

## Abstract

The objective of the research “Lifestyles of Street Children in Bangkok” is to study the livelihood, relationships, needs and expectations of street children in Bangkok. This is a survey research using the questionnaire to collect data from 60 street children in the areas of Opportunity-Creating Center for Children, Lumpini Park, Opportunity-Creating Center for Children, Chutuchak, and Opportunity-Creating Center for Children, Rama 8 Bridge. The data are quantitatively analyzed, using percentage. The findings are as follows:

Most of the street children in Bangkok are male, between 11 and 15 years of age, of Thai race and nationality, Buddhist, with educational levels of Grade 5-6. Most have the domicile in Bangkok. The reasons that make them street children are mostly lack of love and warmth in the family. The children run away from home and earn money by becoming beggars, service workers and garland sellers. Their daily income is most often 201 baht. They most frequently hang out with their peers in groups of 3-4. They mostly stay with their peers in the monasteries and on the streets. They sleep about 8-10 hours a night, going to “bed” at 20.01-24.00 hours and waking up at 05.01-10.00 hours. When they fall ill, they will obtain medicine by themselves. Most have had accidents and been physically threatened by other older street children.

The study of the relationship between street children and their family and other peers shows that they enjoy the relationship with their siblings at a moderate level and love their mother most. On peer relationship, almost all street children go out and hang out with their peers. With regard to expectations for future life, most want to go on study at a higher level, have a career, and get an employment.

As far as problem solving is concerned, the street children issue cannot be resolved by any one single agency. The problem is not the result of any one factor. The study recommends that the public and private organizations that work on the street children issues should work in a unified and integrated manner. Database on street children should be systematically developed. The public sector should improve its work

speedily to accommodate the changing society and attach importance to the prevention of the occurrence of street children. Street children that are around today should be given more care with regard to welfare, recreation and health.