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## A study on admission process of the inmates at Bal Kalyan Sankul

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### Abstract

This research explores the admission process and socio-demographic factors influencing the lives of children admitted to Bal Kalyan Sankul, Kolhapur. The study investigates the reasons for admission, the socio-economic background of the respondents, and their experiences within the institution. The findings emphasize the critical role of poverty, family instability, and inadequate access to education in driving children to institutional care. Recommendations include enhancing counseling services, improving living conditions, and developing comprehensive family support systems.

**Keywords:** Admission process, socio-demographic factors, Bal Kalyan Sankul, poverty and family instability, institutional care and support systems

### Introduction

Child welfare has been a critical focus area for social development, particularly in societies grappling with socio-economic disparities. In India, where traditional family structures like the joint family system once served as a safety net for vulnerable children, the evolving social dynamics and economic challenges have strained these protective mechanisms. Children who lose one or both parents referred to as orphans often find themselves in precarious situations, facing challenges related to emotional, material, and educational security. Institutions such as Bal Kalyan Sankul play a pivotal role in offering care, protection, and opportunities for growth to these children, ensuring they are not left behind.

The admission process at child welfare institutions is a critical entry point, determining how effectively the organization can address the diverse needs of the children it serves. Understanding this process provides valuable insights into the socio-economic and demographic factors that bring children into institutional care. It also highlights the strengths and areas for improvement in creating a supportive environment for their development. This research explores the admission process and the living conditions at Bal Kalyan Sankul, offering a deeper understanding of how such institutions bridge the gap for vulnerable children and aid in their holistic development.

The study also seeks to underscore the challenges faced by orphaned and economically disadvantaged children while exploring how institutions like Bal Kalyan Sankul respond to their needs. By analyzing the respondents' socio-demographic backgrounds and examining the organization's practices, the research sheds light on the critical role of child welfare systems in ensuring not only survival but also a foundation for a brighter future. Through these insights, this study aims to contribute to policy recommendations and practical solutions that can enhance the effectiveness of child welfare institutions in India.

### Review of Literature

Research on institutional care for vulnerable children has consistently highlighted the socio-economic and psychological challenges faced by orphans and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The review explores studies on the admission processes, living conditions, and psychological well-being of children in such institutions.

### Institutional Care and Admission Processes

The admission process for children into care institutions often reflects socio-economic disparities in society. Studies by Sharma and Gupta (2017) [6].

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Emphasize that poverty, loss of parental support, and lack of access to education are the primary reasons for institutional admissions. Similarly, Kumar *et al.* (2020) <sup>[3]</sup> argues that children from economically unstable families are more likely to enter institutional care due to limited parental capacity to provide for their educational and developmental needs.

Living conditions in child care institutions significantly influence the well-being of inmates. According to Das *et al.* (2018) <sup>[2]</sup>, institutions often struggle with resource constraints, which affect the quality of services provided. However, institutions like Bal Kalyan Sankul focus on creating a safe and nurturing environment, providing children with education, basic needs, and a sense of security. Research has highlighted the psychological effects of institutional care on children. Bose (2019) <sup>[1]</sup> found that children in institutional settings often experience emotional distress due to separation from their families. This distress can manifest as anxiety, depression, or behavioral issues. However, consistent counselling and emotional support can significantly mitigate these challenges (Roy & Mishra, 2021) <sup>[5]</sup>.

Family support plays a crucial role in shaping the future of children, even those in institutions. Studies by Patel and Singh (2016) <sup>[4]</sup> indicate that maintaining familial ties, where possible, helps in the emotional and social development of children. Community-based rehabilitation models are also effective in reintegrating institutionalized children into society.

Education is a cornerstone for improving the prospects of children in care. A study by Verma (2020) <sup>[7]</sup> highlights the importance of vocational training and scholarships in enabling children to break the cycle of poverty. Institutions that prioritize education tend to produce better long-term outcomes for their wards.

### Objectives

1. To understand the socio-demographic background of the respondents.
2. To study the admission process and living conditions at Bal Kalyan Sankul.

### Methodology

The research was conducted across five departments within Bal Kalyan Sankul, Kolhapur, under the District Probation and After Care Association. 20 from each department were selected by using purposive sampling method. The Data collection involved interviews, observations, and analysis of institutional records. The study primarily focused on children aged 12-18 years residing at the institution.

### Conclusions

Based on the study "A Study on Admission Process of the Inmates at Bal Kalyan Sankul," the following conclusions are drawn:

#### Socio-Demographic Background of Respondents

- **Age Distribution:** Most of the respondents are in the 13-18 age group, indicating a focus on adolescents who require structured care and education during a critical phase of development.
- **Urban Representation:** Approximately 51% of respondents are from urban areas, reflecting a trend of urban poverty and family instability driving children into institutional care.

- **Education Levels:** Most respondents have education only up to the secondary level, primarily due to economic challenges faced by their families. This highlights the need for institutions to prioritize educational opportunities for long-term empowerment.

#### Reasons for Admission

- **Parental Loss:** A significant number of respondents have lost one or both parents, primarily fathers, which has led to their admission into the institution. This aligns with the broader definition of orphans and underscores the vulnerability created by parental loss.
- **Economic Instability:** Nearly 47% of respondents were admitted due to their parents' poor economic status, which prevented them from providing for their children's education and basic needs. Poverty emerges as the major determinant of institutionalization.

#### Family Structure and Parental Influence

- **Family Size:** About 36% of respondents come from families with 2-4 members. While smaller family sizes provide an opportunity for focused care, economic constraints still overshadow the benefits of compact family units.
- **Parental Education and Occupation:** Fathers generally have a higher level of education than mothers, and most parents are engaged in daily wage work. This indicates a correlation between low parental education, informal employment, and children's admission to care institutions.

#### Living Conditions in Bal Kalyan Sankul

- **Facilities and Safety:** Respondents report that they feel safe within the institution and that their basic needs are met. This reflects the organization's efforts to provide a secure and supportive environment.
- **Recreational Activities:** Most respondents enjoy hobbies such as playing games and watching television, which contribute to a balanced lifestyle and emotional well-being.

#### Emotional and Psychological Well-Being

- **Family Relationships:** A majority of respondents maintain a loving relationship with their families, emphasizing the importance of continued familial ties for emotional stability, even within institutional care.
- **Mental Health Challenges:** Many respondents experience mental stress or disabilities due to family problems. This finding underscores the urgent need for consistent counseling services and psychological support within such institutions.

#### Organizational Support and Development

- **Educational and Career Support:** Bal Kalyan Sankul provides opportunities for education and personal development, enabling respondents to work toward better career prospects. The organization plays a crucial role in alleviating the adverse effects of poverty on the children's future.
- **Focus on Safety and Security:** Respondents feel secure within the institution, reflecting effective organizational practices to safeguard children and provide a nurturing environment.

### Broader Social Implications

- **Poverty as a Root Cause:** Poverty remains the most significant factor driving children into institutional care. Addressing systemic poverty and providing economic support to vulnerable families can help reduce dependency on institutions.
- **Gender Disparities:** The lower educational levels among mothers compared to fathers highlight the need for broader gender equity initiatives to empower women and improve family stability.

### Summary of Conclusions

The study reveals that the admission process and subsequent care at Bal Kalyan Sankul are deeply influenced by socio-economic factors, familial instability, and the need for educational opportunities. While the institution provides a safe and nurturing environment, continuous improvements in counseling, career guidance, and family reintegration efforts are essential. Addressing the root causes of poverty and parental incapacity can ultimately reduce reliance on institutional care and foster better developmental outcomes for vulnerable children.

### Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, several suggestions can be made to enhance the admission process and overall care provided at Bal Kalyan Sankul. These suggestions aim to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the respondents and improve their quality of life.

### Strengthening Educational Support

The institution should prioritize educational initiatives tailored to the respondents' needs. Offering vocational training, scholarships, and tutoring programs can help bridge the educational gap caused by economic hardship. Collaborating with local schools and colleges can also create pathways for higher education and skill development, empowering the children for long-term success.

### Enhancing Counselling Services

Many respondents experience mental stress due to family problems and life circumstances. Therefore, the institution must strengthen its counselling and psychological support services. Employing qualified mental health professionals and organizing regular therapy sessions can help address emotional and psychological challenges. Group counselling and peer support activities could also foster resilience and emotional well-being.

### Promoting Family Reintegration

Efforts should be made to strengthen the relationship between respondents and their families. Family counselling sessions and workshops on parenting skills can prepare families to better support their children upon reintegration. Where reintegration is not feasible, ensuring regular communication and fostering a sense of belonging can mitigate feelings of abandonment among the children.

### Economic Upliftment of Families

Since poverty is a major factor driving children into institutional care, initiatives should be undertaken to economically empower families. This could include linking parents to income-generation programs, providing access to government welfare schemes, or offering micro-loans to start small businesses. Such measures could reduce

dependency on institutional care and enable families to provide for their children.

### Creating a Holistic Development Framework

The institution should adopt a more comprehensive approach to child development. This includes organizing extracurricular activities, sports, and arts programs to nurture talents and interests beyond academics. Life skills training, such as communication, decision-making, and problem-solving, can prepare the children for independent living.

### Raising Community Awareness

Awareness campaigns about the role and services of Bal Kalyan Sankul can help reach more families in need. Community education programs should also emphasize the importance of education, child welfare, and gender equality. Engaging community leaders and stakeholders can create a support system for vulnerable families.

### Improving Admission Procedures

Streamlining the admission process with clear guidelines and criteria can make it more accessible and efficient. Conducting periodic reviews of the process can identify gaps and areas for improvement. Digitalizing records and implementing technology-driven solutions can further enhance the transparency and effectiveness of the process.

### Advocating for Policy Support

Collaborating with government bodies to advocate for better policies and resources for child welfare institutions is crucial. Enhanced funding, stricter monitoring of care standards, and support for training staff can improve the overall functioning of such organizations. Additionally, policy reforms to address systemic poverty and ensure children's rights are essential for long-term impact.

By implementing these suggestions, Bal Kalyan Sankul can not only improve the lives of its current residents but also serve as a model for other child welfare institutions in addressing the complex needs of vulnerable children.

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