

Children without Parental Care in North Karnataka

A Research Report

2008

EveryChild India Liaison Office
#9, 7th Road , Nandidurga Road ,
Bangalore 560046
India

Ph: + 91 80 23338928
Fax: + 91 80 23338932

Table of Contents

	<i>Page No.</i>
Preface and Acknowledgements	3
List of Tables	4
Executive Summary	5 - 7
Introduction	8 - 9
About the Study	10 - 15
Location of the Study	16 - 22
Status of Orphans in North Karnataka	23 - 61
Entitlements and Provision of Services for Orphans in North Karnataka	62- 67
Conclusion and Recommendations	68 - 72
 <i>Annexures</i>	
Tools used for data collection	73- 76

Preface and Acknowledgements:

Thanks are due to the following members who have contributed to the research project.

Organisation/Person	For helping us with
REACHS (Mr. Budeppa)	Survey in Muddebihal
Prerana (Mr. Basavarajaiah)	Survey in Lingasagur
MASS (Ms. Shobha)	Survey in Raibag
KARDS (Mr. Gopal Chavan)	Survey in Badami
SGGKK (Mr. Anthony)	Survey in Mudhol
Samatha-Fence (Mr. Ranjith Bonventure)	Survey in Sirguppa & Kushtagi
Sneha (Mr. Ramanjaneya)	Survey in Kudligi
Mr. Venu Gopal Reddy	SPSS/Analysis
Ms. Archana Mehandale	Consultant, Final Study Report

List of Tables

- Table 1: Taluks- Criteria for selection
Table 2: Timeline for first stage
Table 3: Timeline for second stage
Table 4: Distribution of respondents across taluks
Table 5: Population of taluks according to caste groups
Table 6: Number of families in the nine taluks
Table 7: Developmental indicators in seven districts
Table 8: Availability of Infrastructure
Table 9: Orphans by age group
Table 10: Sex wise distribution of orphan and semi-orphan children across taluks
Table 11: Caste Composition of children:
Table 12 Reasons by Age Group
Table 13 Reasons according to orphan hood status
Table 14: Reasons according to caste groups
Table 15: Guardianship status of children
Table 16: Education status of children looked after by different guardians
Table 17: Guardianship according to different caste groups
Table 18: Education status of different age groups of children
Table 19: Educational status according to the caste composition
Table 20: Educational Status of children by sex
Table 21: Educational Status of Orphan and Semi-orphan children
Table 22: Living conditions of orphan and semi-orphan children
Table 23: Living conditions of children according to their sex
Table 24: Living conditions of children according to their guardians
Table 25: Living Status of different caste groups
Table 26: Working status of Children by Sex
Table 27: Working status of orphan and semi-orphan children
Table 28: Working status according to Caste Group
Table 29: Working Status according to Guardianship
Table 30: Age Group of children of devadasis
Table 31: Caste Affiliation of children of devadasi
Table 32: Gender distribution of children of devadasi
Table 33: Parenthood status of children of devadasi
Table 34: Living Conditions of children of devadasis
Table 35: Education status of children of devadasis
Table 36: Working status of children of devadasis

Executive Summary

All over the world, there is a growing concern with regards to children living without one or both parents. Millions of children are left to fend for themselves without stable care giving arrangements, either from their natural families or those provided by the government. According to UNICEF Child protection Information Sheet (2006) there are 87.6 million child orphans in Asia constituting the highest number in the world. But in several countries including India, no data is systematically compiled about these children at the national or sub-national level.

EveryChild is an international organisation that addresses issues of violence against separated children and children who are at risk of separation from their parents and families. EveryChild India Liaison Office has been helping programmes and partners based in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In the course of its work in the field, EvC came across the situation of children separated from their families due to orphanhood in Northern Karnataka. Since no such study has been undertaken on this issue within this region, EvC took the lead in undertaking this study. The study is aimed at being directly relevant to the work done by EvC along with its partners. It is done in order to help give strategic direction for its work in North Karnataka on children without parental care and also to act as a tool for advocacy and macro-level work in this area.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To prepare a database of orphans in the nine blocks with special reference to the most marginalized communities such as the dalits,
2. To develop an in-depth analysis of status of orphan children in the nine blocks that includes causes and conditions of orphanhood,
3. To develop and recommend a framework for intervention that could be applied by EveryChild in North Karnataka with respect to orphan and semi-orphan children.

The study focused on the status of orphan and semi-orphan children in Northern districts of Karnataka. The districts selected were: Bagalkot, Bellary, Bijapur, Belgaum, Gadag, Koppal and Raichur. Northern Karnataka is more backward than the rest of the state in terms of social and economic development. The presence of EveryChild's partners in many of these districts was another reason for their selection. Furthermore, the problem of *devadasi* (dedication of women to Goddess Yellamma) is highly prevalent in this region due to which the presence of semi-orphan children was expected to be very high. After having selected these seven districts, the study was done in two stages that stretched to about 16 months from Dec 2006 to March 2008. The first stage was a pilot phase and covered five taluks and the second stage covered four taluks. Each stage consisted of data collection, coding and data analysis. A total of 50,666 children were interviewed during these two stages. In order to supplement data received from the children, interviews were also conducted with key respondents such as adults who had been orphans, community members and government officials.

Some of the main findings of the study are:

Among all the children who were identified as orphan or semi-orphan children, the highest number of children belonged to the age group of 6-14 years. This phenomenon was seen across all taluks. From the total of 50666 children who were interviewed, 33973 children came from this age group which is about 67% of the total population. Since a majority of the children came from Badami, the highest number of 6-14 year olds also came from Badami (5682 children). Mundargi had the lowest number of children in this age group (1403 children).

Of all the 50,666 orphan and semi-orphan children who were identified and interviewed, 28,122 (55.5%) were boys and 22,544 (44.5%) were girls. This trend was also observed in all the taluks that were studied and there were more boys than girls among the children studied. Among the total children interviewed, the highest percentage (32.8%) came from Other Backward Castes which included children from Muslim, Christian and Jain communities. Among all the children that were studied, 40% causes were related to death due to other reasons which included death due to cancer, paralysis, kidney failure, diabetes, asthma, dog/snake/animal bite, accident, psychological disorders, suicide or undisclosed reasons. Second marriage and migration were the least cited reasons.

The proportion of semi-orphan children is significantly higher than the proportion of orphan children. Following this, as many as 34,273 children were being looked after by the mothers (67%) and 7999 children were being looked after by the fathers (15.7%). Of the total 50,666 children who were identified and studied in the selected nine taluks, it was found whenever grandparents or the surviving parents were looking after the child, the proportion of children going to school or an anganwadi was more than half. On the other hand, when other individuals from the neighbourhood or other relatives looked after the children, the proportion of those who went to a school or an anganwadi was less than half.

With respect to the education status, it was found that more than half of the children from 3-6 years and 6-14 years were in schools but more than half of those between 15-18 years were out of school. If we look at the caste composition of the total children who are enrolled in schools, we find that one third of them come from Other Backward Castes. The living conditions of the children were studied in order to understand the extent to which they received two square meals a day, if they lived in a *pucca* house and if their parent/guardian owned land or had a stable means of earning a livelihood. It was found that overall, the basic amenities were being provided to a majority of children (63%) and about 37 percent of the children's living conditions were such that these basic amenities were not provided to them. Overall there is no difference between provision of basic amenities to both the boys and girls.

Out of the 50666 children who were interviewed, 11924 children were found engaged in manual labour, 106 children were bonded labourers, 5494 children were engaged in their household work or worked on their farms and 33142 children were found to be non-working. Thus, 65% of the total orphan and semi-orphan children were not working. If

we look at the sex-wise distribution of working and non-working children, we find a similar picture. Of the total 28,122 boys, 65% of the boys (18295 boys) were non-working, and of the total 22,544 girls, 65.85% of the girls (14847 girls) were non-working. If we look at the caste composition of the working children, we find that the highest proportion of manual labourers come from OBC communities. Among the bonded labourers, a majority are Madiga children.

The study also focused specifically on children of devadasi mothers. A total of 6668 children of mothers dedicated to the *devadasi* system were identified and interviewed in the study. Among these, a majority of the children were aged between 6 and 14 years (62.6%) followed by older children aged between 15 and 18 years (20.4%). The study also identified 583 children who were below three years and 549 children between 3 and 6 years in the selected taluks. If we look at their distribution across taluks, we find that the proportion of very young children (below 6 years) was significantly high in Badami, Mundargi and Mudhol (approximately 20-22 percentage of the overall children of *devadasi* population). It is seen that a majority of the children of devadasis belonged to Madiga caste (66.7%) followed by children from other scheduled castes (21.2%). If we look at the situation prevalent in all the taluks together, we find that for about 63% of the children, basic amenities are provided while they are not provided for about 37% of the children. However, inter-taluk variations are apparent. In Kudligi, Siraguppa and Muddebihal, many more children enjoy basic amenities whereas in Lingasugur, Mundargi and Raibag, a majority of children are deprived of basic amenities. Almost half of the children of devadasi mothers are out of school or are irregular. Out of the 6668 children interviewed, 3466 were attending either a school or an anganwadi while 3024 children were out of school and 178 children were irregular. Out of those who are not currently in a school or an anganwadi, it is important to note that a majority are those who remain out of school and only a small fraction are those who are enrolled in schools but are irregular.

The study also found that family and neighbourhood systems were used most commonly by children and their families. The secondary and formal networks such as community institutions, gram panchayats were rarely involved in care arrangements for such children although some amount of programmes do exist for these children from the Department of Women and Child Development. The study finally gives recommendations for action at local, state and national level.

Introduction

'...it shall be the policy of the State to provide adequate services to children, both before and after birth and through the period of growth, to ensure their full physical, mental and social development...'

'...efforts would be directed to strengthen family ties so that full potentialities of growth of children are realized within the normal family, neighbourhood and community environment...' National Policy for Children, 1974

'...the state and community shall try and remove the fundamental causes which result in abandoned children and children living on streets...'

'...provide social security for children, especially abandoned children and street children...' National Charter for Children, 2003

All over the world, there is a growing concern with regards to children living without one or both parents. This concern stems not only from the fact that childhood is a period which requires special care and attention from the care givers and families, but it is also a result of evidence that indicates an increase in the number of such children throughout the world. Millions of children are left to fend for themselves without stable care giving arrangements, either from their natural families or those provided by the government. This is largely attributed to the death caused by preventable illnesses, impact of poverty, disability, prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and natural disasters such as cyclones, tsunami, floods, etc. and an absence of suitable arrangements to look after families in distress.

According to UNICEF Child protection Information Sheet (2006) there are 87.6 million child orphans in Asia constituting the highest number in the world. But in several countries including India, no data is systematically compiled about these children at the national or sub-national level. This acts as a serious limitation for any policy response from the government or for planning any action on the ground. Field based data that can provide an understanding of the problems and needs of these children at the local level is completely lacking.

EveryChild is an international organisation that addresses issues of violence against separated children and children who are at risk of separation from their parents and families. It defines children as those below 18 years of age. Its main focus is to ensure protection of children's rights, especially in the relation to child labourers, street children, children from dalit and tribal groups, children who are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, children in conflict with law, bonded child labour, institutionalized children, children affected by communal clashes, conflicts or natural disasters, children with disabilities and children living in slums. In all its work, it focuses on children who belong to the most deprived and marginalized communities. Some of the core governing principles that guide its work are:

- All our interventions should be targeted towards the children of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Zero tolerance to violence against all children especially children who are separated and are at risk of separation.
- Oppose all forms of trafficking of children below 18 years for Commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour including domestic workers.
- Oppose all forms of child labour below 18 years of age as it's against the right of the child to education and to her/his overall development. For this purpose any child who is out of school is defined as child labour.
- Believe that participation and involvement of children in all stages of project cycle management and processes is a must.
- Gender Equity is ensured in all its interventions, programmes and structures.

EveryChild India Liaison Office has been helping programmes and partners based in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In the course of its work in the field, EvC came across the situation of children separated from their families due to orphanhood in Northern Karnataka. Since no such study has been undertaken on this issue within this region, EvC took the lead in undertaking this study. The study is aimed at being directly relevant to the work done by EvC along with its partners. It is done in order to help give strategic direction for its work in North Karnataka on children without parental care and also to act as a tool for advocacy and macro-level work in this area.

This report is divided into the following chapters: the second chapter explains the methodology used in this study, the third chapter presents the location and the context of the area being studied, and the fourth chapter presents the status of orphan children in North Karnataka. The fifth chapter discusses the entitlements with regards to the care and services for children without parental care and the last chapter concludes with a set of recommendations.

About the study

The study was initiated in order to help document and understand the status of children who do not have parental care/support in nine blocks of Northern Karnataka. During the course of their work, several non-governmental organizations had noted the incidence of orphanhood in the area, especially in the Raichur, Bagalkot and Belgaum districts. A few initial investigations done in Mudhol showed that there are large numbers of orphans and semi-orphans in the region. Given the presence of Every child partners in some areas of this region, a study that would systematically explore the situation and characteristics of children who lived without parental care and support was planned.

Objectives of the study:

1. To prepare a database of orphans in the nine blocks with special reference to the most marginalized communities such as the dalits,
2. To develop an in-depth analysis of status of orphan children in the nine blocks that includes causes and conditions of orphanhood,
3. To develop and recommend a framework for intervention that could be applied by EveryChild in North Karnataka with respect to orphan and semi-orphan children.

Methodology:

This is the first extensive study that documents the status of orphan and semi-orphan children in North Karnataka. The study adopted an exploratory design in order to understand and describe the status and conditions of orphan and semi-orphan children.

Concepts and Operational Definitions:

Orphan Children are defined as children who have lost both the parents. This category was operationally defined as children whose a) Both parents have died, b) Both parents have deserted/migrated, c) Mother (devadasi) has died/deserted/migrated, d) Father has died & mother has migrated/deserted, or e) Mother has died & father has migrated/deserted.

Semi-orphan Children are children who have lost or do not have either of the parents. This category was operationally defined as children whose a) Father has died, b) Mother has died, c) Father has migrated/deserted, d) Mother has migrated/deserted, or e) Children of Devadasi mothers.

Deserted Parents are defined as parents who have either abandoned or are incapable of taking care of the children. It was operationally defined as a) Parents who have gone out of the village/family and are never expected to come back or b) Parents suffering from

serious ailments/disability/bedridden such that they cannot work and earn their daily bread.

Migrated Parents are defined as parents who have migrated for work but are not coming back to the village/town once in a year, but they are in touch with the family.

Educational Status of children was studied in terms of their participation in schooling. Children participating in School/Anganwadi were defined as those below 6 years who were attending anganwadi and those between 6 and 18 years who were attending schools or colleges run by the government or private institutions. These children were enrolled in these institutions and were attending them regularly. Out of School children were defined as children of all age groups who were either not going to school/anganwadi or were working. Irregular children were defined as those children who were enrolled in a school or an anganwadi but who were not attending regularly i.e. not going to school/anganwadi on all 6 days in a week or 25 days in a month or 250 days in an academic year.

Working children are defined as those children who are engaged in any kind of labour and are not going to school because of this labour. These were classified as a) Manual Laborer was defined as children engaged in labour work but who are not tied to one employer (agriculture, construction, rag picking, industry, hotel etc.) b) Bonded Labourer was defined as children working as labourers/servants with one employer for an annual lump sum amount, c) Children doing household work or working on their own field were defined as those children who are not working in others' home/fields but in their own home or field and d) Non-working children were defined as children who are either going to school/anganwadi/college or are not in the school going age group.

Living status of the children was defined as the standard of living of the children. This was operationalised as availability of basic amenities which consisted of two square meals a day, a pucca house to live, and own land or constant source of livelihood for the parent or guardian. The living status of the child was considered to be 'Good' if these criteria were met and 'Bad' if these criteria were not met.

Geographical Focus and Sample:

The study focused on the status of orphan and semi-orphan children in Northern districts of Karnataka. The districts selected were: Bagalkot, Bellary, Bijapur, Belgaum, Gadag, Koppal and Raichur. Northern Karnataka is more backward than the rest of the state in terms of social and economic development. The presence of EveryChild's partners in many of these districts was another reason for their selection. Furthermore, the problem of *devadasi* (dedication of women to Goddess Yellamma) is highly prevalent in this region due to which the presence of semi-orphan children was expected to be very high.

Table 1: Taluks- Criteria for selection

Taluk	Criteria for selection
Lingasagur	Apart from being project taluks of EvC
Mudhol	they are also prominent places where the

Raibag	Devadasi system is prevalent.
Sirguppa	
Badami	These 3 taluks have high migratory population and also have a considerable incidence of HIV-AIDS
Muddebihal	
Mundargi	
Kushtagi	These 2 taluks also have high migratory population along with high devadasi population
Kudligi	

After having selected these seven districts, the study was done in two stages that stretched to about 16 months from Dec 2006 to March 2008. The first stage was a pilot phase and covered five taluks and the second stage covered four taluks. Each stage consisted of data collection, coding and data analysis. The methodology adopted during these two stages is given below.

First Stage timeline:

Table 2: Timeline for first stage

Period	Geographical area		Activity
	Taluk	Village + Towns	
Dec-06 to Jan-07	Lingasagur	10	Pilot Data Collection
	Mudhol	10	
	Raibag	10	
	Badami	11	
	Mundargi	11	
Feb to mid May-07	Same as above		Data Entry & Analysis
May to Aug-07	Lingasagur	190	Data Collection in the remaining villages & towns along with Data entry. IInd phase was also conducted during the period
	Mudhol	69	
	Raibag	49	
	Badami	140	
	Mundargi	46	
Sep to mid Oct-07	Same as above		Data Analysis & mid-term presentation of the study

First stage: The first stage was a pilot phase and covered 52 villages in 5 taluks. This study initially started with an objective to understand the phenomenon of CwPC amongst Madiga/Cheluvadi communities. But it was decided later to do a pilot study in the initial 5 taluks to gauge the extent of the issue in other communities as well. The pilot later showed us that the study should not be restricted to only the Madiga and Cheluvadi communities since the problem existed among other communities as well. The selection of the taluks was made such that there was a mix of taluks, each fulfilling at least one of following criterion: high presence of dalit population, proximity of the taluk to the highway (since prostitution and prevalence of HIV infection is high within villages

alongside the highway) and presence of mixed religious and caste groups. The presence of partners of EveryChild India in Lingasugur, Mudhol and Raibag taluks was another factor that was taken into account for the selection of taluks. Thus, the taluks selected for the first stage were Lingasugur taluk (Raichur district), Raibag taluk (Belgaum district), Badami and Mudhol taluk (Bagalkot district) and Mundargi taluk (Gadag district). Within these taluks, all the villages were covered under the study. Within each village, investigators took the help of anganwadi workers, members of Self Help Groups and village leaders to identify children who were orphans or semi-orphans. Using snowballing method, the investigators took the help of these orphan, semi-orphan children and their guardians to identify other children in similar situation living in the village and thus covered the entire population of orphans and semi-orphans in each village.

Second stage: The second stage did not begin immediately after the data collection of the first stage as the experience and learning had to be consolidated before proceeding further. The second stage started in October 2007 and covered 4 large taluks namely, Kushtagi taluk (Koppal district), Siruguppa taluk (Bellary district), Muddebihal taluk (Bijapur district) and Kudligi (Bellary). Every village from all the above taluks was covered and by using snowballing technique, all orphan and semi-orphan children in the villages were interviewed.

Second stage timeline:

Table 3: Timeline for second stage

Period	Geographical area		Activity
	Taluk	Village + Towns	
Oct- 07 to Jan 08	Muddebihal	159	Data Collection along with Data entry. IInd phase was also conducted during the period
	Kudligi	207	
	Sirguppa	95	
	Kushtagi	185	
Feb to mid April -08	Same as above		Data Analysis

A total of 50666 children were interviewed during these two stages. Their distribution across villages and taluks is as follows:

Table 4: Distribution of respondents across Taluks

District	Taluk	Number of Habitations	Number of Village Panchayats	Children without Parental Care		
				Orphans	Semi-Orphans	Total
Raichur	Lingasagur	195	5	1,250	6,076	7,326
Bagalkot	Badami	147	4	1,545	6,857	8,402
	Mudhol	77	2	1,538	5,479	7,017

Belgaum	Raibag	56	3	334	1,576	1,910
Gadag	Mundargi	56	2	341	1,886	2,227
Bijapur	Mudebihal	154	5	1,110	5,339	6,449
Bellary	Sirguppa	90	5	611	4,406	5,017
	Kudligi	202	5	635	5,770	6,405
Koppal	Kushtagi	178	7	1,026	4,887	5,913
Total		1155	38	8,390	42,276	50,666

In order to supplement data received from the children, interviews were also conducted with the following:

1. Adults who had become orphans during their childhood (between 8- 12 years of their life) and who were between the ages of 25 to 30 years at the time of data collection. A total of 22 adults were purposively selected and interviewed.
2. Orphan and semi-orphan children were purposively selected for case studies in such a way that they represented all the taluks and villages with and without irrigation facilities. A total of 21 children were selected in this manner.
3. Key officials from relevant government departments, such as, Education, Health, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare were selected from taluk level and Zilla Parishad level, depending on their availability. A distribution of number of officials from each department is as follows: Education: 5 officials, Health: 2 officials, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development: 5 officials, Women and Child Development: 5 officials and Social Welfare: 2 officials.
4. Group discussions were conducted with the village leaders, panchayat members, Self Help Group members, youth groups, dalit groups, religious groups, neighbours/community members and NGOs in order to understand care and support provided to orphan and semi-orphan children at the village level.

Data Collection and Analysis:

Primary data was collected using different tools for different respondents. These included the following:

1. Survey forms as spreadsheets with orphan and semi-orphan children. The research investigators filled the responses in the forms using Kannada or English. It had both open-ended & close ended questions. The last column of the spread sheet that sought descriptive data basic amenities and children's status.
2. Interview schedule was used to collect data from orphans who are now adults.
3. Interview schedule was used to collect data and prepare case-studies of selected orphans and semi-orphans.
4. Interview schedule was used to collect data from the key government officials.
5. Interview guide was used to collect data and facilitate group discussions among village leaders, panchayat members, Self Help Group members, youth groups, dalit groups, religious groups, neighbours/community members and NGOs.

About 100 research investigators were trained to participate in the data collection exercise. Data was centrally pooled at the EveryChild office in Bangalore. It was translated into English and verified for completeness before preparing it for analysis. Primary data collected from the children's survey was coded and used to generate bivariate and multivariate descriptive tables. Qualitative data was reviewed and key insights that emerged were used to verify and substantiate the quantitative data and also to generate recommendations for action.

Location of the Study

North Karnataka consists of nine districts bordering with states of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The region is dry because it receives very little rainfall. As stated in the earlier chapter, the region was chosen due to its socio-economic backwardness, prevalence of the problem and the presence of EvC partners working in the region. The nine taluks that have been surveyed have a high population of devadasis. These taluks also have high incidence of HIV-AIDS penetration, prevalence of T.B, and child labour. These taluks also have high migratory population. The taluks that have been studied from part of the following regions

- Lingasagur, Kushtagi, Sirguppa & Kudligi are part of Hyderabad Karnataka Region
- Raibag, Badami, Mudhol & Muddebihal are part of Bombay Karnataka Region
- Mundargi is part of the arid zone in North Karnataka region.

All these taluks together form one of the most arid zones in the country. This chapter outlines some of the broad characteristics of the districts and taluks that were studied so as to present the context within which the problem is located.

Profile of the districts covered under the study is as follows:

Bagalkote:

Bagalkote is situated in the North Central Karnataka on the Deccan plateau. It comes under the administrative unit of Belgaum. It is the second largest district in Karnataka comprising of 6 Taluks namely -Bagalkot, Badami, Hungundi, Mudhol, Jamkhandi and Bilgi and 18 hoblies and 627 villages. The rivers Krishna, Ghataprabha and Malaprabha flow through the region but they are non-perennial. Bagalokot remains warm and dry most time of the year and receives very little rainfall. It in fact receives the lowest rainfall annually in Karnataka. The dry climate makes the region susceptible to drought and crop failure.

As of 2001 India census, Bagalkot district had a general population of 16, 51,892 and 2, 50,604 scheduled caste persons. The population density of Bagalkot is approximately 251 persons per square kilometer. Housing conditions in the district were identified as above average, per India's 2001 national census. The sex ratio of the district is 980 females per 1000 males, considerably higher than the national average- 927 females per 1000 males. Over 86% of the population in the district is Hindu, while 11% of the population is Muslim. Jains account for a little over 1% of the population, while Christians account for 0.17%. Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute about 17% of the total population.

According to the 2001 Census the literacy rate of the district is 57.3%, higher than national level (52%) but lower than the mean literacy rate of the state (66.6%).

Belgaum:

The district has an area of 12,000 square kilometers, and is bounded on the west and north by Maharashtra state, on the northeast by Bijapur District, on the east by Bagalkote District, on the southeast by Gadag District, on the south by Dharwad District and Uttara Kannada districts, and on the southwest by the state of Goa. Kittur in Belgaum district is a place of historical importance. Rani Chennamma of Kittur (1778-1829) is known for her resistance to British rule; another person in the history of Belgaum known for his resistance to British rule is Sangolli Rayanna. Administration of Belgaum District has been divided into 10 Taluks. Chikkodi Taluk is the largest with an area of 1,995.70 square kilometer and Raibagh Taluk is the smallest with an area of 958.8 km². Visveswaraiiah Technological University is located in Belgaum. All technical and engineering colleges in the Karnataka State come under this University. Belgaum is also known for the Airmen Training School, an Indian Air Force training centre located at Sambra. It comprises of 11 Taluks and therefore one of the biggest districts of Karnataka.

By the 2001 Census of India, it had a population of 4,214,505 of which 24.03% were urban. The scheduled caste persons are 4, 62,020 which is 10.9 % of the total district's population.

Literacy rate among the scheduled caste is 55.5 % and the general population is 64.2% as per the 2001 census.

Bellary:

Bellary district is situated on the eastern side of Karnataka state. Bellary comes under the administrative control of Gulbarga division. It has 2 revenue sub divisions, Bellary subdivision and Hospet subdivision, which in all have seven Taluks. The Bellary subdivision has 3 Taluks, while there are four Taluks in Hospet subdivision. There are 27 hoblies, 542 revenue villages and 436 thandas/habitations.

The major occupation of this district is agriculture and 75% total labour force is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood. The main source of irrigation is the Tungabhadra Dam. The Canal network account for 64% of irrigated area. The important rivers are Tungabhadra, Hagari and Chikkahagari. The western Taluks of the district are dogged with scarcity conditions with the failure of rains during successive years.

As per the 2001 Census the population of the district is 2,245,000. The density of population is 196 persons per square kilometer, which is much lower than the state average of 235 persons per square kilometer. The scheduled caste/scheduled tribe population constitute 28% of the total population at 3,74,218. The sex-ratio was 965, which is slightly higher than the state average of 960.

The literacy rate of the general population according to the 2001 census was 58.04% and 42.31 % for scheduled castes.

Bijapur:

Bijapur District lies in the tract of the Deccan Plateau and is bounded on the east by Gulbarga district, on the south by Bagalkote District, on the west by Belgaum District and by Sholapur of Maharashtra state on the North. Bijapur is divided into six Taluks for administrative management. Bijapur is rich in historical architecture. It is known for its temples, structural monuments, art and architectural heritages, archaeological sites and cave temples. The famous Gol Gumbaz monument built in the 17th century is in Bijapur. It is the second largest dome ever built.

Farming and agriculture related business is the main occupation for many people in the district. There is a slight shift towards commercial crops like cotton and sugarcane over the last few years. Many small scale industries are working in the district however no large scale industry can be found in the district.

As per the 2001 Census the population of the district is 1,806,918. The density of population is 171 persons per square kilometer, which is much lower than the state average of 235 persons per square kilometer. As per the 2001 census 3, 34,254 people belong to the Scheduled Castes and 30,051 to the Scheduled Tribes. The sex-ratio was 948/1000 (F:M), which is lower than the state average of 960.

Off late Bijapur is emerging as a hub for professional education. The Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur, established in August 2003 is the only university in the state of Karnataka, which is devoted exclusively for women's education. The literacy rate of the general population according to the 2001 census was 57.01% and 47.16 % for scheduled castes.

Gadag:

Gadag is located in the western part of North Karnataka. Gadag district has five Taluks namely Gadag-Betgeri, Ron (city), Shirhatti, Nargund and Mundargi. Kanaginahal village in Gadag District is the birth place of the first Cooperative movement in Asia.

This district ranks twenty-sixth in terms of population in the state. According to the 2001 census the population of the district is 9, 71,955 and 1, 37,414 scheduled caste persons. There were 4,93, 795 males and 4,78,160 females according to the 2001 census. The overall density of population in the district is 209 per sq.km as compared to the state average of 275 per sq.km as per the 2001 Census. The population has increased in all the five Taluks at considerably different rates.

In Gadag district, the literacy rate has risen from 55.88 percent in 1991 to 66.27 percent of the total population in 2001. During the past many years there has been a steady substantial increase in the proportion of literates in the population of the district.

Koppal:

Koppal is an administrative district in the state of Karnataka in India. In the past Koppal was referred to as 'Kopana Nagara'. Hampi, a World heritage center, covers some areas of Koppal District. The Koppal district was formed after split of Raichur district. Koppal district has four talukas namely- Koppal, Gangavahti, Yalburgi, Kushtagi.

The district had a population of 1,196,089, of which 16.58% were urban as of 2001. The district has a density of population of 166 persons per square kilometer. The scheduled caste population amount to 1,83,209 persons which is 15% of the total district population.

The literacy rate of the general population according to the 2001 census was 55.02 % and 38.78 % for scheduled castes.

Raichur:

Raichur lies in the North east part of the Karnataka. The district is surrounded by the Krishna River on the north and the Tungabhadra River on the south. The wedge of land between the rivers is known as the Raichur Doab, after the city of Raichur. Raichur District has five Taluks namely- Raichur, Devadurga, Sindhanur, Manvi and Lingsugur. There is a high prevalence of migration of the families from this region to Andhra Pradesh and Bangalore in search of livelihood. The Raichur Thermal Power Station at Shaktinagar in this district provides a large portion of the electricity consumption in Karnataka. Raichur District is one of few places in India where gold resources are present. All the five Taluks mentioned above are very well irrigated, with water from the Tungabhadra Dam on the Tungabhadra River, and Narayanpura dam on the Krishna River. Raichur is known for its paddy fields and its rice is of extremely superior quality.

The population of the district, by the 2001 Census, was 1,669,762 of which 25.20% were urban. The scheduled caste population is at 3, 17,276 which is 19% of the total district's population. The district has a density of population of 244 persons per square kilometer.

Literacy rate among the scheduled caste is 38% and the general population is 60% as per the 2001 census.

Population and Household Characteristics:

The majority of population in the nine taluks studied live in rural areas with some variations across taluks. The highest proportion of rural population is found in Kushtagi taluk (Koppal district) where the urban population is only 8.9% and the rural population is over ninety percent. Out of the total population of Badami (Bagalkot district), 74 percent of the population lives in rural areas and in Lingsugur taluk (Raichur district) about 67 percent of the population lives in rural areas. In Muddebihal taluk of Bijapur district, about 79% of the population lives in villages, in Mudhol taluk of Bagalkot district as well as in Mundargi taluk of Gadag district about 83% of the population live in villages. The typical household size in the taluks studied is six.

The total population of the nine taluks studied is 23,21,687. Raibag taluk had the highest population of 347600 people while Mundargi had the lowest population of 116309 people. If we look at the population distribution across sex, we find that the selected taluks has similar characteristics. The sex ratio in all the taluks favoured men implying presence of more men than women in the population. This was more sharply seen in Raibag, Lingasugur, Mundargi and Mudhol taluks. Even among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the general sex ratios favoured men with some exceptions such as scheduled castes in Mudhol and scheduled tribes in Sirguppa where sex ratios favoured women.

Table 5: Population of taluks according to caste groups

TALUK	Population (Total)			Population (SC)			Population (ST)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Raibag	347600	178825	168775	61097	31082	30015	6564	3369	3195
Lingasugur	321042	162628	158414	68412	34580	33832	51332	25954	25378
Kushtagi	239331	120621	118710	32078	16155	15923	31514	15999	15515
Mundargi	116309	59418	56891	22398	11477	10921	9337	4728	4609
Mudhol	244316	123461	120855	42710	20879	21831	9945	4946	4999
Siruguppa	235344	117731	117613	45511	22605	22906	42009	20950	21059
Kudligi	272183	139202	132981	52212	26540	25672	73650	37298	36352
Muddebihal	253638	128061	125577	44419	22197	22222	7624	3859	3765
Badami	291924	146424	145500	35920	17935	17985	26892	13529	13363

The population distribution across social groups reveals that in the selected taluks, the proportion of scheduled communities was lower than the general population. Taluks like Lingasugur (21%), Mundargi, Sirguppa, Kudligi (about 19% each) had the highest proportion of scheduled castes while Badami (12%) and Kushtagi (13%) had the least proportion of scheduled castes. The proportion of scheduled tribes was lower than that of scheduled castes in the selected taluks, except in Kudligi. Kushtagi had an equal proportion (about 13%) of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Kudligi had the highest proportion of scheduled tribes (27%) whereas Raibag (about 2%) and Muddebihal (about 3%) had the least proportion of population belonging to scheduled tribes. If we take the total proportion of scheduled communities in the overall taluk population, we find that almost half of the population of Kudligi (over 46%) belong to scheduled communities followed by Lingasugur and Siruguppa (over 37% each). Raibag had the least proportion (about 19%) of scheduled communities among the taluks selected for the study. Raibag, Lingasugur and Mudhol taluks also had a high proportion of *devadasi* population.

Data from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj reveals the number of families that live in each taluk. The data shows that Lingasugur had most number of families (45,139) while Mundargi had the least (13,790).

Table 6: Number of families in the nine taluks

Taluk	Number of families
Raibag	38914
Lingsugur	45139
Kushtagi	37095
Mundargi	13790
Mudhol	30980
Siruguppa	24532
Kudligi	30410
Muddebihal	29767
Badami	32788

Developmental Indicators:

The Human Development Report for Karnataka (2005) indicates how the districts fared in terms of human development with the help of 2001 data. Among the selected districts, except Belgaum, most districts have low scores on human development index, an index developed by the UNDP and used to measure performance of countries across the world in terms of their progress in achieving human development. For the districts that have been chosen for the study, the Human Development Index scores are given below:

Table 7: Developmental indicators in seven districts

No	District	Indicator						HDI	
		Health		Education		Income		Value	Rank
		Index	Rank	Index	Rank	Index	Rank		
1	Bagalkot	0.597	27	0.636	22	0.539	12	0.591	22
2	Belgaum	0.712	2	0.699	15	0.532	13	0.648	8
3	Bellary	0.685	7	0.618	23	0.549	9	0.617	18
4	Bijapur	0.627	24	0.642	21	0.499	23	0.589	23
5	Gadag	0.628	23	0.750	8	0.525	15	0.634	13
6	Koppal	0.642	16	0.576	24	0.529	14	0.582	24
7	Raichur	0.648	14	0.524	27	0.469	27	0.547	27
	Karnataka	0.680		0.712		0.559		0.650	

Out of 27 districts in Karnataka, Raichur is ranked last in terms of Human Development Index. Koppal, Bijapur and Bagalkot also have low ranks (24th, 23rd and 22nd respectively). Belgaum and Gadag have better ranks (8 and 13 respectively) compared to

rest of the selected districts. Although Belgaum is ranked second in health, it has poor ranking in education (15th) and income (13th) indices. While Raichur is ranked lowest in education and income, Bagalkot is ranked lowest in health index.

Health and Education Infrastructure:

Data available with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj was compiled in order to get a picture of the health and education infrastructure available in the selected taluks.

Table 8: Availability of Infrastructure

Taluk	Number of Anganwadi Centres	Number of Primary Health Centres	Number of government primary schools	Number of children studying in Ashram schools/government residential schools/social welfare hostels
Raibag	263	17	214	438
Lingsugur	204	11	172	1858
Kushtagi	137	9	90	778
Mundargi	88	3	31	545
Mudhol	143	7	80	628
Siruguppa	177	5	76	270
Kudligi	158	8	109	725
Muddebihal	208	11	107	964
Badami	215	8	78	525

The availability of infrastructure is generally high in taluks with high population such as Raibag and Lingsugur but it is low in taluks such as Mundargi that has low population. However, this is not a general rule and it is clear that certain taluks have better facilities than others, irrespective of the population size. For example, although Badami has a higher population than Muddebihal, it has fewer Primary Health Centres, government primary schools and residential schools for children than those available in Muddebihal. Although Siruguppa and Kushtagi have approximately the same population, Siruguppa has far more number of Anganwadi Centres than Kushtagi and the latter has many more Primary Health Centres, government primary schools and residential schools than the former. It must be noted, however, that this data indicates only the availability of the infrastructure and does not reveal the accessibility of these by the local population, especially children from marginalized communities and CwPC. It also does not reveal if the infrastructure is functional and the quality of the services it offers.

Status of Orphans in North Karnataka

This chapter presents the main findings of the survey conducted in the nine taluks of North Karnataka. It describes the profile and characteristics of the orphan and semi-orphan children, analyses the reasons for their orphanhood and then discusses the status and conditions within which the children live currently. The data is presented with the help of descriptive statistics and seeks to explain the main trends and observations with inter-taluk variations.

Profile and Characteristics:

This section provides a description of the profile and the key characteristics of the orphan and semi-orphan children that were identified and interviewed in the nine taluks. The main variables studied are the age group, sex of the child, whether the child is an orphan or a semi-orphan, and the caste affiliation of the child.

Age wise distribution of children across taluks:

Among all the children who were identified as orphan or semi-orphan children, the highest number of children belonged to the age group of 6-14 years. This phenomenon was seen across all taluks. From the total of 50666 children who were interviewed, 33973 children came from this age group which is about 67% of the total population. Since a majority of the children came from Badami, the highest number of 6-14 year olds also came from Badami (5682 children). Mundargi had the lowest number of children in this age group (1403 children). The total number of orphan and semi-orphan children below three years in the selected taluks was 2529. This was less than five percent of the overall population of orphan and semi-orphan children who were studied. The highest number of orphans and semi-orphans below three years was found in Mudhol (572 children) and the lowest number was found in Raibag (71 children), a taluk which had the lowest proportion of orphan and semi-orphan children in the population. There were 3483 children between the age of 3 and 6 years in the selected taluks who were orphan or semi-orphan constituting about seven percent of the population of orphan and semi-orphan children who were studied. The study also looked at the age group of 15-18 years and found that there were 10681 children in this age group who were found to be orphans or semi-orphans making up 21% of the total child population of orphan and semi-orphan children in the selected nine taluks.

Table 9: Orphans by age group

Taluk	Age Group				
	Less than 3 years	3-6 years	6-14 years	15-18 years	Total
Raibag	71	104	1467	268	1910
Lingasugur	333	534	5128	1331	7326

Mundargi	104	163	1403	557	2227
Badami	382	572	5682	1766	8402
Mudhol	572	633	4362	1450	7017
Muddebihal	261	371	4283	1534	6449
Kudligi	281	372	3941	1811	6405
Siruguppa	274	336	3136	1271	5017
Kushtagi	251	398	4571	693	5913
Total	2529	3483	33973	10681	50666

Sex wise distribution of orphan and semi-orphan children across Taluks:

Of all the 50,666 orphan and semi-orphan children who were identified and interviewed, 28,122 (55.5%) were boys and 22,544 (44.5%) were girls. This trend was also observed in all the taluks that were studied and there were more boys than girls among the children studied. Data also shows that out of the total 50,666 children, 8390 children were orphans and 42,276 children were semi-orphans. This means that the proportion of children having at least one parent looking after them was more (83.4%) than those whose both parents had died or deserted, who were 16.5% of the children interviewed.

Table 10: Sex wise distribution of orphan and semi-orphan children across Taluks

Taluk	Parenthood Status	Male		Female		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Raibag	Orphan Children	195	58.4%	139	41.6%	334	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	879	55.8%	697	44.2%	1,576	100.0%
	Total	1,074	56.2%	836	43.8%	1,910	100.0%
Lingasugur	Orphan Children	713	57.0%	537	43.0%	1,250	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	3,475	57.2%	2,601	42.8%	6,076	100.0%
	Total	4,188	57.2%	3,138	42.8%	7,326	100.0%
Mundargi	Orphan Children	184	54.0%	157	46.0%	341	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	1,081	57.3%	805	42.7%	1,886	100.0%
	Total	1,265	56.8%	962	43.2%	2,227	100.0%
Badami	Orphan Children	873	56.5%	672	43.5%	1,545	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	3,913	57.1%	2,944	42.9%	6,857	100.0%
	Total	4,786	57.0%	3,616	43.0%	8,402	100.0%
Mudhol	Orphan Children	863	56.1%	675	43.9%	1,538	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	2,988	54.5%	2,491	45.5%	5,479	100.0%
	Total	3,851	54.9%	3,166	45.1%	7,017	100.0%
Muddebihal	Orphan Children	616	55.5%	494	44.5%	1,110	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	2,912	54.5%	2,427	45.5%	5,339	100.0%
	Total	3,528	54.7%	2,921	45.3%	6,449	100.0%
Kudligi	Orphan Children	351	55.3%	284	44.7%	635	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	3,031	52.5%	2,739	47.5%	5,770	100.0%
	Total	3,382	52.8%	3,023	47.2%	6,405	100.0%
Siraguppa	Orphan Children	346	56.6%	265	43.4%	611	100.0%

	Semi-Orphan Children	2,529	57.4%	1,877	42.6%	4,406	100.0%
	Total	2,875	57.3%	2,142	42.7%	5,017	100.0%
Kushtagi	Orphan Children	574	55.9%	452	44.1%	1,026	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	2,599	53.2%	2,288	46.8%	4,887	100.0%
	Total	3,173	53.7%	2,740	46.3%	5,913	100.0%
Total	Orphan Children	4,715	56.2%	3,675	43.8%	8,390	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	23,407	55.4%	18,869	44.6%	42,276	100.0%
	Total	28,122	55.5%	22,544	44.5%	50,666	100.0%

There were no significant variations with regards to the proportion of orphan and semi-orphan children across taluks. The number of orphan children was highest in Badami (1545 children) followed by Mudhol (1538 children). The least number of orphan children were found in Raibag (334 children). The highest number of semi-orphan children were found in Badami (6857 children) followed by Lingasugur (6076 children). The lowest number of semi-orphan children was seen in Raibag (1576 children). Overall, if the study found that there were 4715 orphan boys, 3675 orphan girls, 23,407 semi-orphan boys and 18,869 semi-orphan girls in the selected nine taluks.

Caste Composition of children:

Among the total children interviewed, the highest percentage (32.8%) came from Other Backward Castes which included children from Muslim, Christian and Jain communities followed by children from other castes (18.1%) which included children from the following communities: Lingayat, Panchamsali, Panchal, Jangam, Vokkaliga, Gowda, Reddy, Kamar, Hugar, Badiger, Kshatriya, Ganiga, Sutar and Banajiga communities. Other Scheduled Caste communities, which included Kamble, Cheluvadi, Korava, Samgar, Dasar, Helvavaru, Lambani, Vaddar, Bajantri, Chenadasaru, Dor and Bhovi communities, comprised 17.9% of the total orphan and semi-orphan population that was studied. The Madiga children comprised 17% and the least percentage of orphan and semi-orphan children came from the Scheduled Tribes (14.3%).

Table 11: Caste Composition of children:

Distribution across Caste Groups												
Taluk	Madiga		Other SC		OBC (Muslim/Christian /Jain included)		ST		Other caste		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Raibag	332	17.4%	768	40.2%	471	24.7%	19	1.0%	320	16.8%	1910	100.0%
Lingasugur	1255	17.1%	1376	18.8%	2276	31.1%	1303	17.8%	1116	15.2%	7326	100.0%
Mundargi	323	14.5%	542	24.3%	865	38.8%	141	6.3%	356	16.0%	2227	100.0%
Badami	791	9.4%	1372	16.3%	3337	39.7%	878	10.4%	2024	24.1%	8402	100.0%
Mudhol	3442	49.1%	835	11.9%	1362	19.4%	256	3.6%	1122	16.0%	7017	100.0%
Muddebihal	865	13.4%	1472	22.8%	2324	36.0%	311	4.8%	1477	22.9%	6449	100.0%
Kudligi	2	0.0%	883	13.8%	2283	35.6%	2167	33.8%	1070	16.7%	6405	100.0%
Siruguppa	596	11.9%	1240	24.7%	1562	31.1%	1201	23.9%	418	8.3%	5017	100.0%
Kushtagi	999	16.9%	561	9.5%	2137	36.1%	959	16.2%	1257	21.3%	5913	100.0%
Total	8605	17.0%	9049	17.9%	16617	32.8%	7235	14.3%	9160	18.1%	50666	100.0%

If we look at the inter-taluk variations, we find that the proportion of communities varies to a certain extent. For instance, in Raibag taluk, over 40% of the children belong to Other Scheduled Castes, in Mudhol taluk, almost half of the children who are orphan or semi-orphan come from Madiga community, and in Badami taluk which has the highest number of children studied, about 40% of the children come from OBC communities. The highest number of children belonging to Scheduled Tribes came from Kudligi taluk. In certain taluks, the proportion of orphans and semi-orphans belonging to certain communities is negligible. For instance, in Kudligi taluk, there are only two Madiga children who are orphans or semi-orphans and in Raibag, there are only 19 children belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

Reasons for Orphanhood:

This section provides an analysis of the factors that have caused orphanhood among children in the selected nine taluks of North Karnataka. The reasons are looked at with regards to children's age group, orphanhood status and caste affiliation.

Reasons by Age Group

The table shows that among all the children that were studied, 40% causes were related to death due to other reasons which included death due to cancer, paralysis, kidney failure, diabetes, asthma, dog/snake/animal bite, accident, psychological disorders, suicide or undisclosed reasons. Second marriage and migration were the least cited reasons.

Table 12 Reasons by Age Group

Taluk	Age Group	Died		Died of		Death due to		Desertion	Second Marriage	Migration	Deva-dasi System	Count	Total
		of HIV-AIDS	of T.B	of alcohol abuse	of Pregnancy Problems & Curable Diseases	to other reasons							
Raibag	Less than 3 Yrs	14.1%	7.0%	15.5%	7.0%	22.5%	7.0%	14.1%	1.4%	21.1%	71	100%	
	3 to 6 Yrs	16.3%	12.5%	17.3%	8.7%	18.3%	11.5%	11.5%	0.0%	17.3%	104	100%	
	6 to 14 Yrs	7.8%	5.5%	27.2%	6.1%	36.9%	5.7%	8.0%	0.1%	16.0%	1467	100%	
	15 to 18 Yrs	5.2%	2.2%	29.9%	6.7%	32.5%	2.6%	6.3%	0.0%	27.2%	268	100%	
	Total	8.1%	5.4%	26.6%	6.4%	34.8%	5.7%	8.2%	0.2%	17.9%	1910	100%	
Lingasugur	Less than 3 Yrs	7.2%	15.0%	9.0%	18.0%	31.8%	9.6%	5.1%	2.1%	15.0%	333	100%	
	3 to 6 Yrs	7.5%	22.3%	7.5%	18.7%	30.5%	10.5%	3.6%	2.6%	8.4%	534	100%	
	6 to 14 Yrs	7.9%	26.1%	10.4%	16.6%	30.0%	7.3%	2.6%	1.8%	10.4%	5128	100%	

	15 to 18 Yrs	6.3%	30.3%	14.4%	15.1%	29.4%	4.8%	2.0%	0.9%	9.8%	1331	100%
	Total	7.5%	26.0%	10.8%	16.5%	30.0%	7.2%	2.7%	1.7%	10.3%	7326	100%
Mundargi	Less than 3 Yrs	3.8%	1.9%	14.4%	23.1%	26.9%	3.8%	3.8%	4.8%	24.0%	104	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	6.7%	11.7%	17.8%	15.3%	30.7%	6.7%	4.9%	6.1%	7.4%	163	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	5.6%	15.3%	21.7%	12.3%	32.4%	5.6%	0.9%	6.6%	7.6%	1403	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	2.7%	18.1%	23.3%	12.0%	37.9%	4.8%	0.5%	3.8%	5.9%	557	100%
	Total	4.8%	15.1%	21.5%	13.0%	33.4%	5.4%	1.3%	5.7%	7.9%	2227	100%
Badami	Less than 3 Yrs	9.2%	5.2%	13.4%	12.8%	36.1%	14.4%	4.5%	0.3%	13.6%	382	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	12.2%	9.3%	13.6%	13.1%	37.9%	11.5%	5.4%	0.2%	9.1%	572	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	9.7%	13.9%	16.9%	12.2%	41.4%	9.5%	4.2%	0.2%	5.0%	5682	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	6.9%	15.8%	19.4%	9.6%	44.7%	6.7%	2.7%	0.3%	4.6%	1766	100%
	Total	9.2%	13.6%	17.0%	11.8%	41.6%	9.3%	4.0%	0.2%	5.6%	8402	100%
Mudhol	Less than 3 Yrs	11.4%	3.3%	8.4%	4.7%	29.2%	5.6%	1.0%	0.9%	44.4%	572	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	12.6%	4.3%	10.7%	9.0%	33.2%	8.7%	2.1%	0.2%	35.4%	633	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	13.3%	5.1%	11.9%	10.5%	36.8%	6.8%	0.8%	0.4%	32.6%	4362	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	13.6%	4.8%	10.8%	8.5%	43.7%	6.5%	0.5%	0.1%	30.8%	1450	100%
	Total	13.1%	4.8%	11.2%	9.5%	37.3%	6.8%	0.9%	0.4%	33.4%	7017	100%
Muddebihal	Less than 3 Yrs	3.1%	6.1%	11.9%	11.5%	42.1%	17.6%	2.3%	2.3%	10.3%	261	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	2.7%	8.9%	16.2%	11.6%	35.8%	18.9%	1.6%	3.2%	7.5%	371	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	3.9%	11.4%	15.0%	12.1%	39.3%	10.3%	1.5%	7.8%	5.3%	4283	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	1.8%	13.9%	18.8%	14.2%	43.5%	6.2%	0.7%	2.5%	6.3%	1534	100%
	Total	3.3%	11.6%	15.8%	12.5%	40.2%	10.1%	1.4%	6.1%	5.9%	6449	100%
Kudligi	Less than 3 Yrs	1.1%	6.4%	5.0%	10.3%	45.9%	5.0%	2.1%	2.5%	24.2%	281	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	1.1%	7.8%	5.9%	14.0%	46.8%	6.5%	1.6%	2.2%	19.9%	372	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	2.3%	10.4%	7.9%	15.5%	50.0%	4.5%	0.8%	1.3%	12.1%	3941	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	1.8%	10.9%	9.1%	13.4%	56.2%	2.0%	0.4%	1.0%	9.8%	1811	100%
	Total	2.0%	10.2%	8.0%	14.6%	51.4%	3.9%	0.8%	1.3%	12.4%	6405	100%

Siraguppa	Less than 3 Yrs	2.6%	9.1%	13.5%	6.9%	44.2%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	23.0%	274	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	3.6%	10.4%	10.1%	5.7%	51.5%	3.6%	0.0%	0.6%	18.8%	336	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	2.6%	10.8%	11.9%	6.6%	52.8%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%	16.4%	3136	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	2.1%	9.0%	12.7%	6.4%	53.8%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%	19.1%	1271	100%
	Total	2.5%	10.2%	12.1%	6.5%	52.5%	3.3%	0.1%	0.1%	17.6%	5017	100%
Kushtagi	Less than 3 Yrs	3.2%	18.3%	9.6%	21.1%	35.9%	2.4%	2.0%	4.0%	11.6%	251	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	6.5%	19.3%	11.3%	16.6%	36.2%	3.8%	1.5%	3.3%	8.3%	398	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	6.2%	26.3%	8.5%	17.9%	38.0%	2.3%	1.6%	1.5%	8.2%	4571	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	5.6%	31.7%	7.6%	14.6%	34.6%	1.3%	0.0%	0.1%	11.1%	693	100%
	Total	6.0%	26.1%	8.7%	17.6%	37.4%	2.3%	1.4%	1.6%	8.7%	5913	100%
Total	Less than 3 Yrs	6.5%	7.9%	10.3%	11.7%	35.8%	8.2%	2.8%	1.7%	23.1%	2529	100%
	3 to 6 Yrs	7.8%	11.6%	11.3%	12.8%	36.8%	9.2%	2.9%	1.8%	15.8%	3483	100%
	6 to 14 Yrs	6.9%	15.0%	13.0%	13.0%	39.8%	6.5%	2.1%	2.0%	12.3%	33973	100%
	15 to 18 Yrs	5.2%	15.0%	14.7%	11.4%	44.2%	4.6%	1.1%	0.9%	12.7%	10681	100%
	Total	6.6%	14.4%	13.1%	12.6%	40.4%	6.4%	2.0%	1.7%	13.2%	50666	100%

*This is a multi-response table. Totals would not add to 100

There was not much difference in the percentage attributed to various reasons across the different age groups in the total population. However, the percentage of those who reported death due to other reasons has done down with the younger age groups. While 44.2% of children between 15 to 18 years reported death due to other reasons as the factor, only 35.8% in the age group of children less than 3 years reported this reason. The percentage of those reporting Death due to HIV/AIDS was highest in Raibag among parent/s of children between 3-6 years (16.3%) and among those below 3 years (14.1%). In Mundargi and Kushtagi, the percentages of responses provided to 'Death due to Pregnancy problems and Curable Diseases' was 23.1% and 21.1% respectively among parents of children who are less than 3 years old. Death due to Alcohol Abuse was reported by many children in Raibag and Mundargi, particularly those between 6-14 years and those from 15-18 years. In Raibag, 27.2% of 6-14 year olds and 29.9% of 15-18 year olds reported this as the cause for their orphanhood while in Mundargi, 21.7% of 6-14 year olds and 33.3% of 15-18 year olds reported death of their parent/s due to alcohol abuse.

Reasons according to orphanhood status

When the reasons for orphanhood are studied with regards to the category of orphan and semi-orphan children, we find that of the total, almost half of all the orphan children reported death due to other causes as the reason for their orphanhood and 38.6% of the semi-orphans reported the same. Among the semi-orphans, the percentage of those reporting second marriage and migration as the reasons was minimal.

Table 13 Reasons according to orphanhood status

Taluk	Paranthood Status	Died of HIV - AIDS	Died of T.B	Died of alcohol abuse	Died of Pregnancy Problems & Curable Diseases	Death due to other reasons	Desertion	Second Marriage	Migration	Devadasi System	Count	Total
Raibag	Orphan Children	16.8%	8.7%	22.5%	17.1%	43.1%	18.3%	28.4%	0.3%	20.4%	334	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	6.3%	4.8%	27.5%	4.1%	33.0%	3.0%	3.9%	0.1%	17.3%	1576	100.0%
	Total	8.1%	5.4%	26.6%	6.4%	34.8%	5.7%	8.2%	0.2%	17.9%	1910	100.0%
Lingasugur	Orphan Children	15.5%	29.0%	7.6%	31.8%	43.0%	26.6%	9.4%	4.3%	7.8%	1250	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	5.9%	25.4%	11.5%	13.4%	27.3%	3.2%	1.3%	1.2%	10.9%	6076	100.0%
	Total	7.5%	26.0%	10.8%	16.5%	30.0%	7.2%	2.7%	1.7%	10.3%	7326	100.0%
Mundaragi	Orphan Children	12.9%	18.5%	12.3%	18.8%	44.6%	18.5%	4.7%	20.8%	1.5%	341	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	3.4%	14.5%	23.1%	11.9%	31.3%	3.0%	0.6%	3.0%	9.1%	1886	100.0%
	Total	4.8%	15.1%	21.5%	13.0%	33.4%	5.4%	1.3%	5.7%	7.9%	2227	100.0%
Badami	Orphan Children	16.9%	21.0%	11.5%	20.3%	50.0%	28.6%	13.9%	1.4%	3.9%	1545	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	7.5%	11.9%	18.3%	9.8%	39.8%	4.9%	1.8%	0.0%	6.0%	6857	100.0%
	Total	9.2%	13.6%	17.0%	11.8%	41.6%	9.3%	4.0%	0.2%	5.6%	8402	100.0%
Mudhol	Orphan Children	33.0%	6.7%	12.5%	15.1%	54.6%	17.7%	2.9%	1.4%	35.5%	1538	100.0%
	Semi-Orphan Children	7.6%	4.3%	10.9%	7.9%	32.4%	3.7%	0.3%	0.1%	32.9%	5479	100.0%

	Total	13.1 %	4.8 %	11.2 %	9.5%	37.3 %	6.8%	0.9%	0.4%	33.4%	7017	100.0 %
Muddebihal	Orphan Children	7.0%	11.9 %	7.7%	16.3%	35.1 %	24.7%	3.2%	31.5%	3.2%	1110	100.0 %
	Semi-Orphan Children	2.5%	11.6 %	17.5 %	11.7%	41.3 %	7.1%	1.0%	0.8%	6.5%	5339	100.0 %
	Total	3.3 %	11.6 %	15.8 %	12.5%	40.2 %	10.1%	1.4%	6.1%	5.9%	6449	100.0 %
Kudligi	Orphan Children	10.2 %	14.8 %	7.2%	20.0%	60.2 %	17.5%	4.6%	5.4%	6.8%	635	100.0 %
	Semi-Orphan Children	1.1%	9.7%	8.1%	14.0%	50.4 %	2.4%	0.3%	0.9%	13.0%	5770	100.0 %
	Total	2.0 %	10.2 %	8.0%	14.6%	51.4 %	3.9%	0.8%	1.3%	12.4%	6405	100.0 %
Siraguppa	Orphan Children	8.0%	14.7 %	8.2%	9.7%	71.5 %	12.8%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	611	100.0 %
	Semi-Orphan Children	1.7%	9.6%	12.6 %	6.1%	49.9 %	2.0%	0.1%	0.1%	17.9%	4406	100.0 %
	Total	2.5 %	10.2 %	12.1 %	6.5%	52.5 %	3.3%	0.1%	0.1%	17.6%	5017	100.0 %
Kushtagi	Orphan Children	13.6 %	40.2 %	8.0%	24.7%	46.6 %	9.7%	7.4%	3.6%	2.9%	1026	100.0 %
	Semi-Orphan Children	4.4%	23.2 %	8.8%	16.1%	35.5 %	0.8%	0.1%	1.2%	9.9%	4887	100.0 %
	Total	6.0 %	26.1 %	8.7%	17.6%	37.4 %	2.3%	1.4%	1.6%	8.7%	5913	100.0 %
Total	Orphan Children	16.6 %	19.2 %	10.1 %	20.1%	49.2 %	20.7%	7.5%	7.0%	11.7%	8390	100.0 %
	Semi-Orphan Children	4.6%	13.4 %	13.7 %	11.1%	38.6 %	3.5%	0.9%	0.7%	13.5%	42276	100.0 %
	Total	6.6 %	14.4 %	13.1 %	12.6%	40.4 %	6.4%	2.0%	1.7%	13.2%	50666	100.0 %

*This is a multi-response table. Totals would not add to 100

If we look at the inter-taluk variations we see some important trends. Among the semi-orphans in Badami, Mudhol, Muddebihal, Kudligi and Siraguppa, migration was reported by a negligible percentage as a reason for orphanhood. Except Mudhol, in all the taluks the percentage of those reporting death due to alcohol abuse was much higher in semi-orphans than those among orphans. For the orphan children, some of the factors that stand out in taluks are: Desertion in Muddebihal, Death by TB in Kushtagi, Death by HIV/AIDS in Mudhol, and Death due to pregnancy problems and curable diseases in Lingasgur.

Reasons according to caste groups:

The data on reasons for orphan hood shows that among all the children, death due to other reasons was reported by most as a cause across all castes, except Madigas.

Although 47.8% of children from Other Castes reported it as a cause and only 23% of Madiga children reported it as a cause. The presence of devadasi mothers was reported by more than half of the Madiga children interviewed across taluks.

Table 14: Reasons according to caste groups

Taluk	Caste Group	Reasons according to caste										
		Died of HIV - AIDS	Died of T.B	Died of alcohol abuse	Died of Pregnancy Problems & Curable Diseases	Death due to other reasons	Desertion	Second Marriage	Migration	Devadasi System	Count	Total
Raibag	Madiga	9.0%	6.3%	13.9%	6.9%	21.7%	4.5%	2.7%	0.0%	50.0%	332	100%
	Other SC	9.6%	5.5%	28.4%	5.6%	28.8%	5.3%	8.3%	0.0%	22.4%	768	100%
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	6.2%	5.5%	31.0%	8.3%	42.5%	7.4%	13.8%	0.2%	0.6%	471	100%
	ST	0.0%	15.8%	10.5%	0.0%	47.4%	21.1%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	19	100%
	Other caste	6.9%	3.8%	30.0%	5.3%	50.6%	4.1%	5.6%	0.6%	0.0%	320	100%
	Total	8.1%	5.4%	26.6%	6.4%	34.8%	5.7%	8.2%	0.2%	17.9%	1910	100%
Lingasur	Madiga	8.6%	15.5%	6.1%	10.5%	15.5%	5.4%	3.0%	1.8%	47.0%	1255	100%
	Other SC	9.4%	21.0%	9.1%	18.2%	31.8%	7.3%	2.4%	2.9%	11.3%	1376	100%
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	7.3%	29.9%	12.9%	17.0%	32.4%	7.9%	3.1%	1.5%	0.3%	2276	100%
	ST	4.7%	36.2%	9.6%	21.5%	30.9%	6.8%	1.7%	1.1%	0.0%	1303	100%
	Other caste	7.6%	24.5%	15.6%	14.4%	38.1%	8.0%	3.0%	1.3%	0.5%	1116	100%
	Total	7.5%	26.0%	10.8%	16.5%	30.0%	7.2%	2.7%	1.7%	10.3%	7326	100%
Mundarigi	Madiga	3.7%	9.9%	17.3%	8.7%	24.1%	5.6%	0.9%	2.2%	34.7%	323	100%
	Other SC	3.3%	15.1%	23.1%	7.6%	27.5%	5.9%	1.5%	9.6%	11.8%	542	100%
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	5.1%	17.9%	23.2%	15.8%	36.9%	4.7%	1.5%	5.2%	0.0%	865	100%
	ST	1.4%	13.5%	27.7%	16.3%	39.0%	3.5%	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	141	100%
	Other caste	9.0%	13.5%	16.0%	16.9%	39.9%	6.7%	1.1%	4.2%	0.0%	356	100%
	Total	4.8%	15.1%	21.5%	13.0%	33.4%	5.4%	1.3%	5.7%	7.9%	2227	100%
Badami	Madiga	7.1%	12.6%	7.5%	10.7%	24.7%	7.8%	1.4%	0.8%	42.1%	791	100%
	Other SC	8.7%	15.7%	20.8%	9.0%	37.5%	7.7%	3.6%	0.0%	9.3%	1372	100%

	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	10.0 %	13.3 %	16.2 %	13.0%	44.8 %	9.8%	4.3%	0.2%	0.2%	3337	100 %
	ST	9.6 %	8.8 %	19.1 %	14.9%	43.6 %	11.4%	5.7%	0.0%	0.6%	878	100 %
	Other caste	8.9 %	15.2 %	18.7 %	10.7%	45.0 %	9.1%	4.0%	0.3%	0.0%	2024	100 %
	Total	9.2 %	13.6 %	17.0 %	11.8%	41.6 %	9.3%	4.0%	0.2%	5.6%	8402	100 %
Mudhol	Madiga	11.7 %	2.8 %	7.4%	4.9%	25.0 %	6.0%	0.6%	0.2%	62.6%	3442	100 %
	Other SC	12.0 %	6.5 %	11.5 %	12.7%	43.8 %	4.7%	1.0%	0.4%	23.0%	835	100 %
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	13.1 %	7.9 %	15.7 %	16.1%	49.9 %	6.5%	1.7%	0.3%	0.0%	1362	100 %
	ST	15.6 %	3.9 %	25.0 %	13.3%	42.6 %	6.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	256	100 %
	Other caste	17.9 %	6.1 %	14.4 %	12.3%	53.3 %	11.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1122	100 %
	Total	13.1 %	4.8 %	11.2 %	9.5%	37.3 %	6.8%	0.9%	0.4%	33.4 %	7017	100 %
Muddebihal	Madiga	4.6 %	10.5 %	10.3 %	10.8%	24.0 %	9.1%	0.8%	6.6%	31.3%	865	100 %
	Other SC	2.2 %	9.2 %	14.9 %	10.2%	38.4 %	13.1%	1.2%	10.4%	7.5%	1472	100 %
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	2.9 %	13.3 %	17.1 %	13.8%	43.2 %	9.3%	1.8%	4.1%	0.0%	2324	100 %
	ST	4.5 %	11.9 %	23.2 %	12.2%	36.7 %	11.6%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	311	100 %
	Other caste	4.1 %	12.0 %	16.4 %	13.9%	47.5 %	8.7%	1.6%	4.3%	0.0%	1477	100 %
	Total	3.3 %	11.6 %	15.8 %	12.5%	40.2 %	10.1%	1.4%	6.1%	5.9%	6449	100 %
Kudligi	Madiga	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	100.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2	100 %
	Other SC	1.8 %	7.9 %	10.1 %	13.9%	57.9 %	5.8%	0.6%	1.1%	7.6%	883	100 %
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	1.9 %	9.0 %	7.5 %	10.2%	48.9 %	3.2%	1.2%	1.1%	20.1%	2283	100 %
	ST	1.7 %	13.7 %	5.9 %	17.5%	49.3 %	3.5%	0.2%	1.0%	12.3%	2167	100 %
	Other caste	3.2 %	7.7 %	11.7 %	18.5%	55.3 %	5.0%	1.0%	2.8%	0.2%	1070	100 %
	Total	2.0 %	10.2 %	8.0 %	14.6%	51.4 %	3.9%	0.8%	1.3%	12.4 %	6405	100 %
Siraguppa	Madiga	1.2 %	4.2 %	7.4%	4.5%	30.0 %	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	55.7%	596	100 %
	Other SC	3.5 %	8.3 %	6.9 %	3.7%	43.7 %	2.0%	0.0%	0.1%	40.7%	1240	100 %
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	3.3 %	15.2 %	15.2 %	8.4%	55.8 %	5.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	1562	100 %
	ST	1.0 %	9.9 %	16.0 %	7.2%	62.7 %	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	1201	100 %
	Other caste	3.1 %	6.9 %	11.5 %	8.9%	68.9 %	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	418	100 %

	Total	2.5%	10.2%	12.1%	6.5%	52.5%	3.3%	0.1%	0.1%	17.6%	5017	100%
Kushtagi	Madiga	6.3%	14.9%	6.0%	9.3%	19.3%	2.8%	0.2%	0.7%	49.2%	999	100%
	Other SC	7.5%	24.6%	8.4%	22.1%	36.0%	3.7%	0.7%	5.0%	4.3%	561	100%
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	5.4%	29.8%	9.2%	20.7%	41.8%	1.2%	1.9%	0.7%	0.0%	2137	100%
	ST	6.4%	30.7%	7.7%	18.2%	38.0%	1.4%	1.3%	2.1%	0.0%	959	100%
	Other caste	6.0%	26.0%	10.7%	16.3%	44.6%	3.9%	1.9%	1.8%	0.0%	1257	100%
	Total	6.0%	26.1%	8.7%	17.6%	37.4%	2.3%	1.4%	1.6%	8.7%	5913	100%
Total	Madiga	8.3%	8.2%	7.9%	7.6%	23.0%	5.6%	1.0%	1.3%	51.7%	8605	100%
	Other SC	6.4%	12.5%	14.3%	11.1%	38.8%	6.7%	2.1%	3.2%	15.6%	9049	100%
	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	6.2%	16.9%	14.4%	14.1%	44.0%	6.5%	2.6%	1.4%	2.9%	16617	100%
	ST	4.3%	18.4%	11.9%	15.9%	45.0%	5.2%	1.3%	1.2%	4.3%	7235	100%
	Other caste	7.7%	14.5%	15.5%	13.5%	47.8%	7.4%	2.2%	1.8%	0.1%	9160	100%
	Total	6.6%	14.4%	13.1%	12.6%	40.4%	6.4%	2.0%	1.7%	13.2%	50666	100%

*This is a multi-response table. Totals would not add to 100

Current Status of the Orphan and Semi-orphan children:

This section presents the current status of the orphan and semi-orphan children who were interviewed in the nine taluks in North Karnataka. It looks at the guardianship status of children, their education status, their living conditions, and their working status with inter-taluk variations.

Guardianship status:

Children, especially very young children, are not capable of looking after and supporting themselves. All children require adult supervision, guidance, warmth and emotional support as they grow and develop. The data showed that orphan and semi-orphan children are looked after by their surviving parent, or by a close relative such as grandparents, uncles and aunts or even other members of their village.

Table 15: Guardianship status of children

Taluk	Guardian				Total
	Grandparents	Mother	Father	Others	
Raibag	261	1426	150	73	1910
Lingasugur	813	4949	1127	437	7326
Mundargi	238	1489	397	103	2227
Badami	933	5698	1159	612	8402

Mudhol	1317	4832	647	221	7017
Muddebihal	816	4415	924	294	6449
Kudligi	389	4122	1644	250	6405
Siruguppa	348	3551	855	263	5017
Kushtagi	618	3791	1096	408	5913
Total	5733	34273	7999	2661	50666

As seen in the earlier tables, the proportion of semi-orphan children is significantly higher than the proportion of orphan children. Following this, as many as 34,273 children were being looked after by the mothers (67%) and 7999 children were being looked after by the fathers (15.7%). In the case of the orphans who had no parent to look after them, the study found that it was either the grandparents or other relative or friends who looked after the children. Of the total 50,666 children interviewed, 5733 children (11.3% of total) were being looked after by the grandparents and 2661 children (5.2% of total) were looked after by other friends and relatives.

Education status of children looked after by different guardians

It is not enough to know that the child is looked after by some guardian. The quality of care offered by the guardian would depend largely on the extent to which the child's needs and entitlements are fulfilled and his/her interests are protected.

Table 16: Education status of children looked after by different guardians

Total Number of Children by their Guardians and Education Status								
Guardian	School/Anganwadi		Out of School		Irregular		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Grand parents	3,252	56.7%	2,392	41.7%	89	1.6%	5,733	100.0%
Mother	19,121	55.8%	14,689	42.9%	463	1.4%	34,273	100.0%
Father	4,244	53.1%	3,678	46.0%	77	1.0%	7,999	100.0%
Others	1,222	45.9%	1,406	52.8%	33	1.2%	2,661	100.0%
Total	27,839	54.9%	22,165	43.7%	662	1.3%	50,666	100.0%

Of the total 50,666 children who were identified and studied in the selected nine taluks, it was found whenever grandparents or the surviving parents were looking after the child, the proportion of children going to school or an anganwadi was more than half. On the other hand, when other individuals from the neighbourhood or other relatives looked after the children, the proportion of those who went to a school or an anganwadi was less than half. This could be due to lack of any direct interest that such guardians may have in investing in the child's education and his/her future. As the qualitative data collected from the children and from grown up adults who were orphaned in their childhood indicates, children looked after by relatives and neighbours were frequently put to work since the guardian's families also many a times lacked the resources to feed an extra mouth. Although only a small percentage of children were irregular, the data showed that

children were most irregular in schooling when they were looked after by their grandparents or by their mothers.

Guardianship according to different caste groups:

Among the children from various taluks, guardianship differed according to caste groups. The table shows that across all caste groups, the number of children who were being looked after by their mothers was highest and those looked after by other relatives and friends were the lowest. Among Madigas, in all taluks except Siruguppa and Mundargi, the number of children being looked after by grandparents was more than number of children being looked after by the fathers. Among all the other communities, the number of children being looked after by the fathers was more than those being looked after by the grandparents.

Table 17: Guardianship according to different caste groups:

Guardianship according to Caste Groups							
Taluk	Guardians	Madiga	Other SC	OBC (Muslims, Christians, Jains included)	ST	Other Caste	Total
Raibag	Grand parents	46	108	74	0	33	261
	Mother	241	577	350	15	243	1426
	Father	25	54	34	2	35	150
	Others	20	29	13	2	9	73
	Total	332	768	471	19	320	1910
Lingasugur	Grand parents	148	156	241	143	125	813
	Mother	937	913	1541	804	754	4949
	Father	110	219	370	273	155	1127
	Others	60	88	124	83	82	437
	Total	1255	1376	2276	1303	1116	7326
Mundargi	Grand parents	30	70	96	12	30	238
	Mother	246	403	517	101	222	1489
	Father	37	51	216	23	70	397
	Others	10	18	36	5	34	103
	Total	323	542	865	141	356	2227
Badami	Grand parents	98	131	334	110	260	933
	Mother	560	980	2210	578	1370	5698
	Father	69	149	531	128	282	1159
	Others	64	112	262	62	112	612
	Total	791	1372	3337	878	2024	8402
Mudhol	Grand parents	696	155	206	28	232	1317
	Mother	2455	579	939	193	666	4832
	Father	176	80	192	29	170	647
	Others	115	21	25	6	54	221
	Total	3442	835	1362	256	1122	7017
Muddebihal	Grand parents	107	258	221	50	180	816
	Mother	640	959	1644	197	975	4415
	Father	65	182	370	51	256	924
	Others	53	73	89	13	66	294
	Total	865	1472	2324	311	1477	6449

Kudligi	Grand parents	0	65	128	126	70	389
	Mother	2	584	1609	1301	626	4122
	Father	0	198	488	642	316	1644
	Others	0	36	58	98	58	250
	Total	2	883	2283	2167	1070	6405
Siraguppa	Grand parents	9	129	87	89	34	348
	Mother	495	922	1063	801	270	3551
	Father	59	135	307	259	95	855
	Others	33	54	105	52	19	263
	Total	596	1240	1562	1201	418	5017
Kushtagi	Grand parents	93	70	211	93	151	618
	Mother	776	360	1251	614	790	3791
	Father	87	81	502	210	216	1096
	Others	43	50	173	42	100	408
	Total	999	561	2137	959	1257	5913
Total	Grand parents	1227	1142	1598	651	1115	5733
	Mother	6352	6277	11124	4604	5916	34273
	Father	628	1149	3010	1617	1595	7999
	Others	398	481	885	363	534	2661
	Total	8605	9049	16617	7235	9160	50666

Education Status:

This section presents the education status of children according to their age groups, caste, sex and on the basis of their orphanhood status.

Education status of different age groups of children:

If we look at the age-wise distribution of orphan and semi-orphan children who were identified and studied with respect to their education status, we find that none of the children below 3 years of age were enrolled in anganwadis. More than half of the children from 3-6 years and 6-14 years were in schools but more than half of those between 15-18 years were out of school.

Table 18: Education status of different age groups of children

Taluk	Education Status	Less than 3 years	3-6 years	6-14 years	15-18 years	Total
Raibag	School/Anganwadi	0	71	925	145	1,141
	Out of School	71	33	482	117	703
	Irregular	0	0	60	6	66
	Total	71	104	1,467	268	1,910
Lingasugur	School/Anganwadi	0	181	1,986	364	2,531

	Out of School	333	353	3,044	962	4,692
	Irregular	0	0	98	5	103
	Total	333	534	5,128	1,331	7,326
Mundargi	School/Anganwadi	0	153	876	155	1,184
	Out of School	104	10	436	389	939
	Irregular	0	0	91	13	104
	Total	104	163	1,403	557	2,227
Badami	School/Anganwadi	0	372	3,405	588	4,365
	Out of School	382	200	2,200	1,146	3,928
	Irregular	0	0	77	32	109
	Total	382	572	5,682	1,766	8,402
Mudhol	School/Anganwadi	0	338	3,211	822	4,371
	Out of School	572	295	965	613	2,445
	Irregular	0	0	186	15	201
	Total	572	633	4,362	1,450	7,017
Muddebihal	School/Anganwadi	0	345	3,480	744	4,569
	Out of School	261	26	801	789	1,877
	Irregular	0	0	2	1	3
	Total	261	371	4,283	1,534	6,449
Kudligi	School/Anganwadi	0	197	3,005	740	3,942
	Out of School	281	175	889	1,045	2,390
	Irregular	0	0	47	26	73
	Total	281	372	3,941	1,811	6,405
Siraguppa	School/Anganwadi	0	198	1,752	295	2,245
	Out of School	274	138	1,384	976	2,772
	Irregular	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	274	336	3,136	1,271	5,017
Kushtagi	School/Anganwadi	0	288	3,025	178	3,491
	Out of School	251	110	1,543	515	2,419
	Irregular	0	0	3	0	3
	Total	251	398	4,571	693	5,913
Total	School/Anganwadi	0	2,143	21,665	4,031	27,839
	Out of School	2,529	1,340	11,744	6,552	22,165
	Irregular	0	0	564	98	662
	Total	2,529	3,483	33,973	10,681	50,666

If we look at data within each taluk, we find that in the age group of 3-6 years, except in Lingasugur, all the other taluks have more children going to school/anganwadi than those who are out of school or who are irregular. In Lingasugur, among the 3-6 year old children, the number of children who are out of school/anganwadi is almost double that of children who are in school/anganwadi. The age group of 3-6 years is a critical period for school enrolment and the fact that 1340 children in this age group are still out of school and have not been reached by the government's enrolment drive is a serious matter and requires immediate programmatic response. Among the children between 6 to 14 years, the data from the taluks show a similar trend. Except Lingasugur, all the taluks have more number of children in schools than those out of school. In Lingasugur, there are only 1986 children who are in school and as many as 3044 children are out of school. Among the older group of children (15-18 years), only Mudhol and Raibag had more children attending schools than those who were out-of-school or irregular. In all the remaining taluks that were studied, the number of children (15-18 years) who were out of school or irregular was more than those who were attending school. In these seven taluks, the total number of children who fell into this category was 5899, with Badami (1178 children) and Kudligi (1071 children) accounting to about one third of this population.

Educational status according to the caste composition:

If we look at the caste composition of the total children who are enrolled in schools, we find that one third of them come from Other Backward Castes. Even among out of school children, one of every third child belongs to Other Backward Castes. Among those who are irregular at school, a majority of children come from Madiga community (39%) and Other Scheduled Castes (27.2%).

Table 19: Educational status according to the caste composition

Education Status Caste Group Table							
Taluk	Education Status	Madiga	Other SC	OBC	ST	Other caste	Total
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Raibag	School/Anganwadi	10.2%	41.0%	28.0%	1.1%	19.8%	100.0%
	Out of School	27.2%	38.4%	20.6%	1.0%	12.8%	100.0%
	Irregular	37.9%	45.5%	10.6%	0.0%	6.1%	100.0%
	Total	17.4%	40.2%	24.7%	1.0%	16.8%	100.0%
Lingasugur	School/Anganwadi	14.7%	15.4%	35.0%	10.5%	24.4%	100.0%
	Out of School	17.7%	20.3%	29.5%	22.0%	10.5%	100.0%
	Irregular	51.5%	33.0%	6.8%	2.9%	5.8%	100.0%
	Total	17.1%	18.8%	31.1%	17.8%	15.2%	100.0%
Mundargi	School/Anganwadi	12.1%	19.4%	42.3%	6.9%	19.3%	100.0%
	Out of School	16.4%	28.2%	36.5%	6.1%	12.8%	100.0%
	Irregular	25.0%	45.2%	20.2%	1.9%	7.7%	100.0%
	Total	14.5%	24.3%	38.8%	6.3%	16.0%	100.0%
Badami	School/Anganwadi	8.8%	15.6%	38.1%	9.8%	27.8%	100.0%
	Out of School	10.2%	17.0%	41.8%	11.2%	19.9%	100.0%
	Irregular	6.4%	22.9%	30.3%	11.0%	29.4%	100.0%
	Total	9.4%	16.3%	39.7%	10.4%	24.1%	100.0%

Mudhol	School/Anganwadi	46.9%	11.5%	20.1%	4.0%	17.6%	100.0%
	Out of School	51.0%	12.2%	19.6%	3.2%	14.0%	100.0%
	Irregular	72.1%	17.4%	3.5%	1.5%	5.5%	100.0%
	Total	49.1%	11.9%	19.4%	3.6%	16.0%	100.0%
Muddebihal	School/Anganwadi	12.7%	22.8%	34.2%	4.5%	25.7%	100.0%
	Out of School	15.0%	22.9%	40.5%	5.5%	16.0%	100.0%
	Irregular	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Total	13.4%	22.8%	36.0%	4.8%	22.9%	100.0%
Kudligi	School/Anganwadi	0.0%	13.4%	35.1%	32.4%	19.1%	100.0%
	Out of School	0.0%	14.6%	36.9%	35.3%	13.1%	100.0%
	Irregular	0.0%	8.2%	24.7%	60.3%	6.8%	100.0%
	Total	0.0%	13.8%	35.6%	33.8%	16.7%	100.0%
Siraguppa	School/Anganwadi	11.4%	24.9%	33.4%	19.1%	11.2%	100.0%
	Out of School	12.3%	24.5%	29.3%	27.8%	6.0%	100.0%
	Irregular	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Total	11.9%	24.7%	31.1%	23.9%	8.3%	100.0%
Kushtagi	School/Anganwadi	15.4%	9.3%	36.5%	16.1%	22.8%	100.0%
	Out of School	19.1%	9.7%	35.7%	16.5%	19.1%	100.0%
	Irregular	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Total	16.9%	9.5%	36.1%	16.2%	21.3%	100.0%
Total	School/Anganwadi	15.9%	17.0%	33.1%	12.3%	21.6%	100.0%
	Out of School	17.6%	18.7%	33.0%	16.8%	13.8%	100.0%
	Irregular	39.0%	27.2%	14.2%	9.7%	10.0%	100.0%
	Total	17.0%	17.9%	32.8%	14.3%	18.1%	100.0%

If we look at the taluk level data, we find that there are some variations and certain communities have accessed schools better than the others but it must be noted that these variations are also likely to be due to the varied proportion of children of these communities in the overall sample. However, some of the important insights that this data provides are as follows: in Lingasugur, about half of the school going children belong to Other Backward Castes or Other castes. In Mudhol, 72% of irregular children belonged to Madiga community while in Muddebihal about 67% of irregular children belonged to Madiga community.

Educational Status of children by sex:

The distribution of children in terms of their education status reveals that generally boys are more likely to be in schools or anganwadis than girls. However, given the higher proportion of boys in the population, the numbers of boys who are out of school and irregular is more than the number of girls who are out of school and irregular. Among the taluks, the most number of out of school girls are found in Lingasugur (2031 girls) followed by Badami (1697 girls). The most number of out of school boys were found in Lingasugur (2661 boys) followed by Badami (2231 boys).

Table 20: Educational Status of children by sex

Taluk	Education Status	Male	Female	Total
Raibag	School/Anganwadi	638	503	1,141
	Out of School	400	303	703
	Irregular	36	30	66
	Total	1,074	836	1,910
Lingasugur	School/Anganwadi	1,469	1,062	2,531
	Out of School	2,661	2,031	4,692
	Irregular	58	45	103
	Total	4,188	3,138	7,326
Mundargi	School/Anganwadi	620	564	1,184
	Out of School	586	353	939
	Irregular	59	45	104
	Total	1,265	962	2,227
Badami	School/Anganwadi	2,493	1,872	4,365
	Out of School	2,231	1,697	3,928
	Irregular	62	47	109
	Total	4,786	3,616	8,402
Mudhol	School/Anganwadi	2,394	1,977	4,371
	Out of School	1,375	1,070	2,445
	Irregular	82	119	201
	Total	3,851	3,166	7,017
Muddebihal	School/Anganwadi	2,521	2,048	4,569
	Out of School	1,005	872	1,877
	Irregular	2	1	3
	Total	3,528	2,921	6,449
Kudligi	School/Anganwadi	2,087	1,855	3,942
	Out of School	1,246	1,144	2,390
	Irregular	49	24	73
	Total	3,382	3,023	6,405
Siraguppa	School/Anganwadi	1,363	882	2,245
	Out of School	1,512	1,260	2,772
	Irregular	0	0	0
	Total	2,875	2,142	5,017
Kushtagi	School/Anganwadi	1,892	1,599	3,491
	Out of School	1,281	1,138	2,419
	Irregular	0	3	3
	Total	3,173	2,740	5,913
Total	School/Anganwadi	15,477	12,362	27,839
	Out of School	12,297	9,868	22,165
	Irregular	348	314	662
	Total	28,122	22,544	50,666

Educational Status of Orphan and Semi-orphan children

Children without parental care face discrimination and exclusion. These children are likely to be doubly disadvantaged and at-risk when they are fully orphaned and have no support systems that can help them to meet their basic needs and can protect their interests. The table below indicates their educational status and provides data on the basis of their orphan/semi-orphan status.

Table 21: Educational Status of Orphan and Semi-orphan children

Taluk	Education Status	Orphan	Semi-orphan	Total
Raibag	School/Anganwadi	193	948	1,141
	Out of School	133	570	703
	Irregular	8	58	66
	Total	334	1,576	1,910
Lingasugur	School/Anganwadi	368	2,163	2,531
	Out of School	863	3,829	4,692
	Irregular	19	84	103
	Total	1,250	6,076	7,326
Mundargi	School/Anganwadi	178	1,006	1,184
	Out of School	148	791	939
	Irregular	15	89	104
	Total	341	1,886	2,227
Badami	School/Anganwadi	799	3,566	4,365
	Out of School	727	3,201	3,928
	Irregular	19	90	109
	Total	1,545	6,857	8,402
Mudhol	School/Anganwadi	929	3,442	4,371
	Out of School	552	1,893	2,445
	Irregular	57	144	201
	Total	1,538	5,479	7,017
Muddebihal	School/Anganwadi	818	3,751	4,569
	Out of School	290	1,587	1,877
	Irregular	2	1	3
	Total	1,110	5,339	6,449
Kudligi	School/Anganwadi	360	3,582	3,942
	Out of School	275	2,115	2,390
	Irregular	0	73	73
	Total	635	5,770	6,405
Siraguppa	School/Anganwadi	225	2,020	2,245
	Out of School	386	2,386	2,772
	Irregular	0	0	0
	Total	611	4,406	5,017
Kushtagi	School/Anganwadi	603	2,888	3,491
	Out of School	423	1,996	2,419
	Irregular	0	3	3
	Total	1,026	4,887	5,913

Total	School/Anganwadi	4,473	23,366	27,839
	Out of School	3,797	18,368	22,165
	Irregular	120	542	662
	Total	8,390	42,276	50,666

It is found that a majority of the children are semi-orphans. Following this, the number of semi-orphans is lot more than the number of orphans across all categories of school going, out-of-school and irregular children. But even among orphan children, it is important to note that 4473 children are attending schools and anganwadis, 120 are irregular and 3797 children are out of school. In some taluks such as Lingasugur and Siruguppa, the number of orphans and also semi-orphans who are out of school is more than those who are in school. These taluks may require special attention and programmes to ensure that children are able to avail education despite their orphanhood. In certain taluks, the data shows that there are no or very few orphans or semi-orphans who are irregular at school; for instance, in Kudligi, not a single orphan child who is irregular at school. On the other hand, in some taluks such as Mudhol, Badami, Mundargi and Lingasugur, there are a substantial number of children who are irregular at school.

Living Conditions and Status:

This section presents the living conditions and status of the children in terms of their basic amenities being met or not met. Basic amenities were defined as the extent to which they received two square meals a day, if they lived in a *pucca* house and if their parent/guardian owned land or had a stable means of earning a livelihood. The living status of children across all taluks is described in terms of their orphanhood status, sex, caste and guardianship status.

Living conditions of orphan and semi-orphan children

The living conditions of the children were studied in order to understand the extent to which they received two square meals a day, if they lived in a *pucca* house and if their parent/guardian owned land or had a stable means of earning a livelihood. It was found that overall, the basic amenities were being provided to a majority of children (63%) and about 37 percent of the children's living conditions were such that these basic amenities were not provided to them.

Table 22: Living conditions of orphan and semi-orphan children

Living Conditions Parenthood Status Table							
Taluk	Living Conditions	Orphan Children		Semi-Orphan Children		Total	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Raibag	Basic amenities are provided	123	36.8%	579	36.7%	702	36.8%

	Basic amenities are not provided	211	63.2%	997	63.3%	1208	63.2%
	Total	334	100.0%	1576	100.0%	1910	100.0%
Lingasugur	Basic amenities are provided	148	11.8%	660	10.9%	808	11.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	1102	88.2%	5416	89.1%	6518	89.0%
	Total	1250	100.0%	6076	100.0%	7326	100.0%
Mundargi	Basic amenities are provided	129	37.8%	769	40.8%	898	40.3%
	Basic amenities are not provided	212	62.2%	1117	59.2%	1329	59.7%
	Total	341	100.0%	1886	100.0%	2227	100.0%
Badami	Basic amenities are provided	898	58.1%	3595	52.4%	4493	53.5%
	Basic amenities are not provided	647	41.9%	3262	47.6%	3909	46.5%
	Total	1545	100.0%	6857	100.0%	8402	100.0%
Mudhol	Basic amenities are provided	976	63.5%	3911	71.4%	4887	69.6%
	Basic amenities are not provided	562	36.5%	1568	28.6%	2130	30.4%
	Total	1538	100.0%	5479	100.0%	7017	100.0%
Muddebihal	Basic amenities are provided	822	74.1%	4003	75.0%	4825	74.8%
	Basic amenities are not provided	288	25.9%	1336	25.0%	1624	25.2%
	Total	1110	100.0%	5339	100.0%	6449	100.0%

Kudligi	Basic amenities are provided	528	83.1%	4801	83.2%	5329	83.2%
	Basic amenities are not provided	107	16.9%	969	16.8%	1076	16.8%
	Total	635	100.0%	5770	100.0%	6405	100.0%
Siraguppa	Basic amenities are provided	533	87.2%	4063	92.2%	4596	91.6%
	Basic amenities are not provided	78	12.8%	343	7.8%	421	8.4%
	Total	611	100.0%	4406	100.0%	5017	100.0%
Kushtagi	Basic amenities are provided	838	81.7%	4641	95.0%	5479	92.7%
	Basic amenities are not provided	188	18.3%	246	5.0%	434	7.3%
	Total	1026	100.0%	4887	100.0%	5913	100.0%
Total	Basic amenities are provided	4995	59.5%	27022	63.9%	32017	63.2%
	Basic amenities are not provided	3395	40.5%	15254	36.1%	18649	36.8%
	Total	8390	100.0%	42276	100.0%	50666	100.0%

Among the orphan children, 59.5% of the children were provided with basic amenities as against 63.9% of the semi-orphan children who enjoyed basic amenities. In taluks such as Kushtagi, Siraguppa, Mudhol and Mundargi a higher percentage of semi-orphans enjoyed basic amenities compared to those enjoyed by the orphans. In Raibag, Kudligi and Muddebihal, the living conditions among orphans and semi-orphans were similar. In Badami and in Lingasugur, the percentage of orphans enjoying basic amenities was higher than the percentage of semi-orphans enjoying these amenities. Among all the taluks, Lingasugur stands out as only 11-12% of both orphans and semi-orphans were provided with basic amenities and almost 88-89% did not enjoy any basic amenities.

Living conditions of children according to their sex:

Data on living conditions across sex and taluks indicates that overall there is no difference between provision of basic amenities to both the boys and girls. However there are few taluk level differences. In Raibag, Mundargi and Siruguppa, the proportion of girls enjoying basic amenities is more than the proportion of boys enjoying basic amenities.

Table 23: Living conditions of children according to their sex

Living Conditions Gender Table							
Taluk	Living Conditions	Male		Female		Total	
		Count		Count		Count	
Raibag	Basic amenities are provided	388	36.1%	314	37.6%	702	36.8%
	Basic amenities are not provided	686	63.9%	522	62.4%	1208	63.2%
	Total	1074	100.0%	836	100.0%	1910	100.0%
Lingasugur	Basic amenities are provided	490	11.7%	318	10.1%	808	11.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	3698	88.3%	2820	89.9%	6518	89.0%
	Total	4188	100.0%	3138	100.0%	7326	100.0%
Mundargi	Basic amenities are provided	489	38.7%	409	42.5%	898	40.3%
	Basic amenities are not provided	776	61.3%	553	57.5%	1329	59.7%
	Total	1265	100.0%	962	100.0%	2227	100.0%
Badami	Basic amenities are provided	2568	53.7%	1925	53.2%	4493	53.5%
	Basic amenities are not provided	2218	46.3%	1691	46.8%	3909	46.5%
	Total	4786	100.0%	3616	100.0%	8402	100.0%

Mudhol	Basic amenities are provided	2697	70.0%	2190	69.2%	4887	69.6%
	Basic amenities are not provided	1154	30.0%	976	30.8%	2130	30.4%
	Total	3851	100.0%	3166	100.0%	7017	100.0%
Muddebihal	Basic amenities are provided	2636	74.7%	2189	74.9%	4825	74.8%
	Basic amenities are not provided	892	25.3%	732	25.1%	1624	25.2%
	Total	3528	100.0%	2921	100.0%	6449	100.0%
Kudligi	Basic amenities are provided	2849	84.2%	2480	82.0%	5329	83.2%
	Basic amenities are not provided	533	15.8%	543	18.0%	1076	16.8%
	Total	3382	100.0%	3023	100.0%	6405	100.0%
Siraguppa	Basic amenities are provided	2626	91.3%	1970	92.0%	4596	91.6%
	Basic amenities are not provided	249	8.7%	172	8.0%	421	8.4%
	Total	2875	100.0%	2142	100.0%	5017	100.0%
Kushtagi	Basic amenities are provided	2948	92.9%	2531	92.4%	5479	92.7%
	Basic amenities are not provided	225	7.1%	209	7.6%	434	7.3%
	Total	3173	100.0%	2740	100.0%	5913	100.0%
Total	Basic amenities are provided	17691	62.9%	14326	63.5%	32017	63.2%

	Basic amenities are not provided	10431	37.1%	8218	36.5%	18649	36.8%
	Total	28122	100.0%	22544	100.0%	50666	100.0%

Living conditions of children according to their guardians:

The study looked at the living conditions of boys and girls who were being looked after by different guardians. In all, the basic amenities were provided for most children (67.7% of the total number of children looked after by their fathers) when the father was looking after the child followed by those who were looked after by the mothers (63% of the total number of children looked after by their mothers). Among those who were looked after by the grandparents and other relatives, about 59% of the children enjoyed basic amenities while about 40% could not enjoy basic amenities. Thus, children looked after by their single parents were more likely to have basic amenities than children looked after by grandparents and others.

Table 24: Living conditions of children according to their guardians

Guardian of the child	Living Conditions of Boys			Living Conditions of Girls			Total		
	Basic amenities are provided	Basic amenities are not provided	Total	Basic amenities are provided	Basic amenities are not provided	Total	Basic amenities are provided	Basic amenities are not provided	Total
Grand parents	59.4%	40.6%	100.0%	59.9%	40.1%	100.0%	59.6%	40.4%	100.0%
Mother	62.7%	37.3%	100.0%	63.4%	36.6%	100.0%	63.0%	37.0%	100.0%
Father	67.8%	32.2%	100.0%	67.5%	32.5%	100.0%	67.7%	32.3%	100.0%
Others	58.5%	41.5%	100.0%	60.7%	39.3%	100.0%	59.4%	40.6%	100.0%
Total	62.9%	37.1%	100.0%	63.5%	36.5%	100.0%	63.2%	36.8%	100.0%

If we look at the sex wise breakup we find a similar picture with a majority of girls and boys being provided with basic facilities when they were looked after by their fathers followed by mothers. Among the boys looked after by other relatives and friends, it was found that the proportion of those without basic amenities was more than girls who were without basic amenities while under the care of other relatives and friends.

Living Status of different caste groups:

The data shows that among those who are provided basic amenities, the proportion of OBC is the highest, followed by Other Castes. Among those who are not provided with basic amenities, the proportion of the OBC is the highest, followed by Madiga children.

Table 25: Living Status of different caste groups

Living Conditions Caste Group Table							
Taluk	Living Conditions	Madiga	Other SC	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	ST	Other caste	Total

		%	%	%	%	%	%
Raibag	Basic amenities are provided	12.0%	41.0%	23.2%	1.1%	22.6%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	20.5%	39.7%	25.5%	0.9%	13.3%	100.0%
	Total	17.4%	40.2%	24.7%	1.0%	16.8%	100.0%
Lingasugur	Basic amenities are provided	11.3%	29.8%	25.9%	11.4%	21.7%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	17.9%	17.4%	31.7%	18.6%	14.4%	100.0%
	Total	17.1%	18.8%	31.1%	17.8%	15.2%	100.0%
Mundargi	Basic amenities are provided	8.5%	23.3%	42.7%	7.2%	18.4%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	18.6%	25.1%	36.3%	5.7%	14.4%	100.0%
	Total	14.5%	24.3%	38.8%	6.3%	16.0%	100.0%
Badami	Basic amenities are provided	9.8%	14.8%	43.5%	8.7%	23.3%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	9.0%	18.1%	35.4%	12.5%	25.0%	100.0%
	Total	9.4%	16.3%	39.7%	10.4%	24.1%	100.0%
Mudhol	Basic amenities are provided	43.4%	13.4%	23.4%	3.2%	16.6%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	62.0%	8.5%	10.2%	4.7%	14.6%	100.0%
	Total	49.1%	11.9%	19.4%	3.6%	16.0%	100.0%
Muddebihal	Basic amenities are provided	13.8%	23.5%	34.1%	5.1%	23.5%	100.0%

	Basic amenities are not provided	12.3%	20.9%	41.7%	3.9%	21.2%	100.0%
	Total	13.4%	22.8%	36.0%	4.8%	22.9%	100.0%
Kudligi	Basic amenities are provided	0.0%	14.0%	34.7%	33.0%	18.3%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	0.0%	12.9%	40.4%	37.7%	8.9%	100.0%
	Total	0.0%	13.8%	35.6%	33.8%	16.7%	100.0%
Siraguppa	Basic amenities are provided	10.9%	24.9%	31.1%	24.7%	8.3%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	22.3%	23.0%	31.1%	15.2%	8.3%	100.0%
	Total	11.9%	24.7%	31.1%	23.9%	8.3%	100.0%
Kushtagi	Basic amenities are provided	14.9%	9.6%	37.6%	16.2%	21.7%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	42.2%	8.1%	18.2%	16.4%	15.2%	100.0%
	Total	16.9%	9.5%	36.1%	16.2%	21.3%	100.0%
Total	Basic amenities are provided	15.0%	17.5%	33.8%	14.8%	18.9%	100.0%
	Basic amenities are not provided	20.4%	18.5%	31.0%	13.3%	16.7%	100.0%
	Total	17.0%	17.9%	32.8%	14.3%	18.1%	100.0%

In taluks such as Kushtagi, as many as 42% of those who were not provided basic amenities belonged to Madiga community although the share of Madiga community in the total population surveyed was about 17%.

Working Status of Children

This section presents the working status of children who are orphans and semi-orphans in selected nine taluks of North Karnataka. The data is presented according to the sex of the child, orphanhood status, caste affiliation and guardianship of the child.

Working status of Children by Sex:

Out of the 50666 children who were interviewed, 11924 children were found engaged in manual labour, 106 children were bonded labourers, 5494 children were engaged in their household work or worked on their farms and 33142 children were found to be non-working. Thus, 65% of the total orphan and semi-orphan children were not working. If we look at the sex-wise distribution of working and non-working children, we find a similar picture. Of the total 28,122 boys, 65% of the boys (18295 boys) were non-working, and of the total 22,544 girls, 65.85% of the girls (14847 girls) were non-working. There were 6818 boys and 5106 girls who were engaged in manual labour and this constituted 24% and 22% of the boys and girls respectively. Among those doing household work or who were engaged on their own field, 2920 were boys and 2574 were girls constituting 10% and 11% of the total population of boys and girls respectively. The data shows that 89 boys and 17 girls were engaged as bonded labourers.

Table 26: Working status of Children by Sex

	Working Conditions	Boys	Girls	Total
Total orphan and semi-orphan children	Manual Labourer	6,818	5,106	11,924
	Bonded Labourers	89	17	106
	Household work/Own field	2,920	2,574	5,494
	Non-working Children	18,295	14,847	33,142
	Total	28,122	22,544	50,666

Working status of orphan and semi-orphan children:

If we look at the working status of orphan and semi-orphan children separately, we find the following picture. Of all the children engaged in manual labour, 9750 are semi-orphans and 2174 are orphans. There are 74 semi-orphans and 32 orphans engaged as bonded labourers. Among those children engaged in household work and work on their own fields, there are 4506 semi-orphans and 988 orphans. There are 27946 semi-orphans and 5196 orphans who are not working in the selected nine taluks. If we look at the data

across taluks we find that highest number of non-working children come from Mudhol (5574 children) followed by Badami (5229 children) constituting 79% and 65% of the total child population interviewed in that taluk. Most bonded labourers were seen in Lingasugur (33 children) and Mudhol (24 children). Among the taluks, Siruguppa had the highest number of manual labourers (1942 children) followed by Kushtagi (1793 children). Among children engaged in household work or working on their own field, the highest number of children were found in Lingasugur (2253 children) and the lowest were found in Mundargi (15 children). The proportion of semi-orphans is higher than that of orphans across all working status categories and in all taluks, probably reflecting the higher proportion of semi-orphans in the child population that was studied in the nine taluks.

Table 27: Working status of orphan and semi-orphan children

Taluks	Working Status	Orphan	Semi-orphan	Total
Raibag	Manual Labourer	21	70	91
	Bonded Labourers	0	2	2
	Household work/Own field	88	390	478
	Non-working Children	225	1,114	1,339
	Total	334	1,576	1,910
Lingasugur	Manual Labourer	282	1,212	1,494
	Bonded Labourers	8	25	33
	Household work/Own field	422	1,831	2,253
	Non-working Children	538	3,008	3,546
	Total	1,250	6,076	7,326
Mundargi	Manual Labourer	123	658	781
	Bonded Labourers	0	0	0
	Household work/Own field	4	11	15
	Non-working Children	214	1,217	1,431
	Total	341	1,886	2,227
Badami	Manual Labourer	315	1,305	1,620
	Bonded Labourers	8	9	17
	Household work/Own field	303	1,233	1,536
	Non-working Children	919	4,310	5,229
	Total	1,545	6,857	8,402
Mudhol	Manual Labourer	370	892	1,262
	Bonded Labourers	7	17	24
	Household work/Own field	44	113	157
	Non-working Children	1,117	4,457	5,574
	Total	1,538	5,479	7,017
Muddebihal	Manual Labourer	227	1,220	1,447

	Bonded Labourers	5	3	8
	Household work/Own field	21	110	131
	Non-working Children	857	4,006	4,863
	Total	1,110	5,339	6,449
Kudligi	Manual Labourer	198	1,296	1,494
	Bonded Labourers	1	1	2
	Household work/Own field	34	384	418
	Non-working Children	402	4,089	4,491
	Total	635	5,770	6,405
Siraguppa	Manual Labourer	303	1,639	1,942
	Bonded Labourers	0	8	8
	Household work/Own field	34	285	319
	Non-working Children	274	2,474	2,748
	Total	611	4,406	5,017
Kushtagi	Manual Labourer	335	1,458	1,793
	Bonded Labourers	3	9	12
	Household work/Own field	38	149	187
	Non-working Children	650	3,271	3,921
	Total	1,026	4,887	5,913
Total	Manual Labourer	2,174	9,750	11,924
	Bonded Labourers	32	74	106
	Household work/Own field	988	4,506	5,494
	Non-working Children	5,196	27,946	33,142
	Total	8,390	42,276	50,666

If we look at the caste composition of the working children, we find that the highest proportion of manual labourers come from OBC communities. Among the bonded labourers, a majority are Madiga children. Among both the categories of children doing household work/engaged in their own fields and non-working children, the OBC children formed the majority. If we look within each caste group, we find that a majority of children within each caste group are non-working. Their proportion varies from 73% of all orphans and semi-orphans from Other Caste Groups who are non-working to 57% of all orphans and semi-orphans from Scheduled Tribes who are non-working.

Working status according to Caste Group:

The data shows that among all caste groups, the number of non-working children was the highest. Among the total child population interviewed across taluks and who are engaged in manual labour, 1957 are Madigas, 2103 are Other SCs, 4192 are OBCs, 2031 are STs and 1641 are from Other Castes.

Table 28: Working status according to Caste Group

Working Children Caste Group Table							
Taluk	Working Children	Madiga	Other SC	OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)	ST	Other caste	Total
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Raibag	Manual Labourer	23	45	10	2	11	91
	Bonded Labourers	1	0	0	0	1	2
	Household work/Own field	130	173	104	5	66	478
	Non-working Children	178	550	357	12	242	1,339
	Total	332	768	471	19	320	1,910
Lingasugur	Manual Labourer	220	244	572	252	206	1,494
	Bonded Labourers	11	7	4	6	5	33
	Household work/Own field	425	514	558	559	197	2,253
	Non-working Children	599	611	1,142	486	708	3,546
	Total	1,255	1,376	2,276	1,303	1,116	7,326
Mundargi	Manual Labourer	123	228	288	51	91	781
	Bonded Labourers	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Household work/Own field	3	6	3	1	2	15
	Non-working Children	197	308	574	89	263	1,431
	Total	323	542	865	141	356	2,227
Badami	Manual Labourer	207	265	653	219	276	1,620
	Bonded Labourers	1	0	12	4	0	17
	Household work/Own field	110	280	658	159	329	1,536
	Non-working Children	473	827	2,014	496	1,419	5,229
	Total	791	1,372	3,337	878	2,024	8,402
Mudhol	Manual Labourer	594	152	272	56	188	1,262
	Bonded Labourers	15	2	3	3	1	24
	Household work/Own field	88	10	29	3	27	157
	Non-working Children	2,745	671	1,058	194	906	5,574
	Total	3,442	835	1,362	256	1,122	7,017
Muddebihal	Manual Labourer	198	341	602	84	222	1,447

	Bonded Labourers	3	2	1	2	0	8
	Household work/Own field	30	22	51	8	20	131
	Non-working Children	634	1,107	1,670	217	1,235	4,863
	Total	865	1,472	2,324	311	1,477	6,449
Kudligi	Manual Labourer	0	198	572	538	186	1,494
	Bonded Labourers	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Household work/Own field	0	91	126	143	58	418
	Non-working Children	2	594	1,583	1,486	826	4,491
	Total	2	883	2,283	2,167	1,070	6,405
Siraguppa	Manual Labourer	250	463	587	526	116	1,942
	Bonded Labourers	1	2	2	3	0	8
	Household work/Own field	24	77	87	108	23	319
	Non-working Children	321	698	886	564	279	2,748
	Total	596	1,240	1,562	1,201	418	5,017
Kushtagi	Manual Labourer	342	167	636	303	345	1,793
	Bonded Labourers	2	1	4	4	1	12
	Household work/Own field	30	18	87	30	22	187
	Non-working Children	625	375	1,410	622	889	3,921
	Total	999	561	2,137	959	1,257	5,913
Total	Manual Labourer	1,957	2,103	4,192	2,031	1,641	11,924
	Bonded Labourers	34	14	28	22	8	106
	Household work/Own field	840	1,191	1,703	1,016	744	5,494
	Non-working Children	5,774	5,741	10,694	4,166	6,767	33,142
	Total	8,605	9,049	16,617	7,235	9,160	50,666

Among bonded labourers, there are 34 Madiga, 14 are Other SC, 28 are OBC, 22 are ST and 8 children are from Other Castes. A high number of non-working children across caste groups and across taluks needs to be noted with concern as although these children may be in schools today, they are likely to join labour force unless efforts are made to retain them at school.

Working Status according to Guardianship:

When we look at the data of working children with regards to their current guardianship, it is clear that for the overall child population interviewed, the percentage of children looked after by other relatives/friends and by the fathers who were non-working was lower than those who were being looked after by their mothers or grandparents and who were found to be non-working. This may indicate that a child who is looked after by others or by his own father is more likely to be working than when looked after by the mother or grandparents. However, there are taluk level deviations to this general observation, but a common trend is that children who are looked after by mothers are likely to be non-working across taluks and those looked after by others are most likely to be working across taluks.

Table 29: Working Status according to Guardianship

		Working Children									
		Manual Labourer		Bonded Labourers		Household work/ Own field		Non-working Children		Total	
		Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Raibag	Grand parents	17	6.5%	0	0.0%	71	27.2%	173	66.3%	261	100%
	Mother	62	4.3%	1	0.1%	355	24.9%	1008	70.7%	1426	100%
	Father	8	5.3%	1	0.7%	35	23.3%	106	70.7%	150	100%
	Others	4	5.5%	0	0.0%	17	23.3%	52	71.2%	73	100%
	Total	91	4.8%	2	0.1%	478	25.0%	1339	70.1%	1910	100%
Lingasugur	Grand parents	153	18.8%	2	0.2%	262	32.2%	396	48.7%	813	100%
	Mother	966	19.5%	16	0.3%	1478	29.9%	2489	50.3%	4949	100%
	Father	246	21.8%	9	0.8%	353	31.3%	519	46.1%	1127	100%
	Others	129	29.5%	6	1.4%	160	36.6%	142	32.5%	437	100%
	Total	1494	20.4%	33	0.5%	2253	30.8%	3546	48.4%	7326	100%
Mundargi	Grand parents	74	31.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	162	68.1%	238	100%
	Mother	521	35.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.5%	961	64.5%	1489	100%
	Father	137	34.5%	0	0.0%	4	1.0%	256	64.5%	397	100%
	Others	49	47.6%	0	0.0%	2	1.9%	52	50.5%	103	100%
	Total	781	35.1%	0	0.0%	15	0.7%	1431	64.3%	2227	100%
Badami	Grand parents	156	16.7%	1	0.1%	185	19.8%	591	63.3%	933	100%
	Mother	1042	18.3%	6	0.1%	984	17.3%	3666	64.3%	5698	100%
	Father	263	22.7%	3	0.3%	249	21.5%	644	55.6%	1159	100%
	Others	159	26.0%	7	1.1%	118	19.3%	328	53.6%	612	100%
	Total	1620	19.3%	17	0.2%	1536	18.3%	5229	62.2%	8402	100%
Mudhol	Grand parents	298	22.6%	7	0.5%	38	2.9%	974	74.0%	1317	100%
	Mother	760	15.7%	16	0.3%	98	2.0%	3958	81.9%	4832	100%
	Father	132	20.4%	1	0.2%	15	2.3%	499	77.1%	647	100%
	Others	72	32.6%	0	0.0%	6	2.7%	143	64.7%	221	100%
	Total	1262	18.0%	24	0.3%	157	2.2%	5574	79.4%	7017	100%
Muddebihal	Grand parents	141	17.3%	4	0.5%	16	2.0%	655	80.3%	816	100%
	Mother	989	22.4%	3	0.1%	92	2.1%	3331	75.4%	4415	100%

	Father	231	25.0%	0	0.0%	18	1.9%	675	73.1%	924	100%
	Others	86	29.3%	1	0.3%	5	1.7%	202	68.7%	294	100%
	Total	1447	22.4%	8	0.1%	131	2.0%	4863	75.4%	6449	100%
Kudligi	Grand parents	91	23.4%	0	0.0%	20	5.1%	278	71.5%	389	100%
	Mother	890	21.6%	1	0.0%	259	6.3%	2972	72.1%	4122	100%
	Father	405	24.6%	0	0.0%	125	7.6%	1114	67.8%	1644	100%
	Others	108	43.2%	1	0.4%	14	5.6%	127	50.8%	250	100%
	Total	1494	23.3%	2	0.0%	418	6.5%	4491	70.1%	6405	100%
Siraguppa	Grand parents	143	41.1%	0	0.0%	26	7.5%	179	51.4%	348	100%
	Mother	1347	37.9%	5	0.1%	225	6.3%	1974	55.6%	3551	100%
	Father	292	34.2%	3	0.4%	60	7.0%	500	58.5%	855	100%
	Others	160	60.8%	0	0.0%	8	3.0%	95	36.1%	263	100%
	Total	1942	38.7%	8	0.2%	319	6.4%	2748	54.8%	5017	100%
Kushtagi	Grand parents	180	29.1%	1	0.2%	21	3.4%	416	67.3%	618	100%
	Mother	1093	28.8%	5	0.1%	116	3.1%	2577	68.0%	3791	100%
	Father	365	33.3%	4	0.4%	33	3.0%	694	63.3%	1096	100%
	Others	155	38.0%	2	0.5%	17	4.2%	234	57.4%	408	100%
	Total	1793	30.3%	12	0.2%	187	3.2%	3921	66.3%	5913	100%
Total	Grand parents	1253	21.9%	15	0.3%	641	11.2%	3824	66.7%	5733	100%
	Mother	7670	22.4%	53	0.2%	3614	10.5%	22936	66.9%	34273	100%
	Father	2079	26.0%	21	0.3%	892	11.2%	5007	62.6%	7999	100%
	Others	922	34.6%	17	0.6%	347	13.0%	1375	51.7%	2661	100%
	Total	11924	23.5%	106	0.2%	5494	10.8%	33142	65.4%	50666	100%

Children of Devadasi mothers:

Article 2 (2) of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members. This guarantee protects children of *devadasis* from discriminatory and derogatory treatment. However, in practice, the study found that children of *devadasis* faced deprivation and were highly vulnerable given the nature of their mothers’ work and absence of a father.

This section particularly describes the situation of semi-orphan and orphan children of devadasi mothers studied in the nine taluks. Although the preceding analysis includes data collected from this sub-group of children, it is being presented separately in order to highlight the problems and characteristics of this group of children.

Age Group:

Table 30: Age Group of children of devadasis

Children of Devadasi Age Group Table											
S I. N O	Taluk	Less than 3 Yrs		3 to 6 Yrs		6 to 14 Yrs		15 to 18 Yrs		Total	
		Coun t	%	Coun t	%	Coun t	%	Coun t	%	Coun t	%
1	Raibag	15	4.4%	18	5.3%	235	68.9 %	73	21.4 %	341	100.0 %
2	Lingasugur	50	6.6%	45	5.9%	532	70.2 %	131	17.3 %	758	100.0 %
3	Mundargi	25	14.2 %	12	6.8%	106	60.2 %	33	18.8 %	176	100.0 %
4	Badami	52	11.0 %	52	11.0 %	286	60.6 %	82	17.4 %	472	100.0 %
5	Mudhol	254	10.8 %	224	9.5%	1,421	60.6 %	447	19.1 %	2,346	100.0 %
6	Muddebihal	27	7.1%	28	7.3%	229	60.1 %	97	25.5 %	381	100.0 %
7	Kudligi	68	8.6%	74	9.3%	475	59.7 %	178	22.4 %	795	100.0 %
8	Siraguppa	63	7.1%	63	7.1%	514	58.2 %	243	27.5 %	883	100.0 %
9	Kushtagi	29	5.6%	33	6.4%	377	73.1 %	77	14.9 %	516	100.0 %
	Total	583	8.7%	549	8.2%	4,175	62.6 %	1,361	20.4 %	6,668	100.0 %

A total of 6668 children of mothers dedicated to the *devadasi* system were identified and interviewed in the study. Among these, a majority of the children were aged between 6 and 14 years (62.6%) followed by older children aged between 15 and 18 years (20.4%). The study also identified 583 children who were below three years and 549 children between 3 and 6 years in the selected taluks. If we look at their distribution across taluks, we find that the proportion of very young children (below 6 years) was significantly high in Badami, Mundargi and Mudhol (approximately 20-22 percentage of the overall children of *devadasi* population). On the other hand, the proportion of older children (between 15 and 18 years) was Siruguppa and Muddebihal. The overall number of children of *devadasi* mothers was seen to be highest in Mudhol (2346 children) and least in Mundargi (176 children). In fact, the three taluks of Mudhol, Siruguppa and Kudligi accounted for more than half of the total number of children belonging to *devadasi* mothers.

Caste Affiliation:

The following table depicts the caste background of the children of *devadasi* mothers. It is seen that a majority of the children belonged to Madiga caste (66.7%) followed by children from other scheduled castes (21.2%).

Table 31: Caste Affiliation of children of devadasis

Taluk	Madiga		Other SC		OBC (Muslim/Christian/Jain included)		ST		Other caste		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Raibag	166	48.7%	172	50.4%	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	341	100.0%
Lingasugur	590	77.8%	155	20.4%	7	0.9%	0	0.0%	6	0.8%	758	100.0%
Mundargi	112	63.6%	64	36.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	176	100.0%
Badami	333	70.6%	127	26.9%	6	1.3%	5	1.1%	1	0.2%	472	100.0%
Mudhol	2,154	91.8%	192	8.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2,346	100.0%
Muddebihal	271	71.1%	110	28.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	381	100.0%
Kudligi	0	0.0%	67	8.4%	460	57.9%	266	33.5%	2	0.3%	795	100.0%
Siraguppa	332	37.6%	505	57.2%	7	0.8%	39	4.4%	0	0.0%	883	100.0%
Kushtagi	492	95.3%	24	4.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	516	100.0%
Total	4,450	66.7%	1,416	21.2%	483	7.2%	310	4.6%	9	0.1%	6,668	100.0%

Overall, the proportion of children of *devadasi* mothers belonging to scheduled tribes and other castes was less than five percent. However, there were significant variations across selected taluks. For instance, 33.5% of the children of devadasi mothers in Kudligi belonged to scheduled tribes, while in other taluks such as Raibag, Lingasugur, Mundargi, Mudhol, Muddebihal and Kushtagi, none of them belonged to scheduled tribes. The proportion of children coming from Madiga community was the highest in Kushtagi (95.3%) followed by Mudhol (91.8%) while the proportion of children belonging to other scheduled caste communities was more than half in Siraguppa (57.2%) and Raibag (50.4%). In Kudligi, more than half (57.9%) of the children of devadasi mothers belonged to Other Backward castes, Christians, Jains or Muslim communities.

Gender distribution:

Out of the 6668 children of devadasi mothers who were interviewed, more than half (55.4%) were boys and the rest were girls. This was the general distribution pattern across taluks with some taluks such as Mundargi, Raibag and Siraguppa having more boys than girls.

Table 32: Gender distribution of children of devadasis

Children of Devadasi Gender Table							
Sl.No	Taluk	Male		Female		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%

1	Raibag	200	58.7%	141	41.3%	341	100.0%
2	Lingasugur	409	54.0%	349	46.0%	758	100.0%
3	Mundargi	104	59.1%	72	40.9%	176	100.0%
4	Badami	267	56.6%	205	43.4%	472	100.0%
5	Mudhol	1,306	55.7%	1,040	44.3%	2,346	100.0%
6	Muddebihal	197	51.7%	184	48.3%	381	100.0%
7	Kudligi	407	51.2%	388	48.8%	795	100.0%
8	Siraguppa	512	58.0%	371	42.0%	883	100.0%
9	Kushtagi	290	56.2%	226	43.8%	516	100.0%
Total		3,692	55.4%	2,976	44.6%	6,668	100.0%

Parenthood status:

The study also tried to understand if the children of devadasi mothers were being looked after by their mothers or if they had become orphans. Out of the 6668 children interviewed, a majority of 85.3% (5689 children) were being looked after by their mothers. About 15% (979 children) had lost their mothers and had become completely orphaned. The percentage of those completely orphaned was highest in Mudhol while the percentage of those who were being looked after by their mothers alone was highest in Mundargi, Kudligi and Kushtagi.

Table 33: Parenthood status of children of devadasi

Children of Devadasi Parenthood Status Table							
Sl. No	Taluk	Orphan Children		Semi-Orphan Children		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1	Raibag	68	19.9%	273	80.1%	341	100.0%
2	Lingasugur	97	12.8%	661	87.2%	758	100.0%
3	Mundargi	5	2.8%	171	97.2%	176	100.0%
4	Badami	61	12.9%	411	87.1%	472	100.0%
5	Mudhol	546	23.3%	1,800	76.7%	2,346	100.0%
6	Muddebihal	35	9.2%	346	90.8%	381	100.0%
7	Kudligi	43	5.4%	752	94.6%	795	100.0%
8	Siraguppa	94	10.6%	789	89.4%	883	100.0%
9	Kushtagi	30	5.8%	486	94.2%	516	100.0%
Total		979	14.7%	5,689	85.3%	6,668	100.0%

Living Conditions:

The living conditions of the children with devadasi mothers was also studied in the selected taluks. If we look at the situation prevalent in all the taluks together, we find that for about 63% of the children, basic amenities are provided while they are not provided for about 37% of the children. However, inter-taluk variations are apparent. In Kudligi, Siraguppa and Muddebihal, many more children enjoy basic amenities whereas in Lingasugur, Mundargi and Raibag, a majority of children are deprived of basic amenities.

Table 34: Living Conditions of children of devadasis

Children of Devadasi Living Condition Table							
Sl.No	Taluk	Basic amenities are provided		Basic amenities are not provided		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1	Raibag	118	34.6%	223	65.4%	341	100.0%
2	Lingasugur	110	14.5%	648	85.5%	758	100.0%
3	Mundargi	55	31.3%	121	68.8%	176	100.0%
4	Badami	260	55.1%	212	44.9%	472	100.0%
5	Mudhol	1,442	61.5%	904	38.5%	2,346	100.0%
6	Muddebihal	304	79.8%	77	20.2%	381	100.0%
7	Kudligi	716	90.1%	79	9.9%	795	100.0%
8	Siraguppa	793	89.8%	90	10.2%	883	100.0%
9	Kushtagi	394	76.4%	122	23.6%	516	100.0%
	Total	4,192	62.9%	2,476	37.1%	6,668	100.0%

Education status:

If we look at the educational status of these children, deprivation and exclusion is evident across taluks. Almost half of the children of devadasi mothers are out of school or are irregular. Out of the 6668 children interviewed, 3466 were attending either a school or an anganwadi while 3024 children were out of school and 178 children were irregular. Out of those who are not currently in a school or an anganwadi, it is important to note that a majority are those who remain out of school and only a small fraction are those who are enrolled in schools but are irregular. With efforts being made by the state government to ensure full enrolment and participation of children in schools, such a large number of children being out of school is an issue which requires not only a policy response but also a programmatic response at the ground level.

Table 35: Education status of children of devadasis

Children of Devadasi Education Status Table									
Sl.No	Taluk	School/Anganwadi		Out of School		Irregular		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1	Raibag	161	47.2%	159	46.6%	21	6.2%	341	100.0%
2	Lingasugur	220	29.0%	510	67.3%	28	3.7%	758	100.0%
3	Mundargi	77	43.8%	87	49.4%	12	6.8%	176	100.0%
4	Badami	213	45.1%	253	53.6%	6	1.3%	472	100.0%
5	Mudhol	1,380	58.8%	857	36.5%	109	4.6%	2,346	100.0%
6	Muddebihal	244	64.0%	137	36.0%	0	0.0%	381	100.0%

7	Kudligi	515	64.8%	278	35.0%	2	0.3%	795	100.0%
8	Siraguppa	391	44.3%	492	55.7%	0	0.0%	883	100.0%
9	Kushtagi	265	51.4%	251	48.6%	0	0.0%	516	100.0%
Total		3,466	52.0%	3,024	45.4%	178	2.7%	6,668	100.0%

If we look at the inter-taluk variations in the education status of children of devadasi mothers, certain differences stand out. Among the taluks, Lingasugur has the least number of children in schools or anganwadis although it is one of the most highly populated taluks with better educational infrastructural facilities and a high number of children studying in government hostels and residential schools. This implies that children of devadasi mothers are unable to avail the existing educational facilities. Kudligi and Muddebihal have the most number of children studying in schools or anganwadis.

Working status:

Given that almost half of the children of devadasi mothers were either out of school or irregular, the study tried to find out if the children were engaged in labour.

Table 36: Working status of children of devadasis

Children of Devadasi Working Children Table											
Sl.No	Taluk	Manual Labourer		Bonded Labourers		Household work/Own field		Non-working Children		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1	Raibag	21	6.2%	0	0.0%	112	32.8%	208	61.0%	341	100.0%
2	Lingasugur	121	16.0%	3	0.4%	276	36.4%	358	47.2%	758	100.0%
3	Mundargi	58	33.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	117	66.5%	176	100.0%
4	Badami	88	18.6%	0	0.0%	84	17.8%	300	63.6%	472	100.0%
5	Mudhol	390	16.6%	13	0.6%	59	2.5%	1,884	80.3%	2,346	100.0%
6	Muddebihal	99	26.0%	0	0.0%	8	2.1%	274	71.9%	381	100.0%
7	Kudligi	132	16.6%	0	0.0%	38	4.8%	625	78.6%	795	100.0%
8	Siraguppa	335	37.9%	1	0.1%	43	4.9%	504	57.1%	883	100.0%
9	Kushtagi	189	36.6%	0	0.0%	13	2.5%	314	60.9%	516	100.0%
Total		1,433	21.5%	17	0.3%	634	9.5%	4,584	68.7%	6,668	100.0%

The study found that a majority of the children (about 69%) were non-working while 21.5% were working as manual labourers. Out of the 6668 children interviewed, 17 were working as bonded labourers while 634 (9.5%) were engaged in household work or were engaged in work on their own farms. Among the selected taluks, Mudhol has the highest number and percentage of non-working children and it also has the most number of child bonded labourers. Siraguppa has the highest proportion of children working as manual labourers followed by Kushtagi taluk.

Entitlements and Provision of Services for Orphans in North Karnataka

Children without parental care and support are often found to be most vulnerable to exploitation and deprived of attention and care. Although the situation wherein children live without care and protection of one or both the parents is a family problem, it warrants action and investment by the community and the state because of the following reasons:

First, in the nine taluks that have been studied, the number of children who were found to be orphans or semi-orphans was significantly high. Therefore, the scale of the problem necessitates response that moves beyond the family and places the responsibility on the state and the community to attend to such children's immediate and long term needs.

Second, all children are entitled to care and protection. According to the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, the government has the obligation to ensure that the children's best interests are served without discriminating on the basis of the child's status.

Third, although the parents are considered to be the primary care-givers of the child, the role of the state to step in and play the role of the parent (principle of *parens patriae*) when the parent is not available or is unable to do so, is well established.

Fourth, the village communities have served as informal networks of support. However, these networks may not always be available and may not always be inclusive and non-discriminatory to accommodate children from various backgrounds. Therefore, there is a need for state and community level institutions to play a pro-active role and ensure that children without parental care do not fall through the cracks of informal care arrangements and networks that may exist at the local level.

The study explored the state of care and support arrangements that existed at the local level and the extent to which children's rights and entitlements are being respected, protected and fulfilled by the government. It looked at responses and interventions made at five levels:

1. Family
2. Neighbourhood
3. Community Institutions (Youth and Women's groups, Religious Institutions, Dalit groups, etc.)
4. Panchayat
5. State departments (Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare, and Department of Health and Family Welfare)

Of this, the family which includes extended families and neighbourhood can be termed as primary or informal networks and community institutions, panchayats and state government can be termed as secondary or formal networks. The key findings drawn from the qualitative data collected from focus group discussions and interviews with various key respondents are given below:

Primary or Informal Networks

The family, extended family and neighbourhood are usually the first networks to be tapped when there is distress or crisis. These are informal arrangements that exist at the

local level in varying strengths. The study found that these primary and informal networks play a main role in looking after the needs and problems of orphan and semi-orphan children.

Family level:

In the preceding chapter, the findings indicated that a majority of the children who were identified as CwPC were semi-orphans in the selected nine taluks. While the presence of at least one of the parents gives more physical and emotional security to the child than when the child has no parent, the study found that families with a single surviving parent from poverty stricken and marginalized backgrounds have to undergo enormous hardships, pressures and threats. The qualitative data collected from children and families revealed the following issues faced by families and the nature of care and support arrangements that they are able to provide to their children.

1. At a young age, loss of parents or even a single parent places the child in an extremely vulnerable situation. Children of Devadasi mothers are left completely orphaned in the event of their mother's death. Children without parents, or with single parents especially children of Devadasis are looked at differently by society and are discriminated against.
2. Many children have no option but to engage in manual labour and work everyday in order to be able to get food for their survival. In the case of semi-orphans, the surviving parent often takes loan to fill the income gap on account of the loss of spouse and the children are made to work in order to clear the debts. Some children combine work and schooling and also manage their duties at home.
3. Children have to drop out of school due to poverty and the need to provide additional support to the single earning parent in case of semi-orphan children. Dropping out of school means children are left without the company of their school friends and there is a feeling of deprivation as they see others continuing schooling whereas they are left to work.
4. Children have to accompany the mothers to work due to lack of child care arrangements. In other cases, it was found that elder siblings begin to take care of the younger children. This role adoption often happens on gender lines. Elder brothers step into their father's shoes in the event of his death and elder girls take on the role of their mothers when their mother is no more. There is a dual burden on such individuals who are sometimes children themselves since they are unable to substitute completely the lost parent. They take on parenting styles that may not be appropriate- either too strict or too lenient.
5. Siblings are separated from each other as one or two children may be sent off to be taken care of by distant relatives. There is often little or no contact with the family once the child is sent off to far off places.
6. Girls are married off at an early age so that they are protected by the husband's family. But due to their vulnerability and dependence, they are tortured at their marital homes.
7. Grandparents are unable to take the responsibility of care due to their own aging and ensuing health problems.
8. Sometimes extended family is able to provide shelter and basic care. Situation of the guardian's family is itself so precarious that an additional mouth to feed necessitates compensation in terms of work contribution or otherwise. It was found that children are

unable to continue schooling as it would drain the resources of the extended family. In fact they are required to work, very often in order to lighten the burden on the extended family of their care and support.

9. In many cases, extended families were found to torture, harass and provide no support. Sometimes extended families although well meaning are unable to extend any concrete help to the children. Sometimes all that they can offer is shelter to the child.

10. Relatives may adopt the children informally, but since it is not legal adoption children's rights and interests may not be protected.

11. Extended families or neighbours provide support, but it is often temporary and as a stop-gap arrangement. After a few months, some children have to face starvation and hunger; lack of clothing. Others are forced to beg and meet their daily food requirements, especially if they have no parents. This is not because the extended families do not want to help but because they are themselves living under severe hardships.

12. In the irrigated areas like Raibag (where 70% of agricultural land is irrigated) extended families are able to take care of such children. They are able to send them to school and ensure that they are healthy.

13. There are several child dependent families wherein the entire responsibility of taking care of the family and earning livelihood rests with the child though the child may be looked after by the grandparents or parents who are crippled due to a serious ailment or disability. Most of these children were identified in Mudhol, Badami, Muddebihal and Kushtagi taluks. Very young children cope with this by begging in order to feed their younger siblings and aging grandparents.

Neighbourhood:

The study found that in the case of orphan children, the neighbourhood plays an important role, at least in the initial period, to look after the children. The data showed cases where the neighbours have helped the child who is completely orphaned and without any grandparental support to grow up and settle down. However, sometimes these social networks are weak or are unable to step in to support the children in a long run. The neighbours are found to provide help to the children in the following ways:

1. Neighbours help by consoling and often by offering sympathy to the children. Very often, this is an immediate requirement of the child and the family.

2. The study also found that the neighbours sometimes provide food to children and looking after their basic necessities.

3. The neighbours were also found to provide other help such as utensils for cooking, loans in times of need, etc.

4. There have also been cases where the neighbours and the community have helped in the child's education and helped the girl to get a job in the anganwadi after her education.

Secondary or formal networks:

The focus group discussions in Lingasugur taluk (in Adagal, Anehosur, Anvari villages) in Mundargi taluk (in Dambala, Doni village) in Badami taluk (in Muttalageri, Hamsanur village), in Muddebihal taluk (Kaluru village); in Mudhol taluk (Belagali, Nagaral,

Shirola village) in Raibag taluk (Mugalakoda, Kakanavadi, Handigunda, Kakanura, Mekali, Mevundi, Moraba, Nagalapura, Parvati, Pettalur, Singatayanakeri villages) revealed that none of the village groups and institutions such as gram panchayat, Self Help Groups, youth groups, religious institutions, and dalit groups had any knowledge about the number of children who were living without parental care in their vicinity and were therefore not able to provide any help or support.

Community Institutions:

The data collected in the study explored the contributions made by various community based institutions and groups in addressing the needs of these children. As mentioned above, these groups did not have any systematic data about the prevalence of the problem but were interested in addressing their needs after the issue was raised by investigators during the data collection exercise. This category of children without parental care and support did not receive any special attention or resources at the local level. There were only a few cases where because the surviving parent, especially mothers, were members of Self Help Group, they were able to receive support and help from fellow members. In some places like the Hamsanur village, religious institutions such as the mutts provided free lunch to villagers as prasadam and this was availed by the orphan children.

Panchayats:

None of the Gram panchayat members who participated in focus group discussions were aware of the extent of the problem and had never systematically looked at the special needs and problems of children without parental care. The data collection exercise itself triggered interest in some panchayats to be sensitive to the needs of such children and evolve special measures in order to address them. In one gram panchayat, a surviving parent had been provided with shelter without water and other facilities. In other cases, benefits under community schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were extended. Other forms of support such as provision of educational scholarships, ration cards that make them eligible to receive subsidized grains under Public Distribution System, benefits under the subsidized housing schemes were also extended in so far as these children and their surviving parents/guardians were eligible under these schemes. Panchayats had also assisted families and their children to avail benefits under Bhagya Jyothi Scheme and Kasturba Gandhi residential schools for girls which were available for children from backward and marginalized families. The data also revealed a few cases where the panchayat had got the orphan girls married. However, it must be noted that these benefits were not designed specially for children without parental care and support but were extended to the children and their guardians because they were eligible to receive benefits offered as part of these general socio-economic upliftment schemes.

State Government:

The study showed that there is an absence of specific provision of services for children without parental care. Interviews with the officials of the education department revealed that the children were receiving the general concessions and incentives provided by the government to all school children such as free text books and notebooks, free uniforms, mid day meals, if they were enrolled in the school. The health department provides free health services to those below poverty line and there is no special service/programme

offered to reach out to these children. The Department of Social Welfare provides hostel facilities, vocational training and scholarships to children belonging to scheduled communities and not specifically to orphan children.

The Department of Women and Child Development has several programmes for ensuring child protection and is responsible for implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act by setting up Child Welfare Committees in each district. The category of 'children in need of care and protection' as defined by the Juvenile Justice Act includes children without parental care and support and covers children until the age of eighteen years. The Act also establishes Children's Homes. These are homes meant for the reception of children in need of care and protection. Children who are produced before the Child Welfare Committee and committed by the committee are admitted to these homes. The Committee disposes cases in the interest of providing care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of children. The Homes are expected to provide not only accommodation, maintenance and facilities for education, training and rehabilitation of children but also ensure all round development to their fullest abilities. Children are provided education up to Std. VII in the institution itself and training in various crafts is also given. Children studying in high schools and colleges are sent to outside schools and colleges. Three seats in each of the ITIs/Polytechnics over and above the sanctioned strength are reserved for the children of these homes to pursue technical education and to improve on their job opportunities. At present, there are 12 Children's homes distributed across the seven districts selected for the study. The details are given below: Raichur has one Boys' Home and one Girls' Home, Bagalkote has one Boys' Home, Belgaum has one Girls' Home and two Boys' Homes, Gadag has one Girls' Home and one Boys' Home, Bijapur has one Girls' Home, Bellary has two Boys' Homes and Koppal has one Boys' Home. In addition there is one After Care Home for Men that take care of boys discharged from Children's Homes after they are 18 years old in Belgaum. There are also three fit institutions in Belgaum run by voluntary organizations for children in need of care and protection.

The Department of Women and Child Development also has a scheme offering financial assistance to the children of ex-Devadasis, ex-prostitutes and prisoners and to the children of women who are the victims of atrocities. Assistance is provided for continuing education to the girls till the age of 20 and boys till the age of 18. The details of the financial assistance provided under the scheme are as follows: For Std. I and II, Rs.50 is given for ten months, for Std. III and IV Rs. 75 is provided for ten months, for Std. V to VII Rs. 100 is given per month for ten months, for Std. VIII to X Rs. 150 per month is given for 10 months and for Std. X onwards Rs. 300 per month is given for ten months. The School Headmaster is required to certify that the student has passed in the previous class and is continuing the education.

The Department of Women and Child Development also offers a Scheme for Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection. The objective of the scheme is to provide care, protection and near family atmosphere for orphan and destitute children and to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, vocational training, medical and recreational facilities. Registered voluntary organizations working in the field of child welfare for at

least 3 years are eligible to get grant-in-aid for a unit of 25 children. Orphan children or children from single parent families below 18 years of age (boys and girls) with a total family income of less than Rs. 6000 per annum are eligible for admission. An income certificate from Tahsildars is required to be produced for admission.

The focus group discussions revealed that these schemes and programmes have not been adequately utilized by the communities for the protection and development of the children without parental care. Lack of information about the magnitude of the problem itself and about the available measures to address the needs of such children is an area that would require action at the local level.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This exploratory study of children without parental care was undertaken by EvC India Liaison Office in nine taluks spread across seven districts in North Karnataka. It identified and interviewed 50,666 orphan and semi-orphan children including 6,668 children of devadasi mothers. Some of the main findings of the study are as follows:

Among all the children who were identified as orphan or semi-orphan children, the highest number of children belonged to the age group of 6-14 years. This phenomenon was seen across all taluks. From the total of 50666 children who were interviewed, 33973 children came from this age group which is about 67% of the total population. Since a majority of the children came from Badami, the highest number of 6-14 year olds also came from Badami (5682 children). Mundargi had the lowest number of children in this age group (1403 children).

Of all the 50,666 orphan and semi-orphan children who were identified and interviewed, 28,122 (55.5%) were boys and 22,544 (44.5%) were girls. This trend was also observed in all the taluks that were studied and there were more boys than girls among the children studied. Among the total children interviewed, the highest percentage (32.8%) came from Other Backward Castes which included children from Muslim, Christian and Jain communities. Among all the children that were studied, 40% causes were related to death due to other reasons which included death due to cancer, paralysis, kidney failure, diabetes, asthma, dog/snake/animal bite, accident, psychological disorders, suicide or undisclosed reasons. Second marriage and migration were the least cited reasons.

The proportion of semi-orphan children is significantly higher than the proportion of orphan children. Following this, as many as 34,273 children were being looked after by the mothers (67%) and 7999 children were being looked after by the fathers (15.7%). Of the total 50,666 children who were identified and studied in the selected nine taluks, it was found whenever grandparents or the surviving parents were looking after the child, the proportion of children going to school or an anganwadi was more than half. On the other hand, when other individuals from the neighbourhood or other relatives looked after the children, the proportion of those who went to a school or an anganwadi was less than half.

With respect to the education status, it was found that more than half of the children from 3-6 years and 6-14 years were in schools but more than half of those between 15-18 years were out of school. If we look at the caste composition of the total children who are enrolled in schools, we find that one third of them come from Other Backward Castes. The living conditions of the children were studied in order to understand the extent to which they received two square meals a day, if they lived in a *pucca* house and if their parent/guardian owned land or had a stable means of earning a livelihood. It was found that overall, the basic amenities were being provided to a majority of children (63%) and about 37 percent of the children's living conditions were such that these basic amenities were not provided to them. Overall there is no difference between provision of basic amenities to both the boys and girls.

Out of the 50666 children who were interviewed, 11924 children were found engaged in manual labour, 106 children were bonded labourers, 5494 children were engaged in their household work or worked on their farms and 33142 children were found to be non-working. Thus, 65% of the total orphan and semi-orphan children were not working. If we look at the sex-wise distribution of working and non-working children, we find a similar picture. Of the total 28,122 boys, 65% of the boys (18295 boys) were non-working, and of the total 22,544 girls, 65.85% of the girls (14847 girls) were non-working. If we look at the caste composition of the working children, we find that the highest proportion of manual labourers come from OBC communities. Among the bonded labourers, a majority are Madiga children.

The study also focused specifically on children of devadasi mothers. A total of 6668 children of mothers dedicated to the *devadasi* system were identified and interviewed in the study. Among these, a majority of the children were aged between 6 and 14 years (62.6%) followed by older children aged between 15 and 18 years (20.4%). The study also identified 583 children who were below three years and 549 children between 3 and 6 years in the selected taluks. If we look at their distribution across taluks, we find that the proportion of very young children (below 6 years) was significantly high in Badami, Mundargi and Mudhol (approximately 20-22 percentage of the overall children of *devadasi* population). It is seen that a majority of the children of devadasis belonged to Madiga caste (66.7%) followed by children from other scheduled castes (21.2%). If we look at the situation prevalent in all the taluks together, we find that for about 63% of the children, basic amenities are provided while they are not provided for about 37% of the children. However, inter-taluk variations are apparent. In Kudligi, Siraguppa and Muddebihal, many more children enjoy basic amenities whereas in Lingasugur, Mundargi and Raibag, a majority of children are deprived of basic amenities. Almost half of the children of devadasi mothers are out of school or are irregular. Out of the 6668 children interviewed, 3466 were attending either a school or an anganwadi while 3024 children were out of school and 178 children were irregular. Out of those who are not currently in a school or an anganwadi, it is important to note that a majority are those who remain out of school and only a small fraction are those who are enrolled in schools but are irregular.

The study also found that family and neighbourhood systems were used most commonly by children and their families. The secondary and formal networks such as community institutions, gram panchayats were rarely involved in care arrangements for such children although some amount of programmes do exist for these children from the Department of Women and Child Development.

Some of the recommendations that emerge from this exploratory study and those which have emerged out of focus group discussions with key respondents are given below:

At the local level:

1. Community and panchayats must take a lead role in ensuring that these children have education, health and employment facilities.
2. Special attention must be given to the girl child so as to help them to become financially independent before they are married away.
3. Financial assistance, loans and credit should be available and must give reference and concessions to single parent families.
4. Local community institutions should recognise the talents of these children and offer them support and encouragement
5. Panchayats should give jobs to the single parents in the village itself so that the family group and social networks are not broken
6. Residential schooling facilities should be adequately provided to children until they complete 18 years of age. Schools that can train children and help them to become self-employed must be set up at the panchayats/district level.
7. Identify alternative forms of care arrangements for children and using institutional care as a last resort.
8. Ensure that information is available in local language at the community institutions and panchayats, about the schemes available for such children and how they can be utilized.
9. Community service and care centres that can ensure help in child care responsibilities
10. Co-ordination between NGOs and the village level institutions so as to evolve an action strategy for children without parental care.
11. Evolve monitoring and supervisory systems at the local level that will ensure that children in informal care settings are not abused and exploited.
12. Strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children and of extended families and communities to provide alternative forms of care.
13. Advocating at the local level for enhancing the capacity of families and communities to care for their orphans and vulnerable children through establishing community-based child care centres.
14. The panchayat level Standing Committee on Education and the School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMC) should verify the attendance registers maintained at schools since several children who may be registered do not attend school. Such children's cases must be followed-up at the village level by the SDMCs and their families should be supported through NREGA and other employment schemes.
15. The panchayats must ensure that ration cards include the names of the children efforts should also be made to give ration cards for orphan and destitute children as well as children from child headed households.

State/National Level

1. Government should regularly conduct a survey of orphan children so as to ascertain the magnitude of the problem and to determine areas for intervention.

2. Government should give pensions for widows and social security schemes for single parents from families below poverty line.
3. Ration cards and enhanced allocations or concessions within the public distribution system should be given
4. Sewing machines and other means of generating income should be given free of cost or at concessional rates. Loans for starting small businesses can also be offered.
5. Government should give preference to special groups such as the handicapped within the larger group of orphan children
6. Women should be encouraged to get memberships in Self Help Groups and these groups should be empowered to become economically self sufficient.
7. Health facilities to children and for single parents in the case of semi orphan children should be given free of cost.
8. Legal aid in property matters should be extended.
9. Adoption of very young children should be encouraged and efforts should be made to link orphan children to registered adoption agencies.
10. Government should establish more hostel facilities for the children attached to educational institutions and give them monthly stipends.
11. Provide housing at concessional rates to single parents
12. Jobs to children of deceased employees on compassionate grounds should be ensured
13. Loans with lower interest rate, insurance policies should be provided.
14. Ban on consumption of alcohol and devadasi system was suggested by some during the focus group discussions.
15. Evolve a policy framework that is in line with the provisions of the UNCRC.
16. Advocate for developing guidelines on minimum standards for care and protection of children without parental care.
17. Upgrading competencies and accountabilities of government officials and professionals working with children so as to ensure that the most deserving children are reached and helped.
18. Reforming the legal and policy framework on children in need of care and protection and critically reviewing the Juvenile Justice framework and its limitations in reaching out to these children.
19. Utilising the existing channels of the Child Welfare Committees, National Commission for protection of Child Rights for advocating for the interests and rights of these children.
20. Establishing independent monitoring bodies that can regulate care arrangements for these children
21. Advocate for ensuring political commitment and resources to launch universal programme for care of orphan children.

Areas for Future Research and Action:

The study being an exploratory survey has contributed in mapping the problem and has helped to understand the status and conditions within which children without parental care live in the selected nine taluks of North Karnataka. However, this project did not

seek to find in-depth data and analysis of some of the specific issues- such as the incidence of HIV/AIDs and its impact on children, the coping mechanisms at the family level, especially in child headed households or when the parents are incapacitated or have deserted, the role of informal networks in children's lives and the impact of migration and modernization on these networks and so on. In addition, not much is still known about how different factors contribute to the problems or how factors operating at the level of family, community and state play a role in children's resilience and coping. This report can be seen as the foundation to build further research and understanding about these children, their concerns, needs and problems. It is aimed to aid in generating interest and action at the local level and also in planning and strategizing action along with the primary and secondary stakeholders. It can also serve as a tool for policy advocacy and action at the district, state and national level.

Annexure

Tools for used for Data Collection

Case Study

1) Child Information

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Whether child is an Orphan/Semi-Orphan:

What is the child doing:

2) Family Information

Sl.No	Name	Relation to child	What are they doing/ Occupation

3) Situation Analysis

- a) Child
- b) Family

4) What is the assistance child is being provided from the following institutions?

- a) Family
- b) PRI/VPI/NGO or other Civil Society Organisations
- c) Neighbours/Relatives/Community

5) What does the Child think of her/his future?

6) What is the Child's opinion on assistance to other CwPC?

Key Persons Interviews

Taluk:

Department/NGO:

Designation:

Interview

1. Role of Department/NGO at present in taking care of CwPC
2. Role of Department/NGO in the future in taking care of CwPC

3. Opinion on the role being played at present by the following Village People Institutions

- a. Panchayat
- b. School
- c. SHG
- d. Youth Group
- e. Religious Institutions
- f. Dalit Group

4. Role that could be played in the future by the following Village People Institutions

- a. Panchayat
- b. School
- c. SHG
- d. Youth Group
- e. Religious Institutions
- f. Dalit Group

Case Study of Adults

Person Information

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Whether S/He is an Orphan/Semi-Orphan:

What is the S/He doing:

Situation Analysis during childhood

A Child

B Family

What assistance S/He was being provided from the following institutions during childhood?

A Family

B PRI/VPI/NGO or other Civil Society Organisations

C Neighbours/Relatives/Community

What is his/her opinion on assistance to be provided to other CwPC?

Focus Group Discussion

Taluk:

Place:

Date:

Attended by:

Discussion

1. Role played by the following Village People's Institutions in taking care of CwPC
 - a. Panchayat
 - b. School
 - c. SHG
 - d. Youth Group
 - e. Religious Institutions
 - f. Dalit Group
2. Role of the family & Neighbours to support these CwPC
3. Role of Village People's Institutions in the future in taking care of CwPC
 - a. Panchayat
 - b. School
 - c. SHG
 - d. Youth Group
 - e. Religious Institutions
 - f. Dalit Group

4. Role of the following in the future in taking care of CwPC
 - a. Government
 - b. Civil Society