of what is best for children.
5. Another significant challenge is that government ministries and departments responsible for child welfare are often underfunded and understaffed. Inadequate human and financial

resources and funding make it difficult for a ministry or department to achieve those devised goals for the well being of vulnerable children. So those financial and human resource hurdles of those ministries and departments should be erased.

6. The government should devise a proper and comprehensive policy on orphans and orphanages.
7. The main point to be considered or the point which needs the most attention is that the Authorities of all the orphanages did not know about any policy regarding the orphans or orphanages. Even they do not have made such significant effort to access the policy. So the authorities of all the orphanages need to enlighten themselves about the policy.
8. Access to the policy should be made possible.
9. The orphans should be allowed to keep relations with the outside community in proper supervision.
10. The number of the caretakers should be in proportion to the number of the orphans.
11. The orphans must be given a voice in giving opinion in different affairs of the orphanage.
12. The orphans need individual and personal love which should be ensured in the orphanages.

### Conclusion:

With regard to the study objectives, policy and empirical evidences from the field data and their analysis, it is concluded that the overall educational and food interventions in all the three orphanages is satisfactory. However there are some flaws, which need proper attention as per the policy. The recreational facilities in the orphanages are also good but there are various gaps between the policy and its real implementation, which are indicated by the researcher. The root cause of all the gaps in the nongovernment orphanages resides in the unavailability of proper funds, which calls for the Government and the community to come forward and take initiatives to support the orphans. Similarly there are also challenges to the government orphanage in the area of recreational facilities, which need their proper attention.

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