

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Bangkok Roaming Children's Way of Life :
A Study at Hua Lum Pong Railway Station
Community.

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The objectives of this research are 1. to study causes of becoming roaming children, 2. to study roaming children's way of life, their living conditions including problems and obstacles confronting them, 3. to study their self-concept and future expectation.

The study was carried out at Hua Lum Pong Raliway station community by interviewing in-depth 12 roaming children who volunteered to be key-informants for the matters. Data obtained were analysed with logical context description and appropriate descriptive statistics.

Results of the study reveal that a major cause for them to be roaming children is their broken home, bad relations within the family and no peace at home. These factors pushed them out of home, to seek happiness elsewhere. When living outside, their way of life is totally different from what they used to have at home, from living place to struggle for survival; their clothes come from garbage bins or from donation ; each have only one or two sets ; learning to talk for self-safety.

Roaming around is their normal way to find happiness ; sometime by getting into the train illegally, for example. Entering into a friend group is necessary for their living ; their income derived from selling bottles picked from various deserted places.

Roaming children have positive self-concept ; they are satisfied with living conditions ; they expect to have higher education and want to have good occupation

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too ; they hope they can return home one day. However, they do not expect much from the organizations helping children.

Problems and obstacles they encountered are being hurt by stronger, bigger children, being cheated or forced paying by local "big leg" (big boss) ; other problems include illegal drugs and sexual services.

Recommendations emerged for prevention and correction of the roaming children problem are co-operation in every level of work from the policy level downward; the family institution needs to be qualitatively developed ; government and private agencies should be ready to help problematic children, among others.