

Baseline study of Gopalnagar Gram Panchayat for the project “Child Rights Project on Identified issue to Education, Protection and Environment”

Organized by: Kajla Jana Kalyan Samity

SUPPORTED BY: CRY

Baseline study of Gopalnagar Gram Panchayat for the project

“Child Rights Project on Identified issue to Education, Protection and Environment”

Gopalnagar Gram Panchayat is situated in Patharpratima Block of South 24 Parganas district, which is a part of the lower Indo-Gangetic Plain and Eastern coastal plains.

We have administered a baseline study for the project on all the families of the Gram panchayat area. The Gram panchayat comprises 13 Gram Sansads consisting 4303 families. The Table 1.01 shows that in this area 3739 children exist in the age group of 0-18 years.

Table-1.01 Distribution of Sansadwise Families and Children			
Sl. No.	Name of Sansad	No. of Families Surveyed	No. of Children of 0-18 yrs
1	Sansad-I	305	264
2	Sansad-II	323	312
3	Sansad-III	307	279
4	Sansad-IV	312	253
5	Sansad-V	295	265
6	Sansad-VI	297	229
7	Sansad-VII	334	302
8	Sansad-VIII	390	300
9	Sansad-IX	309	269
10	Sansad-X	385	346
11	Sansad-XI	314	282
12	Sansad-XII	384	330
13	Sansad-XIII	348	308
Total		4303	3739

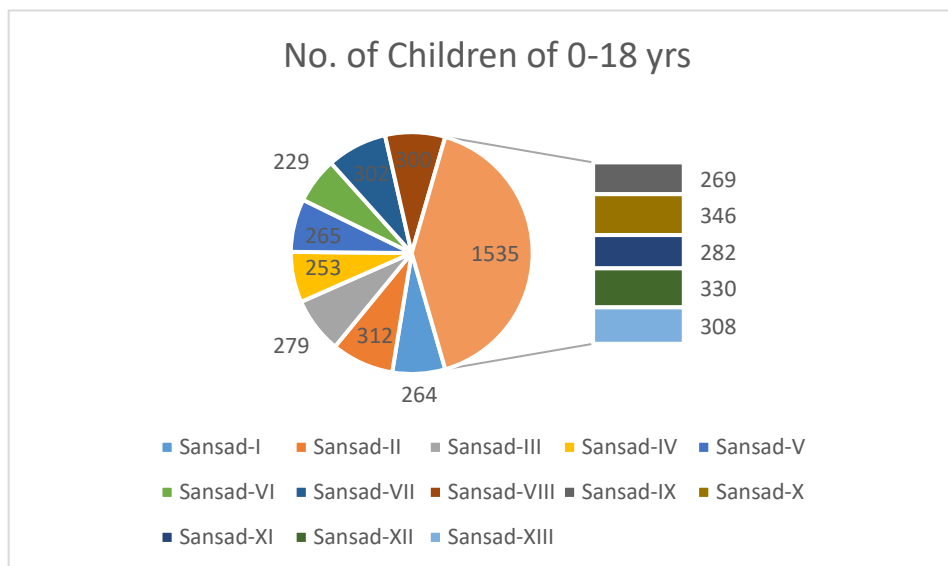


Table 1.02 depicts that maximum percentage (29.66%) of children belongs to the age group of 7-11 years, whereas in the age group of 16-18 years 15.49% children exist. The total percentage of boys is 51.16 and that of girls is 48.84%.

Percentage distribution of children by age group by sex (N=3739)				
Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Boys	Girls	Total
1	0-6	16.69	15.62	32.31
2	7--11	15.19	14.47	29.66
3	12--15	11.55	10.99	22.55
4	16--18	7.73	7.76	15.49
Total		51.16	48.84	100.00

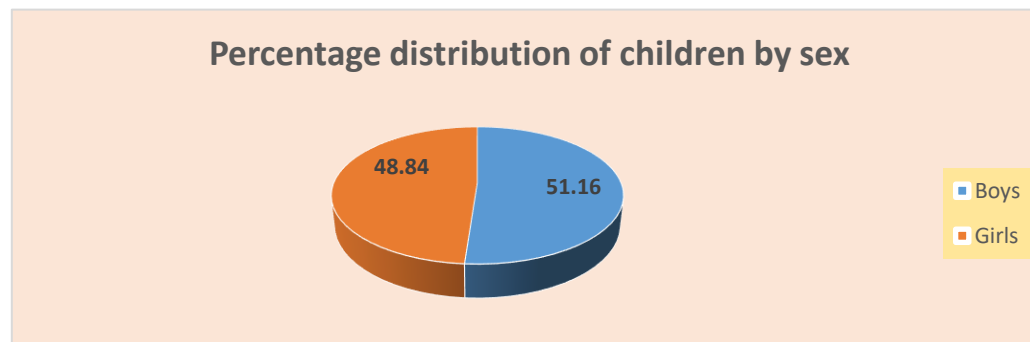


Table -1.03 Percentage Distribution of family of the children by the occupation and level of education of their parents												
Sl. No.	Main source of income	Highest Level of Education of the Parents										Total
		Illiterate	Literate but not formal	Below Primary	Primary (Class V pass)	Upper Primary (Class VIII pass)	10 th Standard	10+2 Standard	Graduate	Technical Degree	Post Graduate	
1	Agriculture	6.69	2.93	3.03	7.18	7.61	7.28	2.37	1.65	0.10	0.07	38.91
2	Daily Labour	6.46	1.35	3.82	15.72	12.78	5.34	2.80	0.96	0.07	0.20	49.49
3	Pisciculture	0.30	0.03	0.20	0.56	0.33	0.07	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.61
4	Own shop/Business	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.33	0.23	0.10	0.10	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.92
5	Govt. Job	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.07	0.26	0.53	0.00	0.23	1.32
6	Fishing	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23
7	Migrant Worker	0.10	0.00	0.03	0.13	0.20	0.13	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
8	Service Sector	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.33
9	Others	0.07	0.16	0.20	0.49	0.82	2.80	0.99	1.15	0.00	0.00	6.69
Total		13.74	4.48	7.41	24.45	22.31	15.85	6.89	4.35	0.00	0.53	100.00

Analysing the cross-sectional data on family of the children in the above Table 1.03, we have noticed the maximum children (15.72%) belong to the families of daily labour parents whose educational level is primary (Class V pass), followed by 12.78% of children of parents passed class

VIII. It is evident that 49.49% children belong to families of daily labour followed by 38.91% children from the families whose main occupation is agriculture.

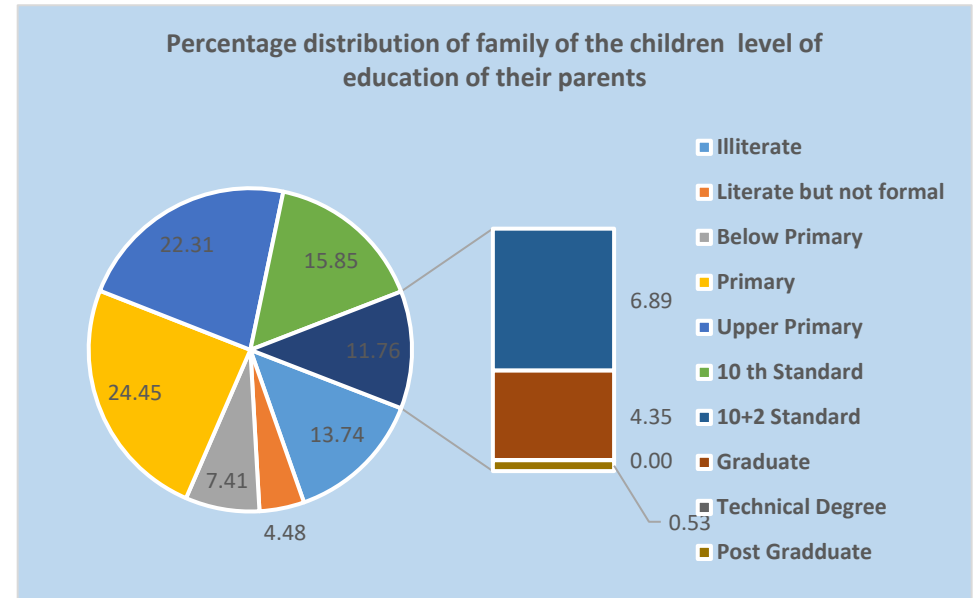
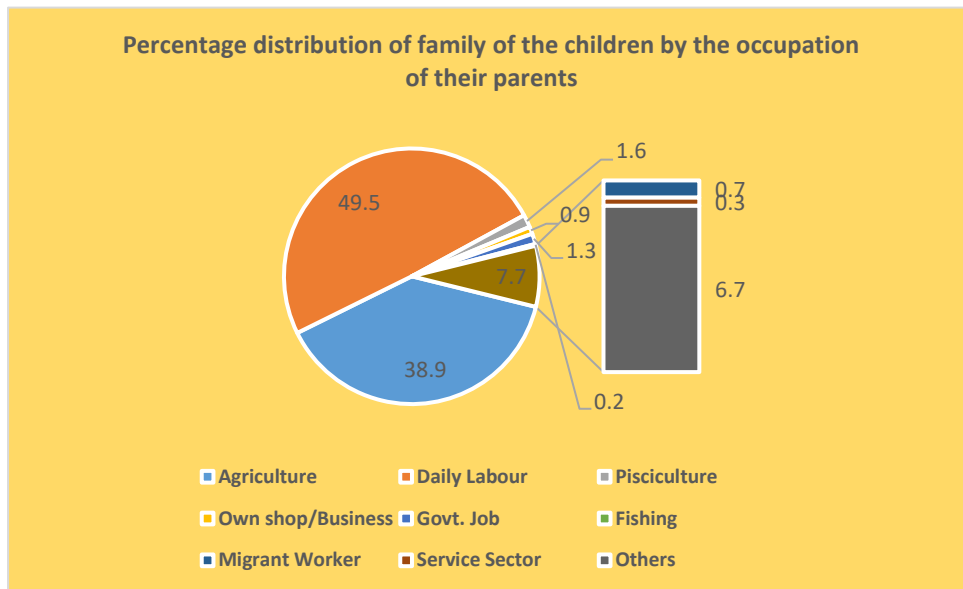


Table 1.04 Percentage distribution of children by Religion by Caste

Sl. No.	Religion	GENERAL	SC	ST	OBC	Total
1	Hinduism	72.62	17.00	2.14	3.29	95.06
2	Islam	0.43	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.91
3	Christianity	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
4	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		73.08	17.00	2.14	7.78	100.00

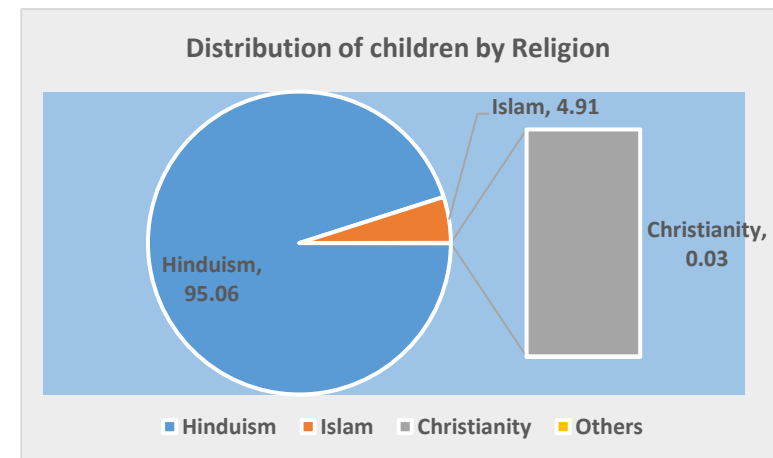
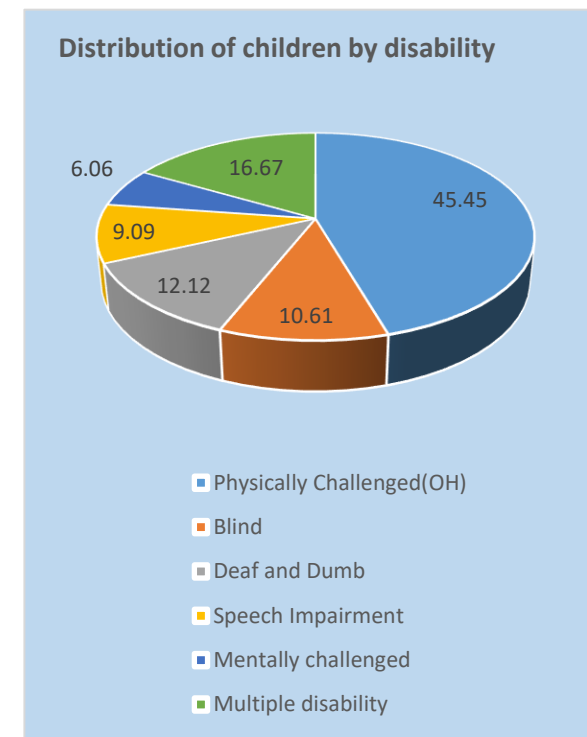


Table 1.04 depicts that the maximum percentage of children are of religion Hinduism (95.06)), followed by the children of Islam 4.91%. With respect to caste, the maximum children are general (73.08%), followed by Scheduled Caste (17.00%) and Other Backward Classes (7.78%). Out of total OBC (7.78 %), Islam consists 4.48%.

Table -2.01 Percentage distribution of children by age group by disability (N=66)									
Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Physically Challenged(OH)	Blind	Deaf and Dumb	Speech Impairment	Mentally challenged	Multiple disability	No Disability	Total
1	0-6	21.21	3.03	1.52	3.03	1.52	4.55	32	34.85
2	7--11	7.58	3.03	3.03	0.00	0.00	4.55	30	18.18
3	12--15	7.58	0.00	4.55	1.52	1.52	3.03	23	18.18
4	16--18	9.09	4.55	3.03	4.55	3.03	4.55	15	28.79
Total		45.45	10.61	12.12	9.09	6.06	16.67	100	100.00
Having Disability Certificate		33.33	28.57	37.50	33.33	25.00	36.36	NA	NA



Out of all the children (3739), 66 Children i.e. 1.77 % of children have different types of disability. Among them 45.46% children are physically challenged and only 33.33% of them have possessed disability certificate. 16.67% children have multiple disability and among them only 36.36% have owned their disability certificate. But only 28.57% and 33.33% specially challenged children have their disability certificate who are blind and have speech impairment respectively.

Table 3.01 Percentage distribution of children by age group by Reading & Writing Ability (N=3739)

Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Reading & Writing Ability				Total
		Easily	Problem Occurs	Not at all	Not applicable	
1	0-6	8.91	4.07	5.11	14.23	32.31
2	7--11	22.06	6.98	0.62	0.00	29.66
3	12--15	20.81	1.63	0.11	0.00	22.55
4	16--18	14.09	1.10	0.29	0.00	15.49
Total		65.87	13.77	6.12	14.23	100.00

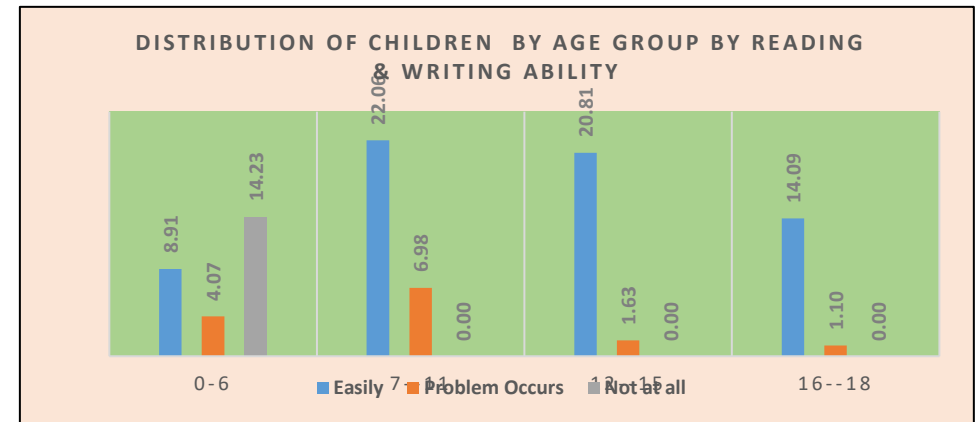


Table 3.01 shows that 65.87% children can read and write easily, 13.77% children have faced some problems in reading and writing and 6.12% children cannot read and write at all. 22.06% children of age group 7-11 years have faced problems to read and write in their mother language followed by 20.81% children of age group 12-15 years. 0.62% children of age group 7-11 years cannot read and write at all followed by 0.29% children of the age group 16-18 years.

Table 3.02 Percentage distribution of Continuing Studies of children by Age Group by Sex (N=3739)

Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Continuing Studies		Left Studies		Not Applicable		Total
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1	0-6	5.70	4.97	0.00	0.00	10.99	10.64	32.31
2	7--11	12.36	12.04	2.83	2.43	0.00	0.00	29.66
3	12--15	9.17	9.07	2.38	1.93	0.00	0.00	22.55
4	16--18	5.48	6.12	2.25	1.63	0.00	0.00	15.49
Total		32.71	32.20	7.46	5.99	10.99	10.64	100.00

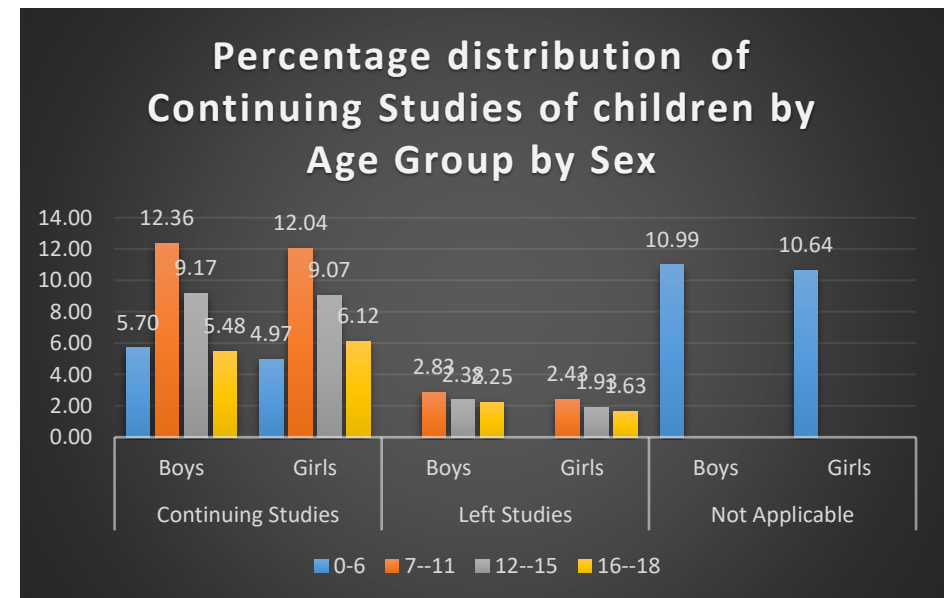


Table 3.02 depicts that 64.91% children are continuing their studies of which 32.71% are boys and 32.20 % are girls. 13.45 % children have left their studies, among them 7.46% are boys and 5.99 % are girls. It is to be noted here that 2.83% boys of age group 7-11 years have left their studies followed by 2.38 % boys of age group 12-15 years.

Percentage distribution of last class attended by school dropout children by Sex (N=503)				
Sl. No.	Last class attended by school dropout children by Sex	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Not admitted to School	2.19	1.19	3.38
2	Below Class IV	23.66	19.48	43.14
3	Below Class VIII	18.69	13.52	32.21
4	Class X	8.35	8.35	16.70
5	Class-XI	1.59	1.59	3.18
6	Class-XII	0.99	0.40	1.39
Total		55.47	44.53	100.00

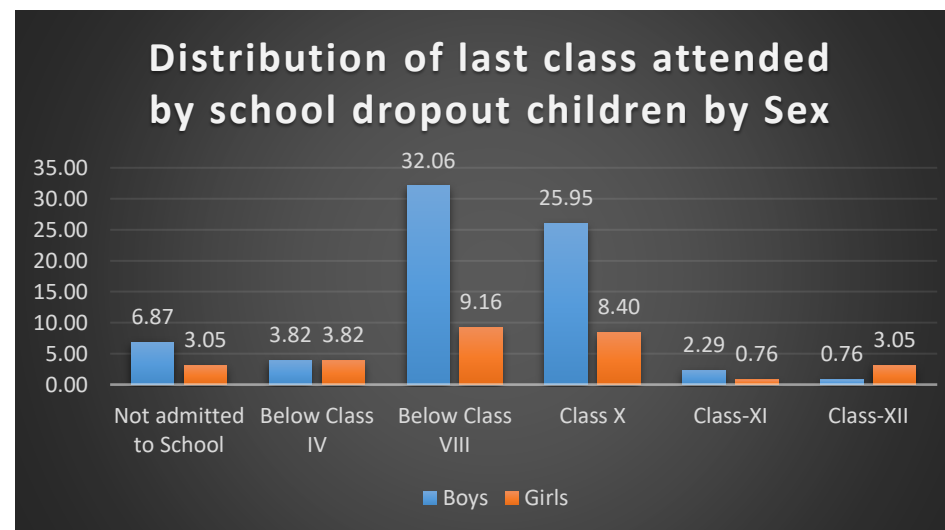
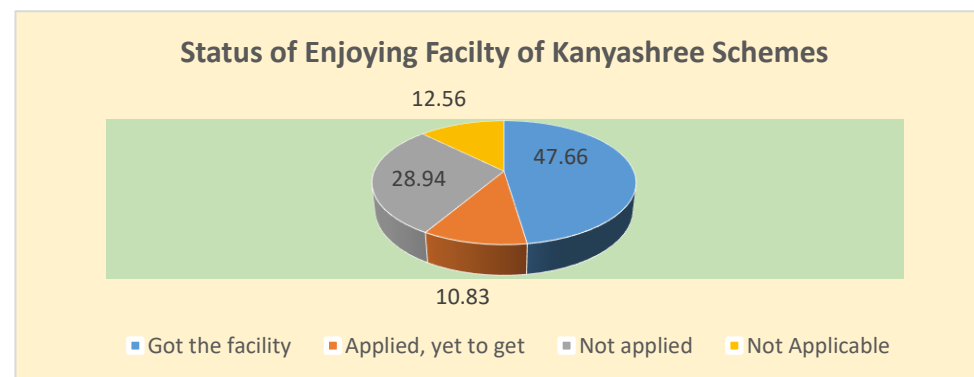


Table 3.03 reveals that out of 503 (13.45%) out of school children, 55.47 % are boys and 44.53% are girls. It is evident from the above table that maximum children are being dropped below class IV and the percentage of boys (23.66 %) is higher than that of girls (19.48%). In all levels the percentage of school dropped out boys is higher except in 10th standard. The percentage of dropped out of boys and girls is same (8.35%) in the 10th standard.

Table- 3.04 Percentage distribution of Facility of Kanyashree Schemes for all Girl Children		
Sl. No.	Facility of Kanyashree	Percentage of Girl Children
1	Got the facility	47.66
2	Applied, yet to get	10.83
3	Not applied	28.94
4	Not Applicable	12.56
Total		100.00



Kanyashree is an initiative taken by the Government of West Bengal to improve the life and the status of the girls by helping economically backward families with cash so that families do not arrange the marriage of their girl child before eighteen years because of economic problem. Table 3.04 shows that 47.66% girl children are enjoying the facility of the scheme. 10.83% girl children have applied for the same but yet to receive. 28.94% have not applied for the scheme till date and 12.56% are not applicable to apply due to their low age level.

Table 4.01 Percentage distribution of children of enjoying facility of Toilets in their families		
Sl. No.	Facility of Toilets in the families	Percentage of children
1	Have	53.81
2	Have not	46.19
Total		100.00



Table 4.01 shows that 53.81% have enjoyed toilet facilities in their houses. Only 7 children are not using toilets who have the toilets. But the families of 46.19 % children have not the facility of toilet.

Sl. No.	Source of Drinking Water	Percentage of children
1	Well	0.09
2	Tube well	32.07
3	Public Tap	66.81
4	Others	1.02
Total		100.00

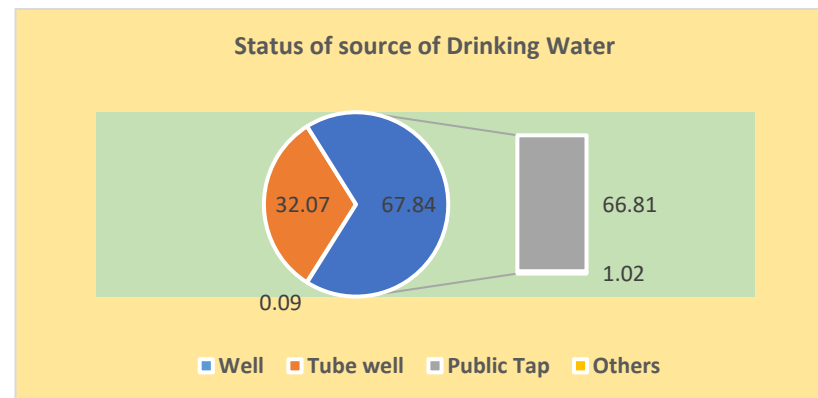


Table 4.02 shows that 66.81% children have used public tap as their source of drinking water followed by 32.07% children have used tube well as the source of drinking water. Only a negligible percentage of children have used well and other sources of drinking water.

Sl. No.	Working Children	Percentage of children
1	Working Children	0.72
2	Non- Working Children	99.28
Total		100.00

Sl. No.	Age	No. of Working Children (27)
1	14 Years	3.70
2	15 Years	7.41
3	16 Years	11.11
4	17 Years	40.74
5	18 Years	37.04
Total		100.00

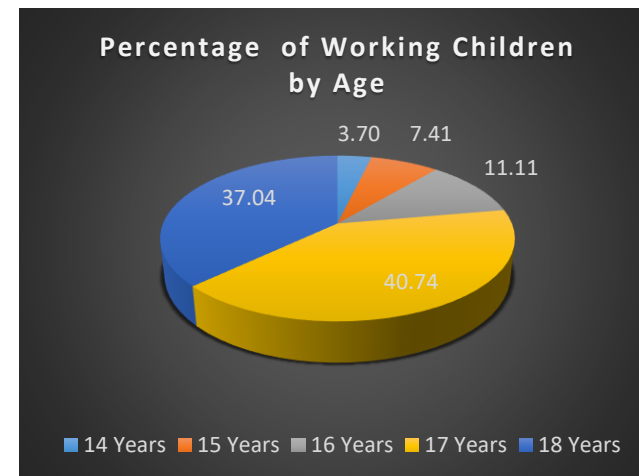


Table 5.01 And Table 5.02 reveals that only 0.72 % children are working and discontinuing their studies. All of them are boys. More than 80.00% are in the age of 16-18 years.

Table 5.03 Percentage Status of Working Children by Hours of Work		
Sl. No.	Hours of work	Percentage of Working Children
1	1-2 Hours	0.00
2	3-4 Hours	14.81
4	5-6 Hours	3.70
5	7-8 Hours	29.63
6	More than 8 Hours	51.85
Total		100.00

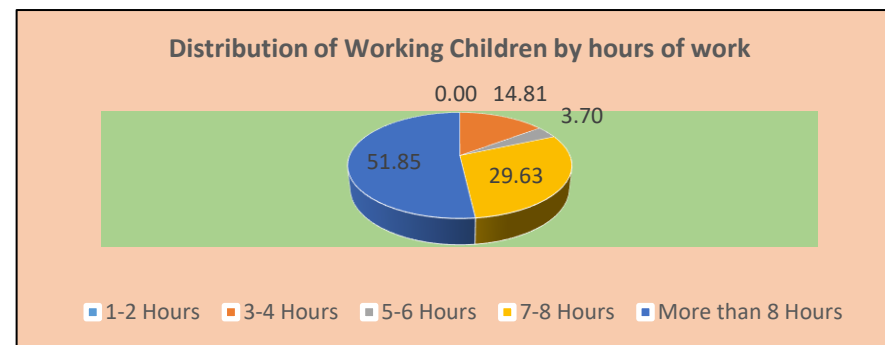


Table 5.03 depicts that 51.85% of working children have to work more than 8 hours. 29.63 % working children are working for 7-8 hours. And only 14.81% children have to work for 3--4 hours.

Tab;e-5.04 Percentage status of Working Children by Types of Work (N=27)		
Sl. No.	Types of work	Percentage of Working Children
1	Daily Labour	44.44
2	Agricultural work	0.00
4	Factory work	14.81
5	Work in shops	3.70
6	Work in other states (Migrant worker)	0.00
7	Biri Binding	7.41
8	Construction work	3.70
9	Pulling Rickshaw	0.00
10	Other odd jobs	25.93
Total		100.00

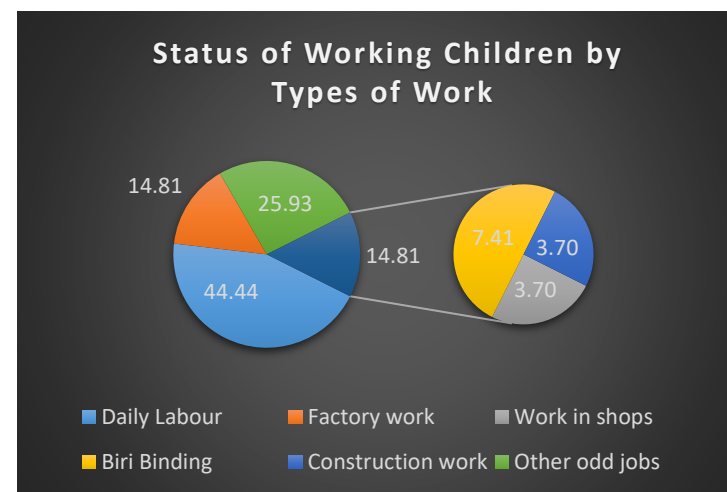
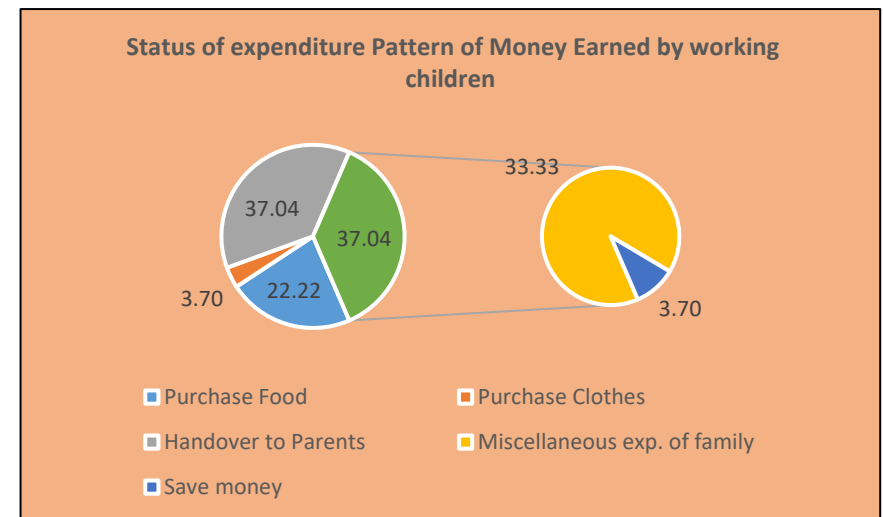
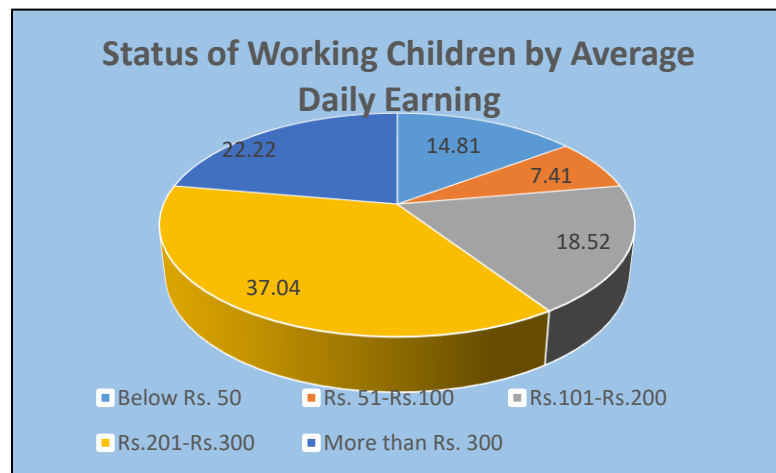


Table 5.04 describes the status of working children by types of work. Maximum percentage (44.00%) of working children are engaged as Daily Labour followed by 25.93 % are engaged in other odd jobs. It is to be noted that 14.81 % of working children have worked as factory worker.

Table 5.05 Percentage status of Working Children by Average Daily Earning (N=27)		
Sl. No.	Average Daily Earning	No. of Working Children(27)
1	Below Rs. 50	14.81
2	Rs. 51-Rs.100	7.41
4	Rs.101-Rs.200	18.52
5	Rs.201-Rs.300	37.04
6	More than Rs. 300	22.22
Total		100.00

Table 5.06 Percentage status of expenditure Pattern of Money Earned by working children (N=27)		
Sl. No.	Expenditure pattern	Percentage of Working Children
1	Purchase Food	22.22
2	Purchase Clothes	3.70
3	Handover to Parents	37.04
4	Miscellaneous exp. of family	33.33
6	Save money	3.70
Total		100.00

Table 5.05 & Table 5.06 describes the average daily earning and expenditure pattern of money earned by working children. It is noticed that 37.04% working children have average daily earning an amount of Rs. 201 to Rs. 300 followed by more than Rs. 300 average daily earning received by 22.22 % working children. 37.04 % of working children have handed over their earning to their parents and 33.33% of them have contributed their earning in miscellaneous expenditure of family. Only 3.70 % have saved their earnings.



Food Intake and Expenditure Pattern

Table 5.07 & Table 5.08-Sources of food & money spent on food

Table- 5.07 Percentage status of Sources of food of working children (N=27)		
Sl. No.	Sources of Food	No. of Working Children(27)
1	As against labour	59.26
2	From home	14.81
3	Buying food from shop	25.93
Total		100.00

Table- 5.08 Percentage status of Money spent (in Rs./-) on food per day of working children (N=27)		
Sl. No.	Money spent(Rs./-) on food per day	No. of Working Children(40)
1	Below 25	0.00
2	25-50	14.81
3	Above 50	85.19
Total		100.00

Table 5.07 shows that 14.81% children have consumed their daily food from home. The inter-relationships between poverty and nutrition are well known; poverty restricts access to food required to meet daily requirements or ensure dietary diversity and thus leads to malnutrition, while malnutrition can adversely affect educational and economic attainments. It is seen from the Table 5.08 that 14.81% working children have consumed food costing between Rs.25/- to Rs. 50/-, which is significantly low in present market scenario. Poverty and undernutrition coexist, and poor dietary quality is associated with poor childhood growth as well as significant micronutrient deficiencies. Food security is particularly vulnerable to changes in the economic scenario and to inequities in wealth distribution.

Table-5.09 Need of vocational training as expressed by Working Children		
Sl. No.	Vocational Training	No. of Working Children(27)
1	Computer	11.11
2	Mobile Repairing	29.63
3	Electronic Works	33.33
4	Food Processing	18.52
5	Others	7.41
Total		100.00

Table 5.09 envisages that 33.33% working children show their interest to Electronic works as their need of vocational training followed by 29.63% in mobile repairing. 7.41 % working children expressed their interest in other trades like tailoring, stitching, handicrafts etc.

Table- 6.01 Percentage distribution of children by sex by their extra curricular activities				
Sl. No.	Extra Curricular Activities	Sex		Total
		Boys	Girls	
1	Recitation	1.28	1.42	2.70
2	Recitation & Drawing	0.62	0.56	1.18
3	Instrumental	1.12	0.88	2.01
4	Singing	2.27	3.08	5.35
5	Singing & Recitation	0.21	0.27	0.48
6	Singing & Drawing	0.16	0.21	0.37
7	Drawing	3.18	2.11	5.30
8	Dancing	0.96	3.16	4.12
9	Dancing & Singing	0.86	1.90	2.75
10	Dancing & Drawing	0.08	0.35	0.43
11	None	40.41	34.90	75.31
Total		51.16	48.84	100.00

It is evident from the Table 6.01 that 5.35% children have their skills in singing , among them 3.08 % are girls followed by 5.30% children in drawing out of which 2.11% are girls. In case of recitation, out of 2.70% children, 1.28% are boys. It is to be noted here that 75.31% children have no such extracurricular activities comprising 40.41 % boys and 34.90% girls.

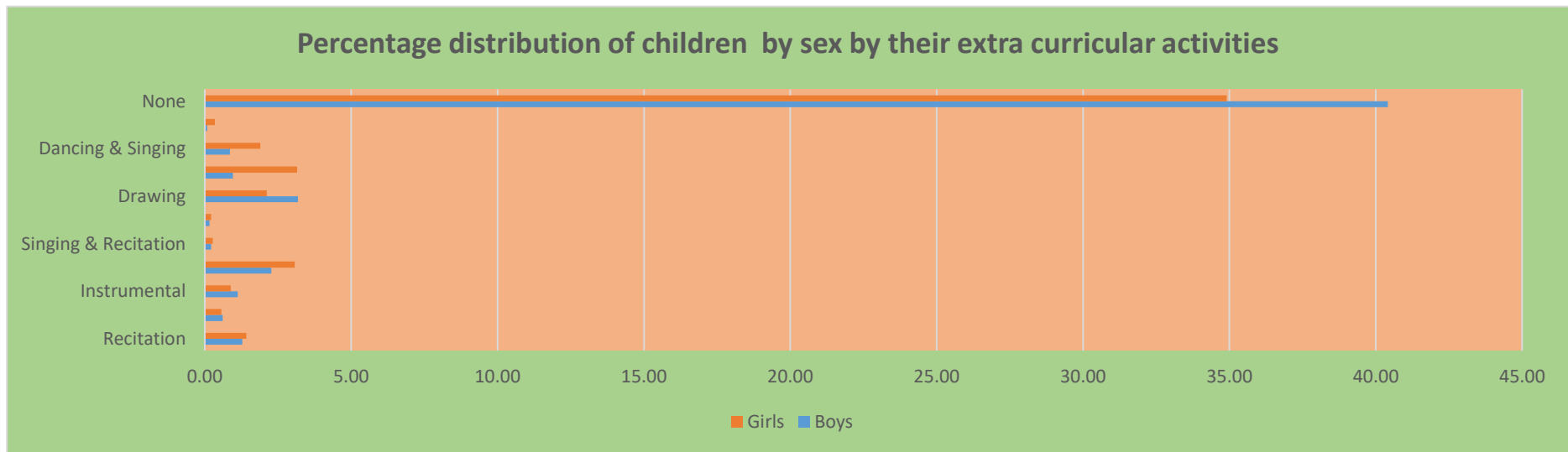


Table 7.01 Percentage status of health related chronic problems faced by children (N=244)				
Sl. No.	Health related problems	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Respiratory Problem	8.20	6.15	14.34
2	Skin disease	8.20	9.43	17.62
3	Headache	2.05	2.05	4.10
4	Stomach problem	4.51	6.56	11.07
5	Eye problem	6.97	1.64	8.61
6	Teeth problem	0.00	0.82	0.82
7	Body ache	17.21	22.13	39.34
8	Others	3.28	0.82	4.10
Total		50.41	49.59	100.00

Table 7.02 Percentage status of treatment options availed by the children for their Health related chronic problems (N=244)		
Sl. No.	Treatment Options	Percentage of Children
1	Quack Doctor	34.02
2	Health Centre	51.23
3	Block Hospital	8.61
4	Sub-Divisional Hospital	2.46
5	Kolkata	2.87
6	Other State	0.41
7	No Treatment	0.41
Total		100.00

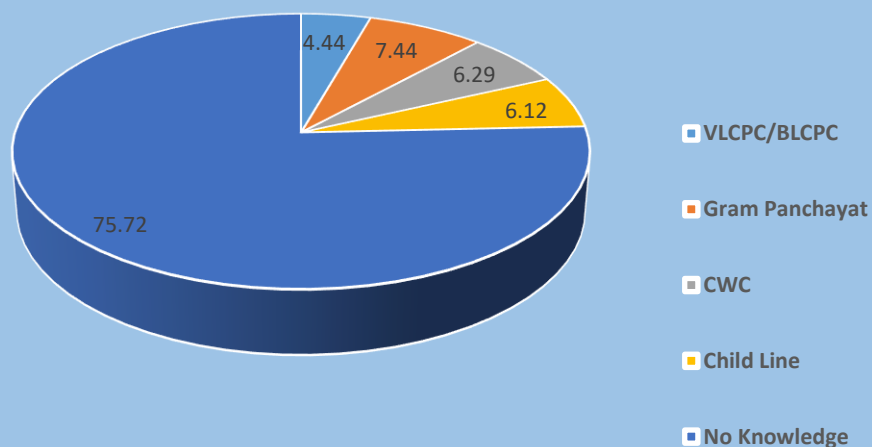
Poverty and poor health worldwide are inextricably linked. The causes of poor health for millions globally are rooted in political, social and economic injustices. Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor health. Poverty increases the chances of poor health. Poor health in turn traps communities in poverty. Infectious and neglected tropical diseases kill and weaken millions of the poorest and most vulnerable people each year. Though only 14.34 % of the surveyed eligible (6.52% children with health related chronic diseases) children are suffering from health related problems (Respiratory and Stomach problems), but 17.62 % of them are suffering from skin diseases and 39.34% are from Body ache.

Table 7.02 shows that 34.02 % children avail their treatment from the quack doctors. But the Stakeholders opine that non-availability of diagnostic tools and increasing reluctance of qualified and experienced healthcare professionals to practice in rural, under-equipped and financially less lucrative rural areas are becoming big challenges. Rural medical practitioners are highly sought after by residents of rural areas as they are more financially affordable and geographically accessible than practitioners working in the formal public health care sector.

Table- 8.01 Percentage distribution of knowledge about different village level , block level committees (Whom to meet at any problem) of children by sex (N=3739)

Sl. No.	Committees /Blocks	% of Boys	% of Girls
1	VLCPC/BLCPC	2.30	2.14
2	Gram Panchayat	3.96	3.48
3	CWC	3.42	2.86
4	Child Line	2.94	3.18
5	No Knowledge	38.54	37.18
Total		51.16	48.84

Percentage distribution of knowledge about different village level , block level committees (Whom to meet at any problem) of children



A CPC is a community based group including duty-bearers who are primarily responsible for creating and promoting a child- friendly and safe community environment wherein all children’s well- being, safety and rights are protected.

The ICPS mentions formation of Block, Ward and Village level CPCs. (point 6.5 and point 6.6 page 73, revised ICPS).

Village level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) : The village level Child Protection committees will be established in each village (Gram Samsad) of State for prevention, reporting, monitoring, protection and responding on the issues of child right and protection. The VLCPC will be a community based organisation formed by the participation of community member, children, Government functionaries and elected representatives. A total of six (6) seats will be reserved for female members including one girl as children representative

Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC) : BLCPC will consist of Block Welfare Officer, Sabhapati Panchayat Samiti (CP), Representative of District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) (Nominated by District Magistrate) Chairperson of VLCPC- Pradhan (Head of Panchayat)-all, Block Education Officer (as decided by BDO), CWPO of local Police Station, PLV to be nominated by DLSA, Nari –O- Shishu Kalyan Karmadhyaksha/ Secretary of Karmadhyaksha /BWO may be considered

Table 8.01 envisages that only 4.44% children have knowledge about VLCPC/BLCPC, 6.28 % knows about CWC and 6.12 % children has idea about Child Line. The point to be noted here that 75.72 % children has no idea about these committees/ local bodies.

Table-9.01 Percentage of status of children receiving of much care & love from parents by sex (N=3739)			
Sl. No.	Parents	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
1	From Father	5.48	5.05
2	From Mother	45.68	43.78
Total		51.16	48.84

Table 9.02 Opinion of children on who have shouted much at the the time of domestic quarrel			
Sl. No.	Parents	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
1	Father	25.49	25.57
2	Mother	24.42	22.92
3	Not Applicable (Father died)	0.59	0.21
4	Not Applicable (Mother died)	0.67	0.13
Total		51.16	48.84

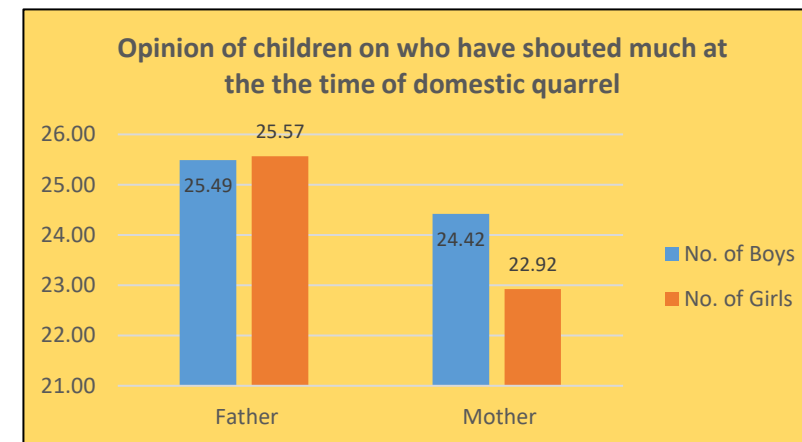
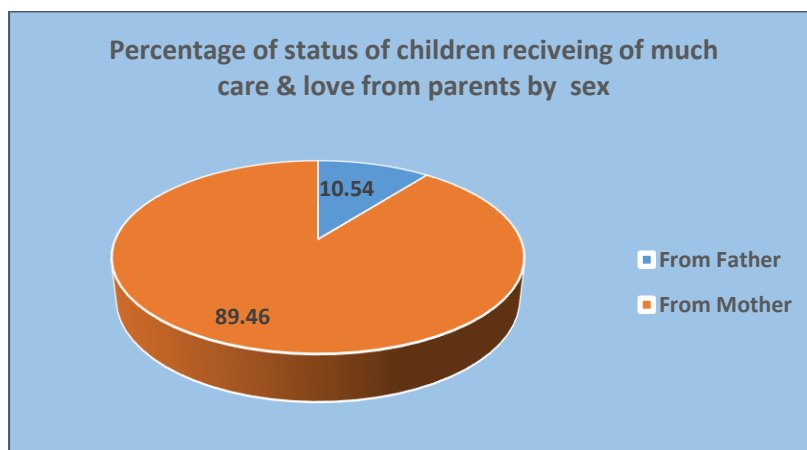


Table 9.01 shows that 89.46 % children opine that they have received much care and love from their mother, among them 45.68 % are boys and 43.78 % are girls. On the other hand only 10.53 % children opine that they have felt much care & love from their father, out of them 5.05 % children are girls and 5.48 % are boys. It is clear from the table that boys are getting much more care and love from their mother and the girls are getting it from their father.

Table 9.02 shows that 23.19% boys have expressed their opinion that fathers have shouted much at the time of domestic quarrel and 27.14% girls have opined that mothers have shouted much more at the time of domestic quarrel.

Table 9.03 Percentage distribution of opinion of children on the degree of quarrel reaches to clashes			
Sl. No.	Opinion	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
1	Yes	9.57	6.87
2	No	40.33	41.62
3	Not Applicable (Father died)	0.59	0.21
4	Not Applicable (Mother died)	0.67	0.13
Total		51.16	48.84

Table 9.04 Percentage distribution of opinion of children on their feelings at the time of quarrel of parents (N=3739)			
Sl. No.	Feelings	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
1	Anger	10.22	6.63
2	Sorrow	9.15	11.39
3	Make tears	9.44	20.43
4	Restlessness	14.60	9.74
5	Sorrow for Father	4.09	0.16
6	Sorrow for Mother	2.41	0.13
3	Not Applicable (Father died)	0.59	0.21
4	Not Applicable (Mother died)	0.67	0.13
Total		51.16	48.84

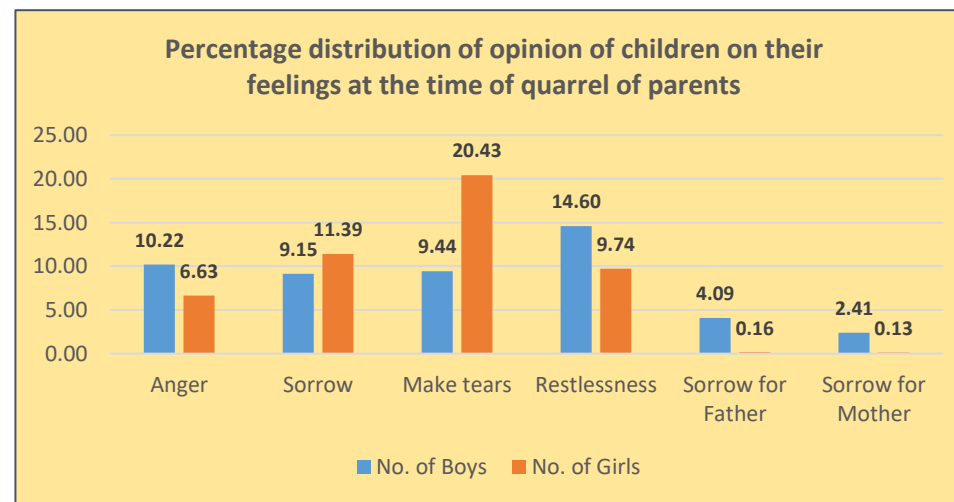
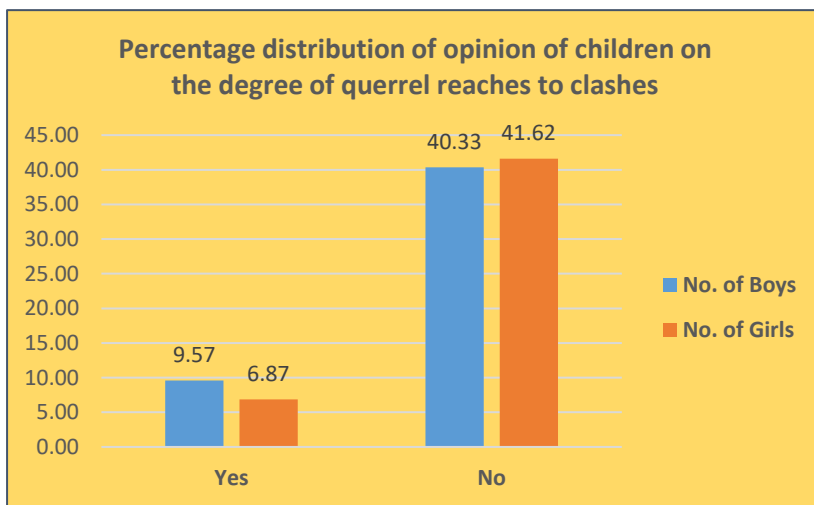


Table 9.03 depicts the opinion of children on the degree of quarrel among the parents. 16.44 % children have opined that the quarrel among the parents reaches to clashes.

Table 9.04 shows that 10.22% boys have expressed their anger; 11.39 % girls have felt sorrow; 20.43 % girls have made their tears and 14.60 % boys have felt restlessness at the time quarrel among their parents.

Table 10.01 Percentage distribution of girl children by age group by methods of using protection at the time of menstruation (N=701)				
Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Methods		Total
		Clothes	Sanitary Napkin	
1	12-15 yrs	27.82	30.81	58.63
2	16--18 yrs	14.98	26.39	41.37
Total		42.80	57.20	100.00

Table 10.02 Percentage distribution of girl children by age group by number & methods of cleaning clothes after using it as protection at the time of menstruation (N=300)					
Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Methods of cleaning clothes used as protection at the time of menstruation			Total
		Once daily with water	Once daily with soap	Twice daily with soap	
3	12--15 yrs	20.00	23.33	21.67	65.00
4	16--18 yrs	4.00	26.00	5.00	35.00
Total		24.00	49.33	26.67	100.00

Table 10.01 depicts that 42.80% children have used clothes as absorbent at the time of menstruation. Table 10.02 envisages that 26.00 % children who are using clothes as absorbent at the time of menstruation have cleaned the clothes once daily with soap at the age group of 16-18 yrs. followed by 23.33% at the age group 12-15yrs.

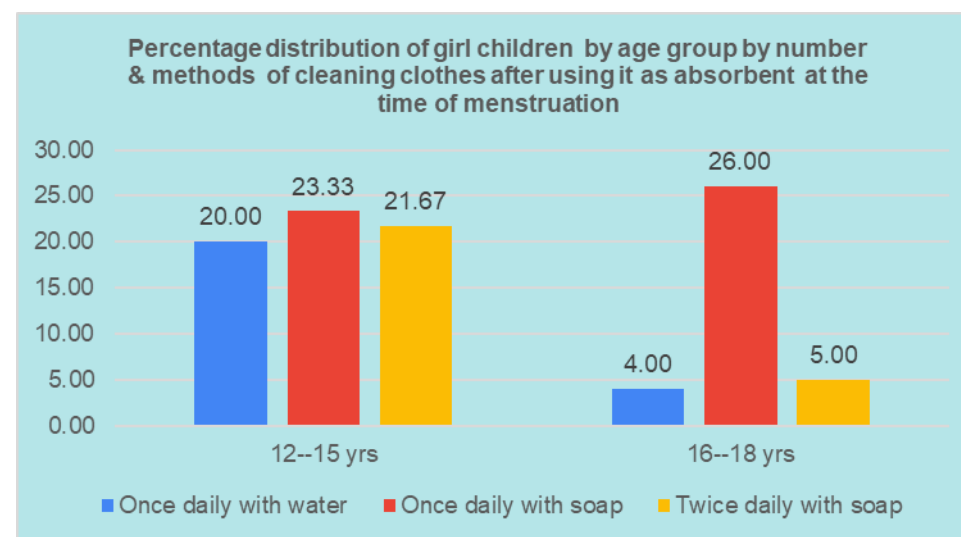
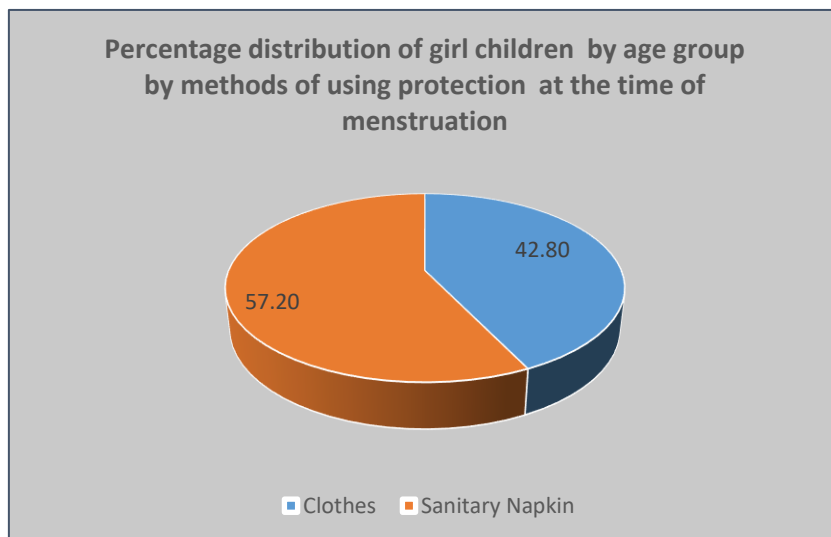


Table 10.03 Distribution of children by age group by maintaining different taboos at the time of menstruation (N=701)									
Sl. No.	Age Group(in yrs)	Taboos maintained							Total
		Not to touch pickles	Use Separate Bed	Not to eat sour	Not to enter in Temple	Not to take fish/Egg/meat	Not to exit from home	No Taboos maintained	
1	12--15 yrs	0.14	0.00	2.43	55.49	0.14	0.29	0.14	58.63
2	16--18 yrs	0.43	0.14	1.28	39.09	0.00	0.00	0.43	41.37
Total		0.57	0.14	3.71	94.58	0.14	0.29	0.57	100.00

Menstruation is a phenomenon unique to girls. However, it has always been surrounded by taboos and myths that exclude women from many aspects of socio-cultural life. In India, the topic has been a taboo until date. Such taboos about menstruation present in many societies impact on girls' and women's emotional state, mentality and lifestyle and most importantly, health. The challenge, of addressing the socio-cultural taboos and beliefs in menstruation, is further compounded by the low girls' knowledge levels and understandings of puberty, menstruation, and reproductive health.

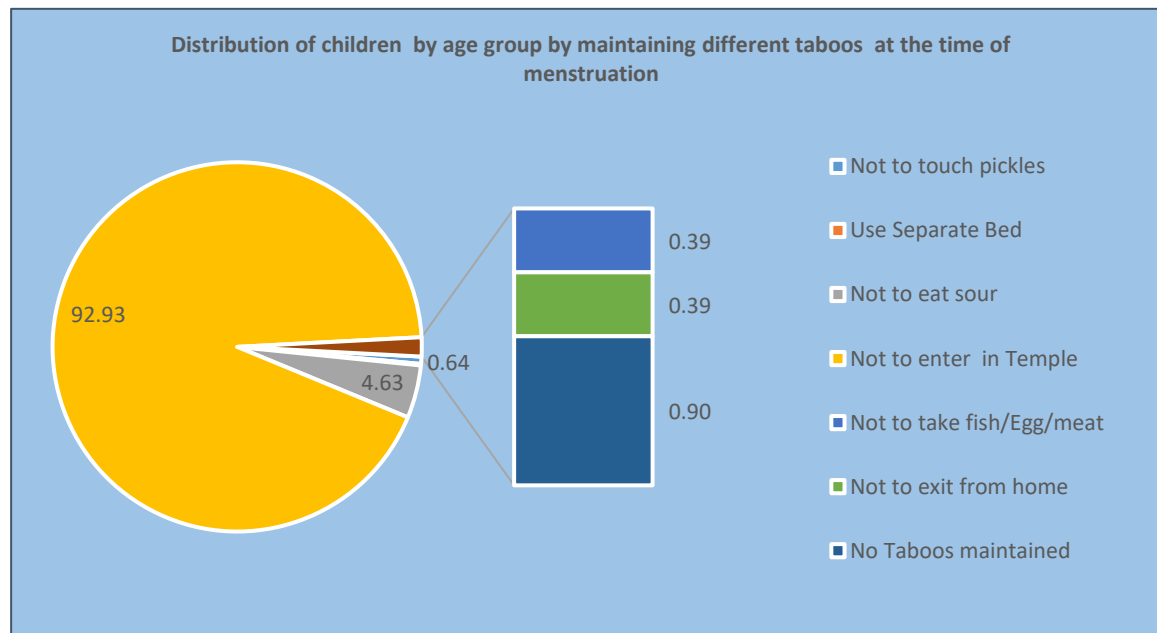


Table 10.03 shows different taboos followed by the girls at the time of menstruation. It is evident from their opinion that girls in the age group 12-15 years comprising 58.63% have indulged in various taboos at the time of menstruation. A major percentage of girls (94.58%) have maintained the taboo – not to enter in temple or in any deity places.

Personal Wellbeing Index of Children

The Personal Well-being Index: School children (PWI-SC) is a unidimensional and multi-item instrument developed by Cummins and Lau (3rd edition: 2005) for measuring personal well-being in school-aged children and adolescents. It uses an 11-point bipolar scale and is designed for self-administration. This instrument comprises seven items corresponding to satisfaction with the following life domains: standard of living, health, life achievements, personal relationships, personal safety, community connectedness, and future security. These seven domains are theoretically embedded as representing the first-level deconstruction of the global question “*How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?*”

We have run this tool to determine the personal wellbeing of the children among all the surveyed children. The domain and sub domain indicators are:

Sl. No.	PWI Domain	PWI Question Asked
1	Life as a whole	1.1 How happy are you with your life as a whole?
2	Standard of Living	1.2 How happy are you about the things you have? Like the money you have and the things you own?
3	Personal Health	1.3 How happy are you with your Health?
4	Achievement in Life	1.4 How happy are you with the things you want to be good at?
5	Personal Relationships	1.5 How happy are you about getting on with the people you know?
6	Personal Safety	1.6 How happy are you about how safe you feel?
7	Feeling Part of the Community	1.7 How happy are you about doing things away from your home?
8	Future Security	1.8 How happy are you about what may happen to you later on in your life?

Table 11.01: Personal Wellbeing Index of Children –Average Score

Sl. No.	PWI Indicator	Average Score of the Children	“On this scale, zero means Children feel VERY SAD. 10 means Children feel VERY HAPPY. And the middle of the scale is 5, which means Children feel NOT HAPPY OR SAD.”
1	Life as a whole	4.95	
2	Standard of Living	4.91	
3	Personal Health	5.71	
4	Achievement in Life	4.85	
5	Personal Relationships	6.14	
6	Personal Safety	5.15	
7	Feeling Part of the Community	5.44	
8	Future Security	4.52	

Analysis of the Personal Wellbeing Index of children, it reveals that the life as whole, the average score of the children is 4.95 i.e. just below the point **NOT HAPPY OR SAD**. Except Standard of living, achievement in life and future security, the average score of the children is greater than 5.00 i.e., they are in the region of **HAPPY** scale.

Table 11.02: Personal Wellbeing Index of Children –Mean Average

Sl. No.	PWI (Mean Average)	Percentage of children
1	Less than 2	0.00
2	2.10-2.99	0.25
3	3.00-4.99	8.48
4	5	4.74
5	5.1-6.99	59.85
6	7.00-7.99	16.21
7	8.00-9.00	10.47
8	9.00-10.00	0.00

When we analyse the Table 11.02, on the Mean average of the PWI of children, it is noticed that only 8.63% are below average, 4.74% are just average and 86.53% children are above the average i.e. in happy region of the scale. Maximum children (59.25%) are in 5.10-6.99 region of the scale & only 0.25% children are in the 2.10-2.99 region of the scale.

Table 11.03: Personal Wellbeing Index of Children by Sex

Sl. No.	PWI (Mean Average)	Percentage of Boys	Percentage of Girls
1	Less than 2	0.00	0.00
2	2.10-2.99	0.41	0.00
3	3.00-4.99	3.49	4.99
4	5	2.24	2.49
5	5.1-6.99	30.23	28.85
6	7.00-7.99	8.21	8.23
7	8.00-9.00	6.58	4.28
8	9.00-10.00	0.00	0.00

Table 11.03 shows PWI of children by sex & it shows that major percentage of girls are in the happy region of the scale. But 6.58 % of boys are in the 8.00-9.00 region of the scale and that of percentage of girls are 4.28%. It is to be worth mentioned that the response scale uses happiness, rather than satisfaction. While it is recognized that these two terms are not equivalent, they yield very similar data.

Stakeholders' Perspective on Special Issues Affecting Children

Qualitative data are interactively collected from a variety of stakeholders viz. health care providers (ANM, ASHA), health supervisor, AWW, AW Supervisor, PRI member, teachers, parents, SHG members, local clubs, local NGOs and any other stakeholders as the interviewer considers keeping in mind the 'maximum variation principle'.

Table S 1.1

Behavioral problems among the adolescent girls and boys (Stakeholders have Multiple Opinion)

Sl. No.	Behavioral problems	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for girls	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for boys
1	Very silent	33.33	0.00
2	Unmindful	22.22	0.00
3	Cannot trust others	22.22	11.11
4	Always busy in cell phone	100.00	100.00
5	Addiction in social sites like Facebook, WhatsApp etc.	100.00	100.00
6	Getting married madly	0.00	0.00
7	Madly love	22.22	22.22

8	Eve teasing	0.00	11.11
9	Excessive pressure to the parents to fulfill their demands	22.22	33.33
10	Tendency to flee away from home	11.11	22.22
11	Tremendous disobedience	0.00	88.89
12	Inclination towards addiction	0.00	100.00
13	Depression	33.33	22.22
14	Less interested in education	11.11	33.33

Regarding behavioral problems among the adolescent girls and boys all the stakeholders opine that both the boys and girls are always busy in cell phone and addicted in social sites like Facebook, WhatsApp etc..33.33% of stakeholders opine that girls are very silent and suffering from depression. Again 33.33% of stakeholders expressed their views that boys have exert excessive pressure to the parents to fulfill their demands.

Table S 1.2

Types of abuse upon girls & boys from adults' perspective (Stakeholders have multiple opinion)

Sl. No.	Types of abuse	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for girls	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for boys
1	Physical abuse including beating etc.	22.22	11.11
2	Not providing food	11.11	0.00
3	Not allowing to go to school for work	44.44	11.11
4	Pressure to earn money	0.00	55.56
5	Pressure to earn money even in any illicit relation	0.00	0.00
6	Pressure to earn money even in illegal activities	0.00	0.00
7	Compel to have sex	0.00	0.00
8	Pressure to get married	33.33	0.00
9	Others	0.00	0.00
10	NA - no abuse	44.44	44.44

Regarding abuse upon girls & boys 44.44% stakeholders said that there is no abuse. On the other, 44.44% of them opined that girls are pressurised not to go to school for domestic work. 55.56% stakeholders strongly argued that boys are abused by their parents/ guardians to earn money for family. There are several reasons behind it. The community has faced recurring cyclone, flood in this area. For that reason, marginal communities are suffering from acute poverty. To combat the situation, they have forced their male children to involve in the income generation activities.

MARRIAGE

Table S 1.4
Opinion of stakeholders on Age of marriage of girls and boys

Sl. No.	Age of marriage	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for girls	Percentage of stakeholders expressed for boys
1	Below 14 years	11.11	Not asked
2	15-18 years	22.22	11.11
3	Above 18 years	66.67	Not asked
4	18-21 years	Not asked	33.33
5	Above 21 years	Not asked	55.56

In replying the question of age of marriage of girls, 66.67 percent stakeholders expressed that girls get married mostly above 18 years of age. 33.33% stakeholders opine that age of boys are married between 18-21 years of age and 22.22% have expressed their views that girls are being married between 15-18 years of age. They have also opined that the early marriage is prevalent in the area. It is also reflected from NFHS-5 data- If we take a quick journey over the numbers from NFHS 5 then we can notice that **1) Women age (20-24) years married before age 18 years – South 24 Parganas 41.9%** **2) Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%) – South 24 Parganas 13.1%** **3) All women age (15-49 years who are anaemic – South 24 Parganas 61.6 % .**

Unfortunately, assessment of nutritional status of adolescent girls has been the latest explored area of research particularly in rural India. Malnutrition prevails in rural areas due to low economic status, less awareness about the healthy diet of adolescent girls. Hence it is essential to assess the nutritional status of adolescent girls, especially in rural areas. The prevalence of anaemia among adolescents is also high leading to a series of other health issues. The adolescent along with their families fail to realize the need and importance of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) intake .

Due to cultural and religious customs and also ignorance of the people and also aspiration of more opportunity, behaviour, practice and attitude of the boys and men on the women and girls child, the status of women as well as girl child is very much deplorable. The women and girls child are physical tortured, sexual harassed by the male of the society. Due to patriarchal, cultural & custom the women as well as girls don't get any respect and dignity from the society and they are discriminated against at every step of the family as well as society.

Major Findings:

- i) We have noticed the maximum children (15.72%) belong to the families of daily labour parents whose educational level is below primary (Class V Pass), followed by 12.78 % of children of parents passed Upper Primary. It is evident that 47.62% children belong to families of daily labour followed by 38.91% children from the families whose main occupation is agriculture.
- ii) The maximum percentage of children are of religion Hinduism (95.06%), followed by the children of Islam 4.91%.
- iii) 1.77 % of children have different types of disability. Among them 45.45% children are physically challenged and only 33.33% of them have possessed disability certificate. But only 28.57% and 25.00% specially challenged children have their disability certificate who are vision impaired and have mentally challenged respectively.
- iv) 65.87 % children can read and write easily, 13.77% children have faced some problems in reading and writing and 6.12 % children cannot read and write at all.
- v) 64.91 % children are continuing their studies of which 32.71% are boys and 32.20 % are girls. 13.45 % children have left their studies, among them 7.46 % are boys and 5.99 % are girls. It is to be noted here that 2.83 % boys of age group 7-11 years have left their studies followed by 2.38 % boys of age group 12-15 years.
- vi) Out of 503 (13.45%) out of school children, 55.47 % are boys and 44.53% are girls. It is evident from the above table that maximum children are being dropped below class IV and the percentage of boys (23.66 %) is higher than that of girls (19.48%).
- vii) 47.66% girl children are enjoying the facility of the Kanyashree scheme. 10.83% girl children have applied for the same but yet to receive. 28.94% have not applied for the scheme till date and 12.56% are not applicable to apply due to their low age level.
- viii) 53.81% have enjoyed toilet facilities in their houses. Only 7 children are not using toilets who have the toilets. But the families of 46.19% children have not the facility of toilet.
- ix) 66.81% children have used public tap as their source of drinking water followed by 32.07% children have used tube well as the source of drinking water. Only a negligible percentage of children have used well and other sources of drinking water.
- x) Only 0.72 % children are working discontinuing their studies. All of them are boys. More than 80.00% are in the age of 16-18 years.
- xi) 51.85 % of working children have to work more than 8 hours. 29.63 % working children are working for 7-8 hours.
- xii) Maximum percentage (44.00%) of working children are engaged as daily labour followed by 25.93 % are engaged in other odd jobs. It is to be noted that 14.81 % of working children have worked as factory worker.
- xiii) 37.04 % working children have average daily earning an amount of Rs. 201 to Rs. 300 followed by more than Rs.300 average daily earning received by 22.22% working children.

- xiv) 37.04 % of working children have handed over their earning to their parents and 33.33 % of them have contributed their earning in miscellaneous expenditure of family. Only 3.70 % have saved their earnings.
- xv) 14.81 % working children have consumed food costing between Rs.25/- to Rs. 0/-, which is significantly low in present market scenario. Poverty and undernutrition coexist, and poor dietary quality is associated with poor childhood growth as well as significant micronutrient deficiencies.
- xvi) 33.33 % working children show their interest to Electronic works as their need of vocational training followed by 29.63 % in mobile repairing. 7.41 % working children expressed their interest in other trades like tailoring, stitching, handicrafts etc.
- xvii) 5.35 % children have their skills in singing , among them 3.08 % are girls followed by 5.30 % children in dancing out of which 2.11% are girls. It is to be noted here that 75.31% children have no such extracurricular activities comprising 40.41 % boys and 34.90 % girls.
- xviii) 14.34 % of the surveyed eligible (6.52% children with health related chronic diseases) children are suffering from health related problems (Respiratory and Stomach problems), but 17.62 % of them are suffering from skin diseases and 39.34% are from Body ache.
- xix) 34.02 % children avail their treatment from the quack doctors.
- xx) Only 4.44 % children have known about VLCPC/BLCPC, 6.28 % knows about CWC and 6.12 % children has idea about Child Line. The point to be noted here that 75.72 % children has no idea about these committees/ local bodies.
- xxi) 89.46 % children opine that they have received much care and love from their mother, among them 45.68 % are boys and 43.78 % are girls. On the other hand only 10.53 % children opine that they have felt much care & love from their father, out of them 5.05 % children are girls and 5.48 % are boys. It is clear from the table that boys are getting much more care and love from their mother and the girls are getting it from their father
- xxii) 25.49% boys have expressed their opinion that fathers have shouted much at the time of domestic quarrel and 24.42% girls have opined that mothers have shouted much more at the time of domestic quarrel.
- xxiii) 16.44 % children have opined that the quarrel among the parents reaches to clashes.
- xxiv) 42.80% girls have used clothes as absorber at the time of menstruation and 57.20 % girls have used sanitary napkin at that time
- xxv) It is evident from the opinion that girls in the age group 12-15 years comprising 58.63% have indulged in various taboos at the time of menstruation. A major percentage of girls (94.58%) have maintained the taboo – not to enter in temple or in any deity places.
- xxvi) Analysis of the Personal Wellbeing Index of children, it reveals that the life as whole, the average score of the children is 4.95 i.e. just below the point **NOT HAPPY OR SAD**. Except Standard of living, achievement in life and future security, the average score of the children is greater than 5.00 i.e., they are in the region of **HAPPY** scale.