

Executive summary of UGC Minor Research Project [Sociology] on

**SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF ORPHANAGE INMATES:
A STUDY CONDUCTED IN SREE CHITRA HOME, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

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Orphanages act as refugee centers for those children who are devoid of love, care, affection and identity which they owe from their family, parents and siblings. They are entrusted with a very relevant social function as to internalize the expected behavioral norms and taboos, social values and cultural heritage of the society within the inmates thereby curbing down social atrocities, alienated personalities and possible high risk anomalies from the society. But we really need to be thoughtful regarding how effectively they are discharging these responsibilities. The present study aims to study the social and psychological dimensions of orphanage inmates living in Sree Chitra Home, Thiruvananthapuram. Using case study method, the social profile of orphanage inmates at the home, the psychological dimensions influencing their personality and the setbacks faced by the institution in their fostering is evaluated. Subsequently, the researcher also suggests ways for bringing improvement in their life and wellbeing.

Analysis of social profile reveals that orphan inmates hail from socially and economically insecure family background. Probing into the psychological dimensions influencing their personality, it is found that the inmates of the home suffered from emotional difficulties due to varied social and psychological reasons. In most of the cases, they hailed from broken families with poor economic background. Unable to meet their food clothing and educational requirements, either of their parents is forced to get them admitted in the home. Unexpected accidents that have happened in the family also cause agony in the minds of inmates even though they live a protected life at the home. Some of the inmates were abandoned by the parents when they were perceived as an obstacle to their better future. Children with such case history felt more insecure and they were found to be moody and reserved as a strategy to avoid mingling with others in fear of social humiliation. Findings of the study disclose that orphan inmates are facing problems in surviving in the home due to varied reasons. Due to the absence of kind, considerate and responsible care takers, inmates face lack of assistance in their personal requirements and grooming as well as in medical and emotional needs. Difficulty is also experienced with respect to absence of proper monitoring in inmate interactions, inadequate infrastructural facilities, restriction in communication with home and lack of internet facilities.