

Street Children in Vietnam

Interactions of Old and New Causes in a Growing Economy



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13th November 2004

UNICEF definition and categorization

- Street Children are defined as children under 18 years old who spend most of their time on the street.
- 3 types:
 1. **Street-living:** Who cut ties with their family and live alone on the streets.
 2. **Street-working:** Who spend all their time or most of their time working on streets to provide income for their families or for themselves. These children have a home to return to and do not usually sleep on the streets.
 3. **Street-family:** Who live with their families on the streets.

Outline of This Presentation

1. Street children: who are they?
2. Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi situation
3. Old and new causes
4. Current protection and future investment
5. Correlation and dynamism between causes and situations
6. Formal street kids: Where are they now?

Terre des hommes Foundation definition

Children under 18 years of age, earning money through casual, street-based activities such as begging, scavenging, peddling, portering, shoe-shining, pickpocketing, petty theft..., and belonging to any one of the following categories:

MOLISA definition

- Street Children are children who leave their families, earn their living by themselves, have unstable working and living conditions; or wandering on the street with their families.
- There are 19,000 street children in 2003

Terre des hommes Foundation definition

Category	Definition from the category
A	Children who have run away from home or have no home
A1	<i>Sleeping on the street</i>
A2	<i>Sleeping off the street</i>
B	Children sleeping on the street with their family or guardian
C	Children living at home, but working in an "at risk" situation
D	Migrant child workers engaged in casual street activities
D1	<i>Sleeping on the street</i>
D2	<i>Sleeping off the street</i>

Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi Situation



1. Trends in number
2. Where are they from?
3. What do they do?

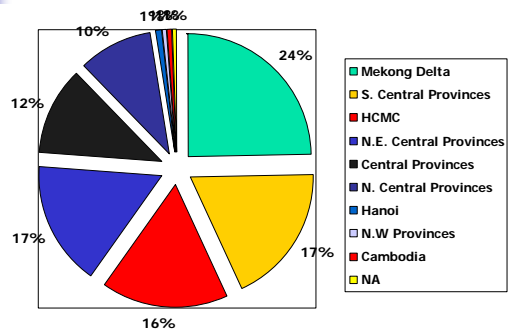
Ho Chi Minh City Situation

Where are they from?

According to the survey data in 1992, there were 49.5% of the children come from Mekong Delta and South Central Provinces which are not far from HCMC. Only 7.5% were Northern children.

Being an economic hub of Vietnam, HCMC now attracts more and more migrant workers from all over the country.

Ho Chi Minh City Situation



All nation situation

The annually statistical report data of MOLISA says that the total number of street children is on increase year by year.

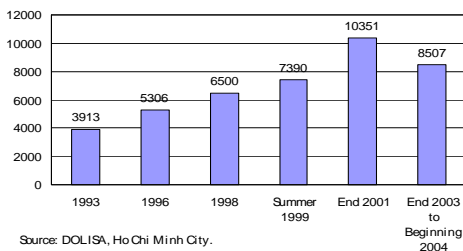
1997: 13,377

1998: 19,047

2001: 21,016

Ho Chi Minh City Situation

Street Children in Ho Chi Minh City



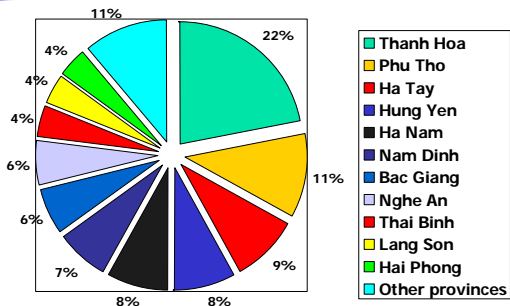
Hanoi Situation

Where are they from?

In the survey of Buom and Caseley in 1995, children from Thanh Hoa account for 27%, children from Hai Hung ranked second, 21%. Children from Hanoi itself (17%) and Ha Nam (14%) followed.

The hometowns of street children in Hanoi have changed somewhat and become more diversified after 9 years. The latest distribution of hometowns is shown in the next slide.

Hanoi Situation



I Broken Family Group

■ Traditional

This group includes children with extremely difficult family situations such as being orphaned or abandoned as a result of the death, divorce or separation of the parents, becoming a victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse, and the like.

Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi Situation

What do they do?

Jobs that street children undertake include scavenging, shoe-shining, street vending, begging, selling lottery tickets or lottery results, pick-pocketing and pilfering in the market.

Here again, however, we see some differences and trends according to gender, age, location, and survey years:

Boy/girl, small/older children, in Hanoi/HCMC

Most of them do more than two jobs at the same time.

A note on lottery tickets

II Mindset Problem Group

■ Mix of traditional and new

This is the case where the family enjoys relatively unbroken relations and an average standard of living but still sends children to work in the street due to the wrong attitude of the parents, children themselves, or other members of the family.

Old and New Causes



- Broken family Group (I)
- Mindset Problem Group (II)
- Economic Migration Group (III)

III Economic Migration Group

■ New

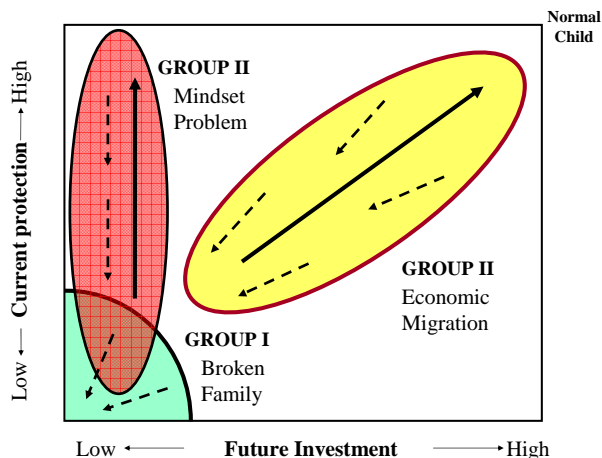
Children who are forced by poverty to migrate to urban areas to earn a living belong to this group. The important feature of this group is that the parents do not want to send their sons and daughters to drop out of school and take to the street, but they have no other choice given their economic situation.

Current Protection and Future Investment

- Current protections refers to whether or not the child is protected physically and mentally against various risks now so that his or her daily life is not excessively miserable or threatened
 - Physical and mental health, assault risk, job security, financial situations, shelters, adult protection and guidance, group protection.
- Future investment
 - formal schooling, private tutoring by volunteer teachers and classes offered by NGOs, vocational training, English class, computer etc.

Impedance for future investment:

- Financial factor.
- Time constraint
- Discipline and patience
- Encouragement



Correlation and Dynamism between Causes and Situations

- Typical situations and Aspirations
- Setbacks



Formal street kids: where are they now?

	Group	Current situation
Ms. A	I Broken Family	No future investment, heroin inhalation, no home, irresponsible family.
Ms. B	II Eco. Migration	Used to be street vendor, receptionist in mini hotel, now manages two mini hotels.
Ms. C	III Mindset Prob.	Drop out of school, selling and spending the earnings on for luxurious things.
Mr. D	II Eco. Migration	Heroin addicted and died.
Ms. E	II Eco. Migration	Selling in group, getting married to a boy seller, have one baby and still selling.
Mr. F	II Eco. Migration	Selling postcards, want to attend driving class, study travel guide book and do some unofficial tour guide, using heroin, now arrested and sent to Ba Vi detention center.

Correlation and Dynamism between Causes and Situations

	Aspirations	Setbacks
Group I Broken Family	Difficult, stay in the lower left corner	Get nearer to the corner point
Group II Mindset Problem	Move to the upper left point	Move vertically downward, do not move horizontally
Group III Economic Migration	Move vertically and horizontally to the bliss point	Move toward the left lower corner vertically and horizontally

Conclusion

- How to guide street children to the right paths?
 - Proper mix of current protection and future investment
 - Proper external intervention
 - Analysis and planning based on an effective classification of street children (Group I, group II, group III)



Thank you for your listening