



PRESENTED BY THE PROJECT

**THE RIGHTS OF UNDERPRIVILEGED MIGRANT
CHILDREN IN HO CHI MINH CITY**



A SURVEY OF SHELTER CHILDREN¹

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¹ In this survey, the concept of “Shelter Children” is construed as children/youth who are living or used to live at Little Rose Warm Shelter, Green Bamboo Warm Shelter and Social Professional Integration project under the management of Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Association (HCWA).

I. Introduction and background

The shelter based child rehabilitation model consists of Green Bamboo Warm Shelter (GBWS), Little Rose Warm Shelter (LRWS) and Social Professional Integration project (SPI). Child beneficiaries of these projects are children/youth in street situation, orphans, child victims or those at high risk of violence, labor & sexual abuse. They are at the age range of 8-18; many of the children come from different provinces and a few from Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC).

The shelter model was founded in the '90 (1993 – 1994) with a view to provide disadvantaged children safe housing, meals, psychological therapy, schooling, vocational training, job placement, recreational activities, etc. In the early years of the '90 in HCMC, there were many kinds of disadvantaged children (Afterwards, Vietnam Laws on Protection, Care and Education mentioned these children as children of special circumstances), especially street children. By childrenphasizing the urgent need to cope with that situation, doing something positive for the lives of disadvantaged children, HCWA came up an idea of "Street Children Club of Cau Muoi" (in 1998, its name changed to Green Bamboo Warm Shelter), funded by Terre des hommes Laussane (Switzerland) to provide rehabilitation services for street boy children and "Nha Be Warm Shelter" (in 2000, its name changed to Little Rose Warm Shelter) for girl children.

In 2002, HCWA created the model of Social Professional Integeation House (its name changed to Social Professional Integeation project afterward) funed by Terre des hommes (TDH) Laussane (Switzerland) to provide rehabilitation services for older street children aged at and over 16 years old. At this age, they are no longer legitimate to staying in the shelter/dropping center, which means that these children have to leave the shelter while they cannot afford an independent life. HCWA created 2 SPI houses. From the good results of the model, HCWA and TDH Lausanne replicate other 5 SPI houses in HCMC and Can Tho province.

Since 2005, the shelter-SPI models received financial support from Danish International Development Agency/Danish Vietnamese Association (DANIDA/DVA), Danish companies and individuals, namely: Danish Embassy to Vietnam funding GBWS (period of 2005-2012); DVA funding LRWS (period of 2005-2013) and SPI project (period of 2011-2013).

Since 2009-now, through DVA, HCWA received major funds from DANIDA to conduct Child Survival project (period of 2009-2012) and The Rights of Underprivileged Migrant Children in Ho Chi Minh City project (period of 2014-2017).

One of the main activities of The Rights of Underprivileged Migrant Children in Ho Chi Minh City project is to conduct the surveys on children: 1) Community Children, 2) Children in Street Situation, 3) Shelter Children.

With reference to Shelter Children survey (including questionnaires and group interviews), 5 mchildrenbers of the project team conducted the survey at GBWS, LRWS and SPI project.

II. Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the survey is to identify social reintegration possibilities of children after they left the shelter/SPI project and relevance of the model.

The specific objectives are to elaborate the questionnaires and identify their answers:

1. Problems that children/youths are facing and things of which they could be afraid;
2. Types of child abuses that children/youths often encounter;
3. Problems of children to have diseases and health care;
4. How children/youths and their relatives perceive/assess the possibility of changing their lives in the future (level of social/family reintegration and job placement after leaving the shelter);
5. Needs of children/youths;
6. Differences between boy and girl interviewees on life and situation (Gender based analysis);
7. Relevance of the model

Based on the survey results and recommendations, HCWA/Shelters will have strategic plan appropriate for the improving of the shelter model and its rehabilitation services for its child beneficiaries.

III. Target group and scope of the survey

The target group consists of 50 children/youth who receive/used to receive support services from GBWS/LRWS/SPI project managed by HCWA at the age range of 8-30.

The scope of this survey was organized at the project sites of LRWS, GBWS and SPI project. 26 children from LRWS, 19 children from GBWS and 5 children from SPI project were selected at random to be child interviewees without assertiveness that they represent by age group, sex and job.

IV. Survey results

4.1. Quantitative results from using the questionnaire:

We conducted the survey through the questionnaire among 50 children/youth who receive/used to receive support services from GBWS (38%), LRWS (52%) SPI project (10%) (**Diagram 2**). there were 21 boys (42%) and 29 girls (58%) (**Diagram 1**).

50 children/youths are divided in the following age groups (**Table 1**):

- 9-12 yrs: 4 children (by 8%)
- 12-16 yrs: 10 children (by 20%)
- 16-18 yrs: 10 children (by 20%)
- Over 18: 26 children (by 52%)

Table 1: Children/youths interviewed as of age group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under 12 yrs	4	8	8	8
	From 12 yrs to 16 yrs	10	20	20	28
	From 16 yrs to 18 yrs	10	20	20	48
	Over 18 yrs	26	52	52	100
	Total	50	100	100	

Diagram 1: Children/youths interviewed as of sex

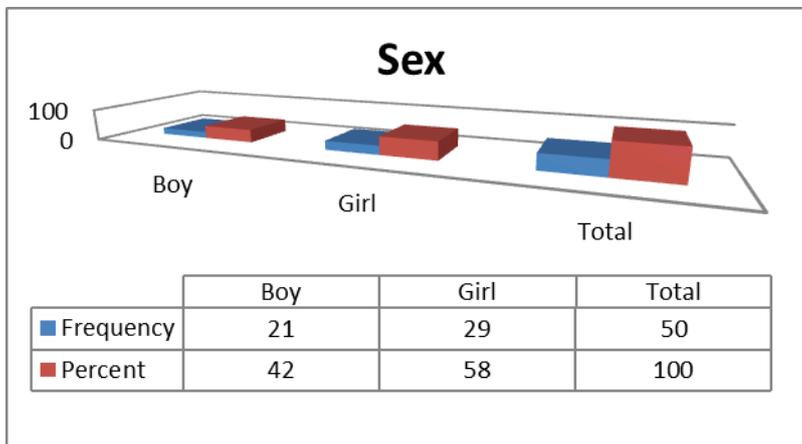


Diagram 2: Social organizations to have given/to give support to children

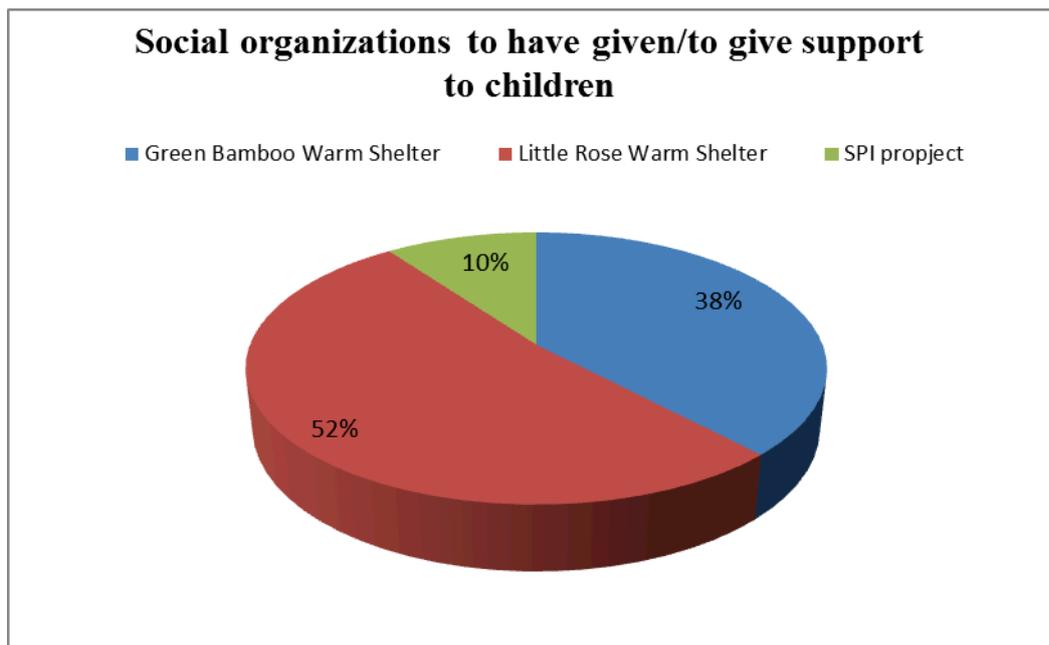


Diagram 3 and 4 showed that 80% of the child interviewees from different provinces moved to HCMC with different reasons as follows: Family background (difficult/poor/in-

debt) (by 52.5%); Looking for a new opportunity (by 25%); Moving to HCMC together with parents/relatives for living (by 15%); Family conflict (10%), etc.

Diagram 3: Province/City which children's parents come from

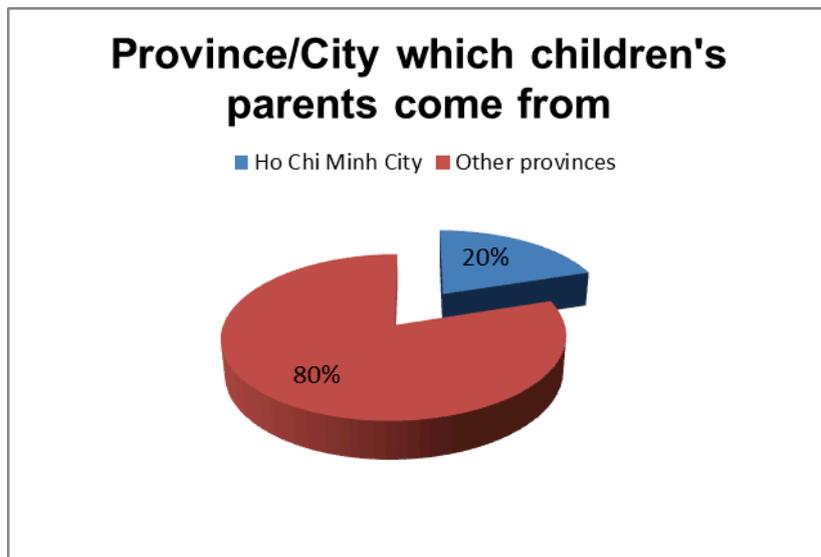
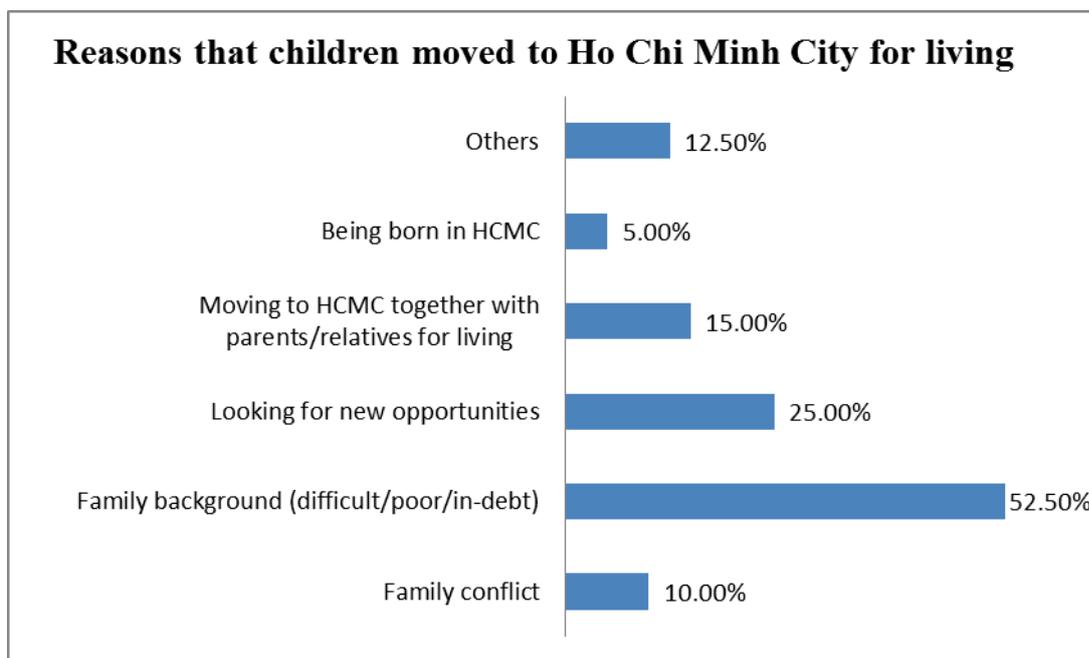


Diagram 4: Reasons that children moved to Ho Chi Minh City for living



Over 50% of children coming from other provinces told that they have lived in Ho Chi Minh City for over 5 years (**Diagram 5**).

Diagram 5: Period that children have lived in HCMC

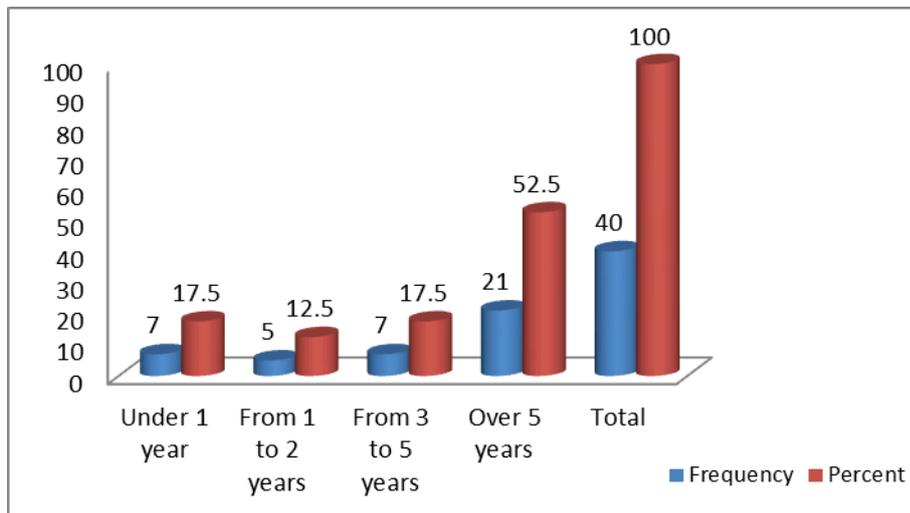


Table 2 is about children's educational status of child interviewees who are receiving/used to receive support services provided by the GBWS/LRWS/SPI project. The ratio of children going to school is higher those to stop schooling (58% / 48%). As the result of the survey shows that, most of the children stopped schooling at junior hi & high school level. Reasons that children dropped out of school are: Poor family (5/24 children), Earning money to support family (11/24 children); Family conflict (3/24 children); Failure to catch up with the rest of the class (2/24 children) and Others (**Table 3**).

Table 2: Children's educational status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Going to school	26	52	52	52
Dropped out of school	24	48	48	100
Total	50	100	100	

Table 3: Reasons that children dropped out of school

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Poor family	5	17,90%	20,80%
Earning money to support family	11	39,30%	45,80%
Dislike of schooling	1	3,60%	4,20%
Family conflict	3	10,70%	12,50%
Failure to catch up with the rest of the class	2	7,10%	8,30%
Others	6	21,40%	25,00%
	28	100,00%	116,70%

Diagram 6 showed that 80% children that receive/used to receive support services from GBWS/LRWS/SPI project have educational attainment level from junior hi, namely junior hi (52%), high school (24%), university/college/vocational school (4%), primary (18%), literacy (2%) – these children never went to school or had to stop schooling at grade 1. No case is illiterate.

Diagram 6: Educational attainment level

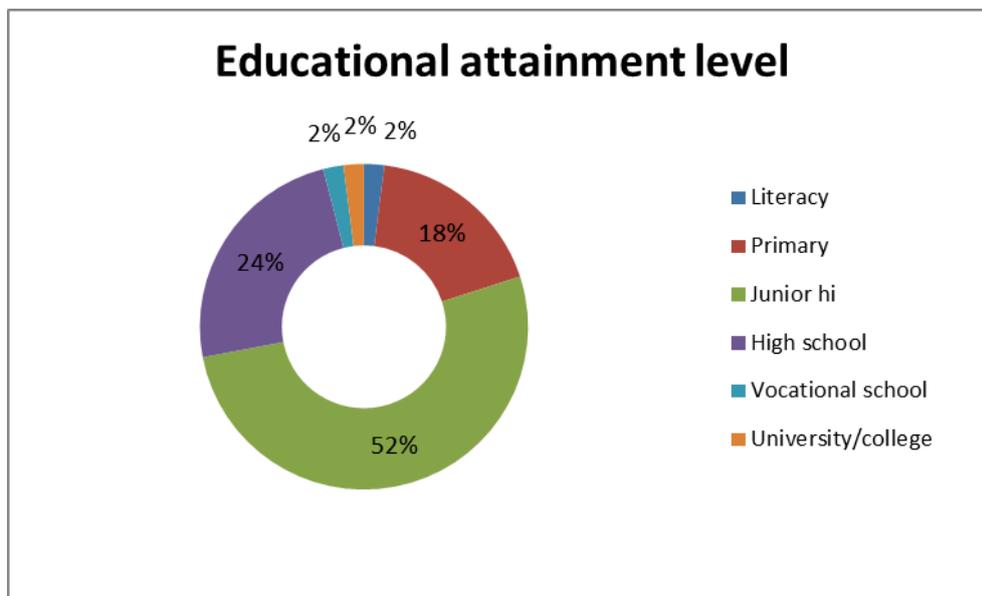


Table 4 is about legal papers of child interviewees who are receiving/used to receive support services provided by the GBWS/LRWS/SPI project. The ratio to acquire legal papers successfully has changed positively since the child beneficiaries were enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, namely Birth certificate (from 90% up to 94%), ID cards (from 20% up to 56%), Housing registration book (from 50% up to 52%), temporary residence card (from 8% up to 16%). Such figures mean that the reduction ratio of children having no legal papers was from 6% to 2%.

Table 4: Legal papers status of child interviewees

Kind of legal papers	Before enrolled in the shelter		After enrolled in the shelter	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Birth certificate	45	90.0%	47	94.0%
ID card	10	20.0%	28	56.0%
Housing registration book	25	50.0%	26	52.0%
Temporary residence card	4	8.0%	8	16.0%
No paper	3	6.0%	1	2.0%
Having no idea about it	2	4.0%	2	4.0%
Total	89	178.0%	112	224.0%

Before enrolled in the shelter, 86% of the child interviewees said that they had lived with their parent/parents or relatives; with adoptive parents (4%), with friends (2%), with educators of shelters/dropping centers (6%), with none (2%).

Diagram 7: Before enrolled in the shelter, those who used to take care of children are:

Before enrolled in the shelter, those who used to take care of children are

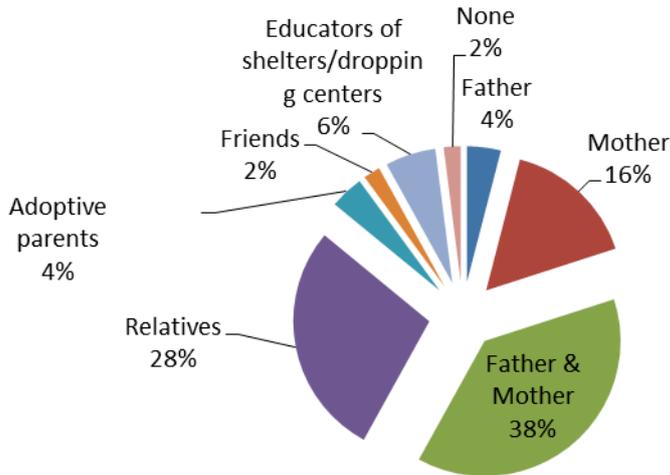


Diagram 8: Housing status of children before their being enrolled in LRWS/GBWS/SPI project

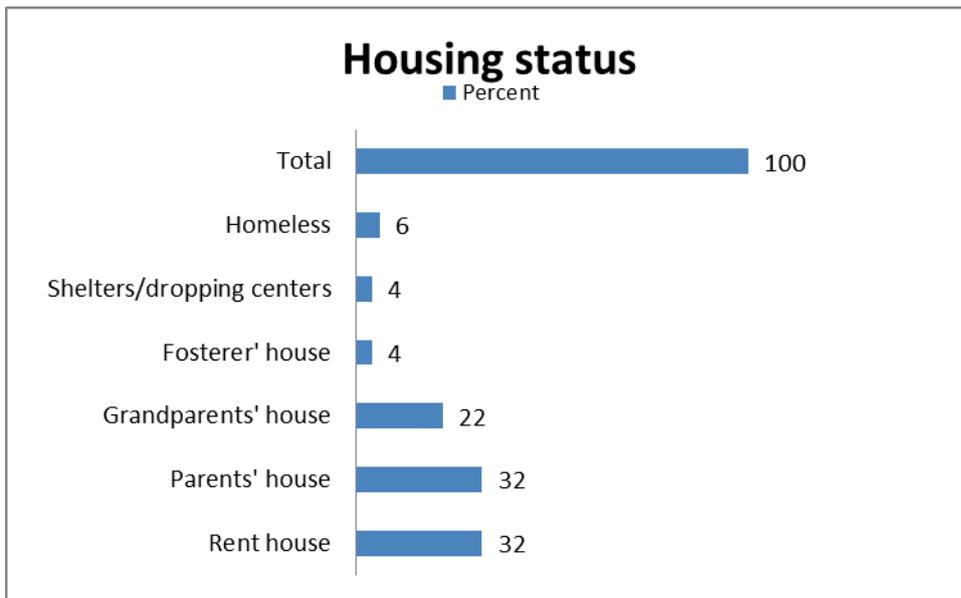
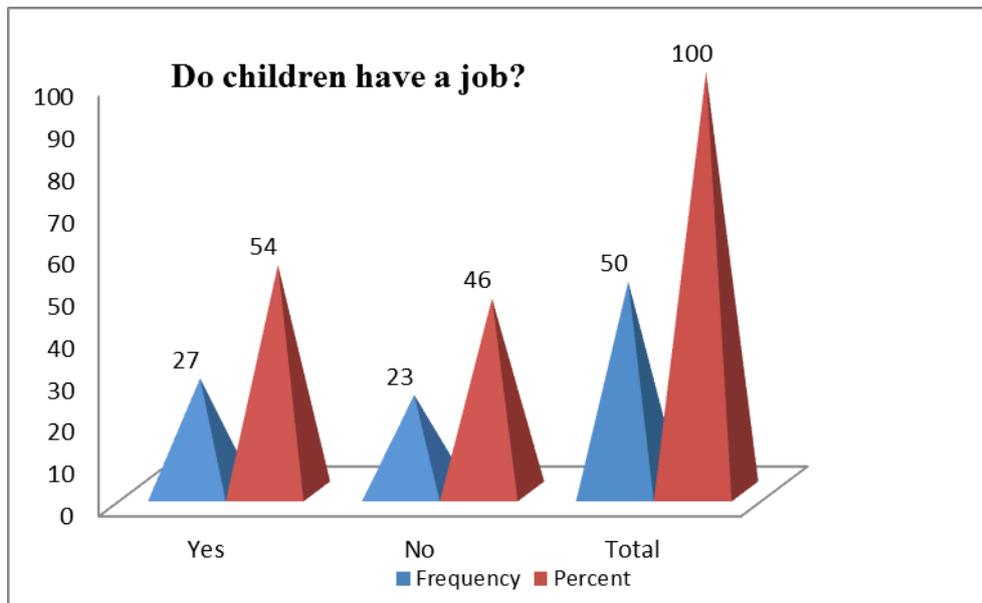


Table 5: Parents' marriage status

Parents' marriage status	Frequency	Percent
Living together	19	38
Divorced/separate	16	32
Father dead	2	4
Mother dead	2	4
Parents dead	5	10
Having a step-parent	1	2
Unknown	4	8
Others	1	2
Total	50	100

Diagram 9: Do children have a job?



Of 27 children to have jobs, 21 children (by 77.8%) said that they had been through job training for the following chosen jobs accounting, electricity, cooking, baking, manicure, hairdressing, skin care, hospitality, ect. Most of the children (26/27 children) shared wonderful experiences and interest in their jobs (by 96,3%) and 22/27 children (81,48%) expected to be engaged in such worthwhile pursuits.

100% of children having jobs were at and over 16 years old, consisting of 5/27 children at the age range of 16 – under 18, 22/27 children at and over 18 years old.

Diagram 10: Reasons that children have to work

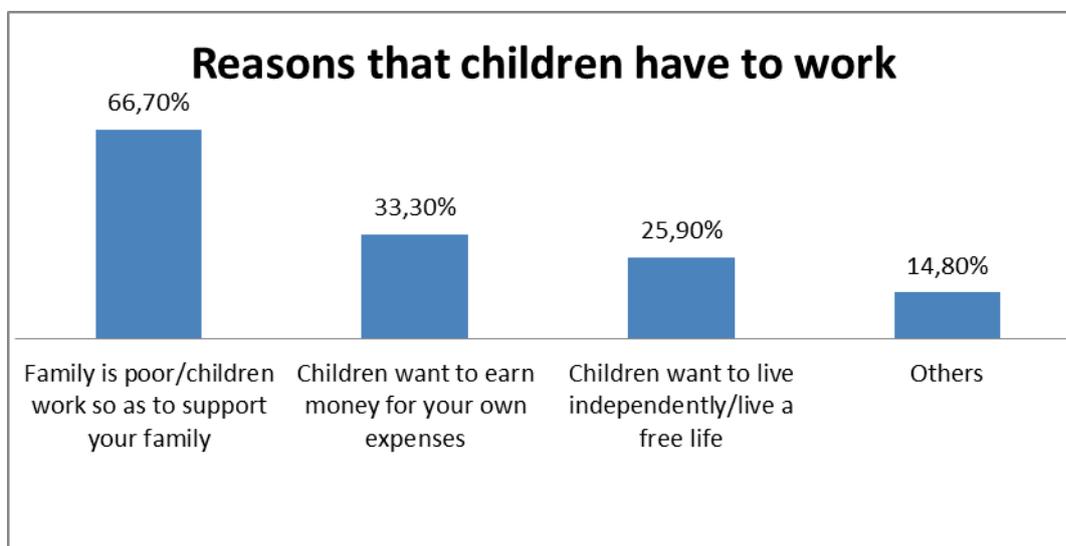


Table 6: Children's health status before and after being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

Health status	Before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project		After being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Normal	46	92.0	46	92.0

Not good	4	8.0	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

Table 7: Before and after being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, what children would do if they got sick

What children would do if they got sick	Before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project		After being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Buying medicine at the pharmacy	16	32.0	8	16.0
Asking their parents to take the children to the hospital/health institution	23	46.0	2	4.0
Asking the educators/social workers to take the children to the hospital/health institution	0	0	36	72.0
Going to the hospital/health institution by themselves	0	0	1	2.0
Doing nothing	11	22.0	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

Person whom children consider as important, can trust and share your inmost feeling with:

Diagram 11: Person whom children consider as important

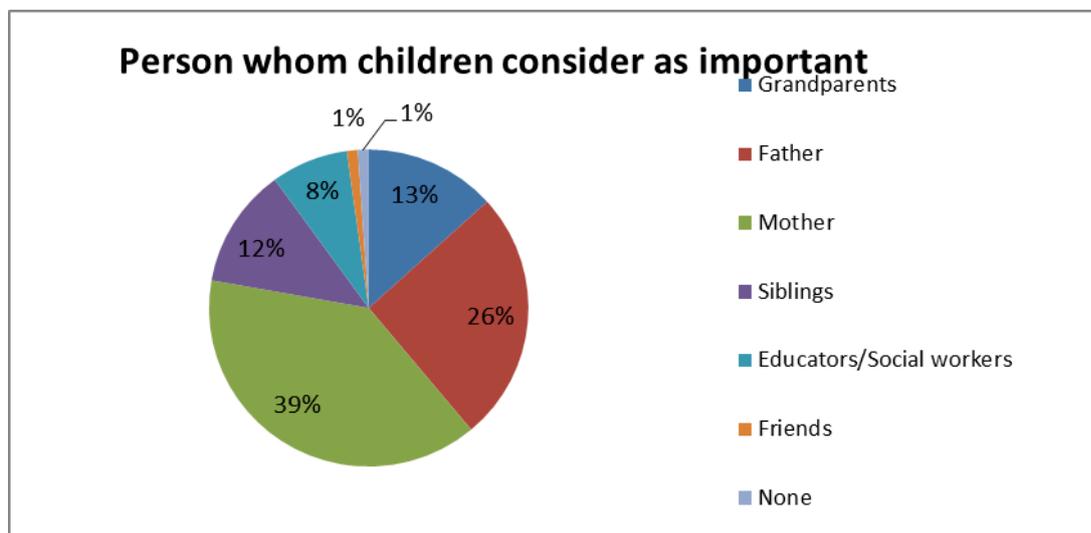
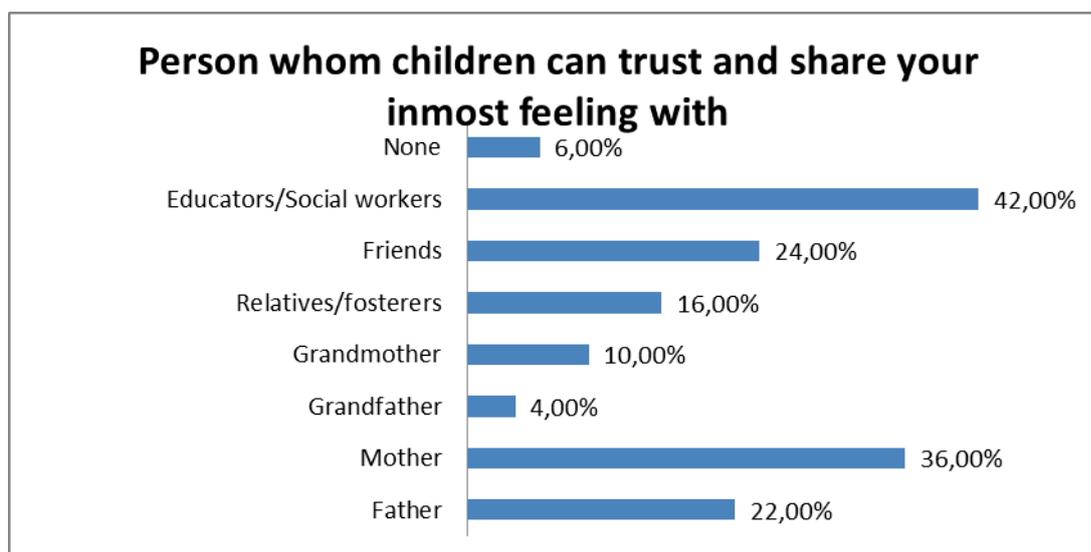


Diagram 12: Person whom children can trust and share your inmost feeling with



What children think are the most dangerous towards disadvantaged and street children and things which children have been through

Table 8: What children think are the most dangerous towards disadvantaged and street children

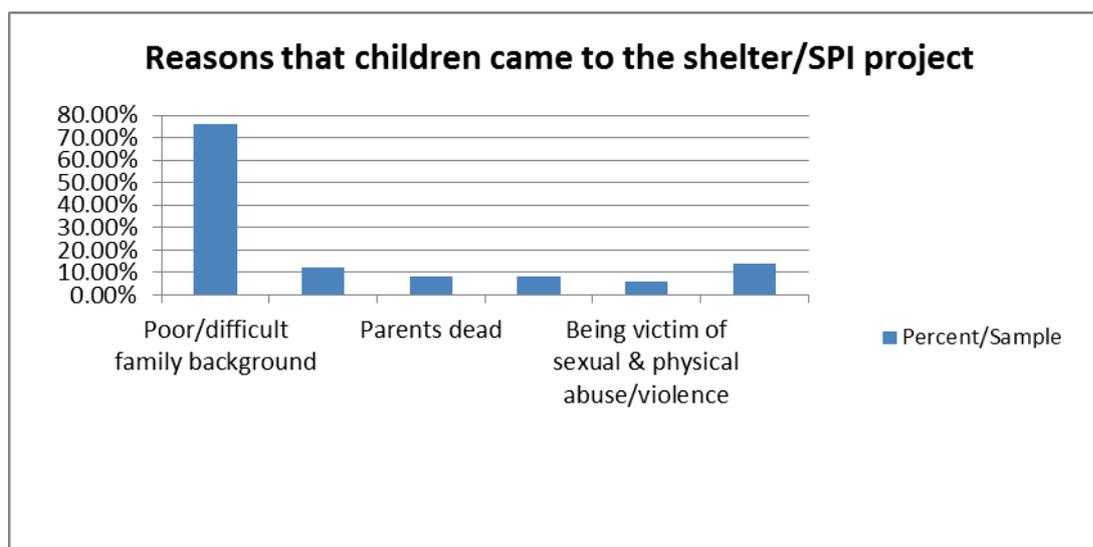
Description	Responses		Percent/ Sample
	N	Percent	
Drug addiction/use of illegal substances	38	16.20%	76.00%
Labor abuse (forced to work exhaustedly, forced to be a beggar, work without pay, etc.)	35	14.90%	70.00%
Sexual abuse	32	13.60%	64.00%
Not being in school	17	7.20%	34.00%
Accident (labor, traffic, etc.)	15	6.40%	30.00%
Laws violation/being in a jail	14	6.00%	28.00%
Poverty	12	5.10%	24.00%
Diseases	11	4.70%	22.00%
Living without future	10	4.30%	20.00%
Being trapped	10	4.30%	20.00%
Domestic violence	8	3.40%	16.00%
Being badly treated	7	3.00%	14.00%
Being looked down	7	3.00%	14.00%
Being deceived	5	2.10%	10.00%
Family conflict	4	1.70%	8.00%
Other violence	3	1.30%	6.00%
Homesick/remembering relatives	3	1.30%	6.00%
Experiencing a slump/failure in business	2	0.90%	4.00%
Being robbed	2	0.90%	4.00%
Total	235	100.00%	470.00%

Table 9: Things which children have been through

STT	Description	Responses		Percent/Sample
		N	Percent	
1	Homesick/remembering relatives	17	15.30%	34.00%
2	Labor abuse (forced to work exhaustedly, forced to be a beggar, work without pay, etc.)	14	12.60%	28.00%
3	Poverty	12	10.80%	24.00%
4	Being looked down	9	8.10%	18.00%
5	Accident (labor, traffic, etc.)	7	6.30%	14.00%
6	Diseases	7	6.30%	14.00%
7	Family conflict	7	6.30%	14.00%
8	Being deceived	6	5.40%	12.00%
9	Not being in school	6	5.40%	12.00%
10	Sexual abuse	4	3.60%	8.00%
11	Living without future	4	3.60%	8.00%
12	Domestic violence	3	2.70%	6.00%
13	Other violence	2	1.80%	4.00%
14	Being trapped	2	1.80%	4.00%
15	Experiencing a slump/failure in business	2	1.80%	4.00%
16	Being badly treated	1	0.90%	2.00%
17	Being robbed	1	0.90%	2.00%
18	Drug addiction/use of illegal substances	1	0.90%	2.00%
19	Nothing	6	5.40%	12.00%
	Total	111	100.00%	222.00%

Of 50 child interviewees, 4 children answered that they used to be sexually abused from a young age (under 12 years old); 3 of these child victims were abused by their acquaintances (Biological father, step-father, neighbor) and the other abused by a stranger.

Diagram 13: Reasons that children came to GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

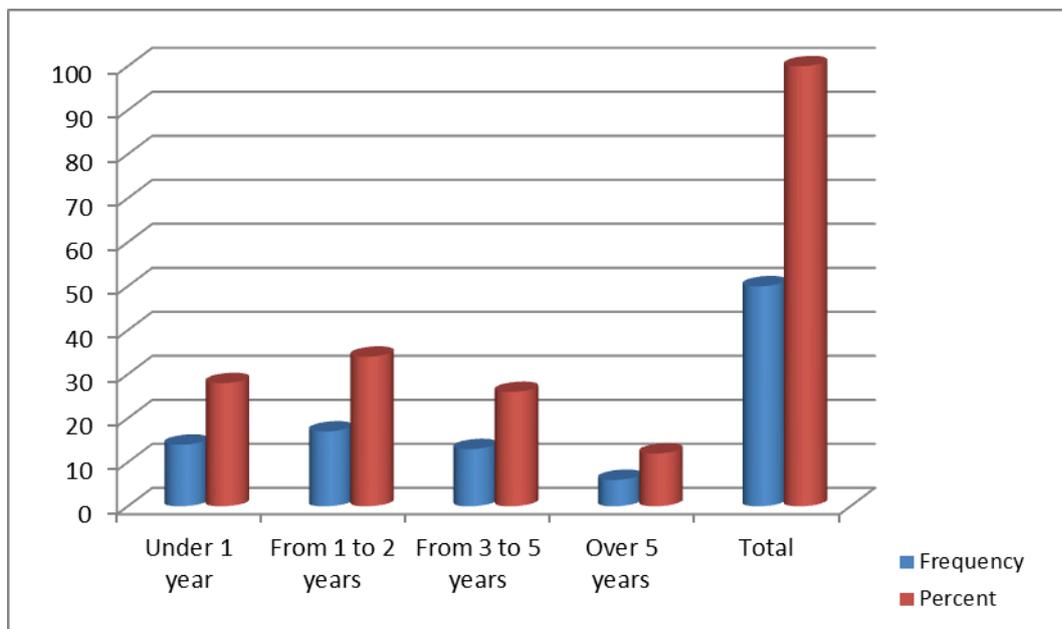


As Table 10 showed, GBWS/LRWS/SPI project provided essential services for its child beneficiaries, meeting basic rights of children according to Vietnam Laws on Protection, Care and Education of Children in 2004, namely the Rights to birth certificate and citizenship, care & nurture, health care, education, recreational activities, etc.

Table 10: Services that children benefit during their stay at GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

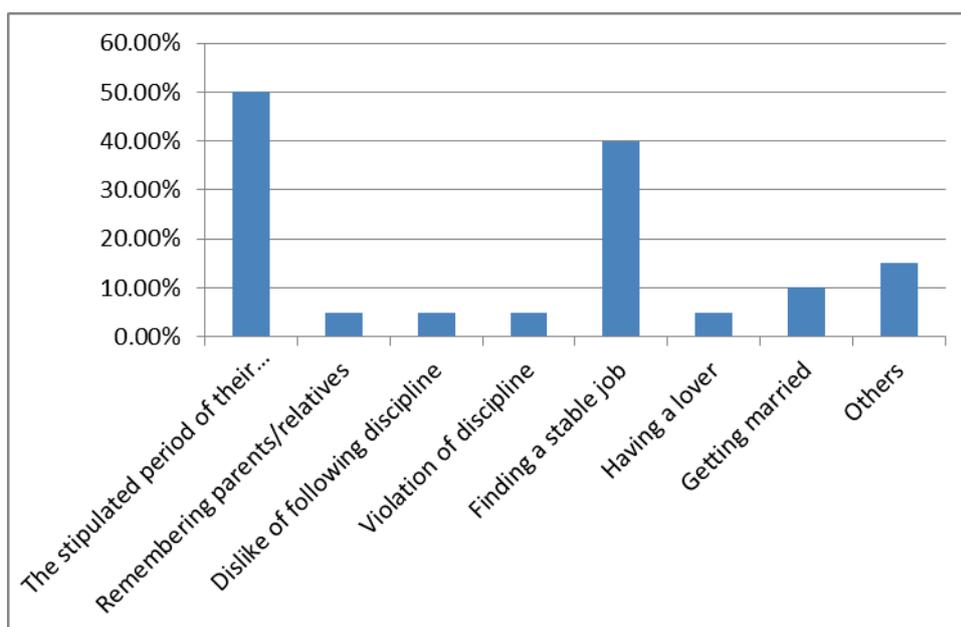
Description	Responses		Percent/the total of children to have left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project
	N	Percent	
Meals/safe housing	19	15.80%	95.00%
Health care	17	14.20%	85.00%
Schooling	16	13.30%	80.00%
Vocational training	16	13.30%	80.00%
Job placement	9	7.50%	45.00%
Legal papers	7	5.80%	35.00%
Soft skills/life skills	18	15.00%	90.00%
Recreational activities	17	14.20%	85.00%
Others	1	0.80%	5.00%
Total	120	100.00%	600.00%

Diagram 13: Period that you lived at GBWS/LRWS/SPI project



Of 50 child interviewees, 30 children (60%) are still child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project and 20 (40%) children left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project.

Diagram 14: Reasons that children left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project (Percent/total samples)



Of 20 children to have left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project,

- 2 children answered that GBWS/LRWS/SPI project kept in touch with the children very regularly;
- 8 children answered that GBWS/LRWS/SPI project kept in touch with the children regularly;
- 8 children answered that sometimes, GBWS/LRWS/SPI project contacted the children;
- 1 child answered that GBWS/LRWS/SPI project did not contact him .

The shelter educators contacted their child beneficiaries almost by telephone (14/20 children) (*Table 11*)

Table 11: the way that the educators contacted children after they left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

Description	Responses		Percent/total children to have left GBWS/LRWS/SPI project
	N	Percent	
Coming to children's house	3	11.5%	15.0%
By phone	14	53.8%	70.0%
Through another one	1	3.8%	5.0%
Children coming directly to GBWS/LRWS/SPI project	7	26.9%	35.0%
Others	1	3.8%	5.0%
Total	26	100.0%	130.0%

Over 90% children who used to receive support from GBWS/LRWS/SPI project highly appraised and felt satisfied with the services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project. With reference to the regulations of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, 90% children answered that the regulations were appropriate (*Table 12, 13 and 14*)

Table 12: Children to appraise the services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very good	32	64.0	64.0	64.0
Good	14	28.0	28.0	92.0
Fair	3	6.0	6.0	98.0
Average	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Table 13: Children's level of satisfaction during their stay at GBWS/LRWS/SPI project

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very satisfied	23	46.0	46.0	46.0
Satisfied	25	50.0	50.0	96.0
Somewhat satisfied	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Table 14: Level of relevance of GBWS/LRWS/SPI's regulation that children appraise

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very relevant	28	56.0	56.0	56.0
Relevant	21	42.0	42.0	98.0
No relevance/Need of change	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Table 15 is about things that children consider as important to the children. The top five most important things appraised by child interviewees are good health (60%), good/stable job (58%), a bright future (56%), literacy and numeracy (46%), family/to be protected (46%).

Table 15: Things that children consider as important

Description	Responses		Percent/ Sample
	N	Percent	
A good health	30	13.10%	60.00%
A good/stable job	29	12.70%	58.00%
A bright future	28	12.20%	56.00%
Literacy and numeracy	23	10.00%	46.00%
Family/to be protected	23	10.00%	46.00%
Supporting parents/relatives	21	9.20%	42.00%
Job	20	8.70%	40.00%
Love	17	7.40%	34.00%
Money	8	3.50%	16.00%
To be respected/well treated	8	3.50%	16.00%
Meals/Clothes	6	2.60%	12.00%
Avoiding drug addiction	5	2.20%	10.00%
Recreational activities	4	1.70%	8.00%
Returning home	4	1.70%	8.00%
Friends	2	0.90%	4.00%
A good teamwork	1	0.40%	2.00%
Total	229	100.00%	458.00%

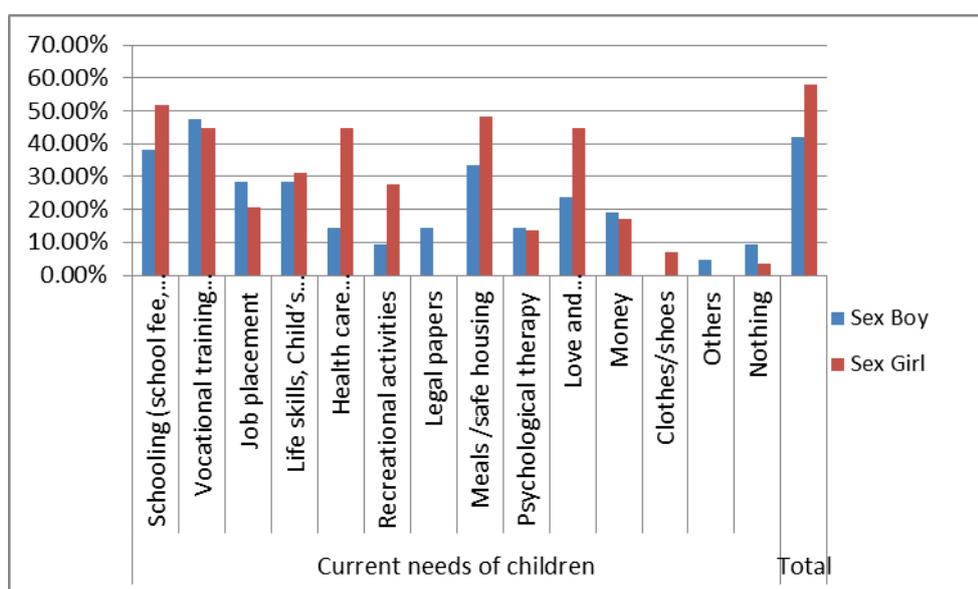
When asked about the present needs, child interviewees answered that they expected to get support about schooling (school fees, school tools, bicycles); vocational training (vocational fees, vocational tools); meals /safe housing; love and care/counseling in a timely manner; health care (medicine, health care); life skills, child's rights, etc.; job placement, recreational activities; money, psychological therapy... (**Table 16**).

Table 16: Current needs of children

Description	Responses		Percent/ Sample
	N	Percent	
Schooling (school fees, school tools, bicycles)	23	14.10%	46.00%
Vocational training (vocational fees, Vocational tools)	23	14.10%	46.00%
Meals/safe housing	21	12.90%	42.00%
Love and care/counseling in a timely manner	18	11.00%	36.00%
Health care (medicine, health care)	16	9.80%	32.00%
Life skills, Child's Rights...	15	9.20%	30.00%
Job placement	12	7.40%	24.00%
Recreational activities	10	6.10%	20.00%
Money	9	5.50%	18.00%
Psychological therapy	7	4.30%	14.00%
Legal papers	3	1.80%	6.00%
Clothes, shoes	2	1.20%	4.00%
Others	1	0.60%	2.00%
Nothing	3	1.80%	6.00%
Total	163	100.00%	326.00%

- Group of girl interviewees have more needs of schooling, health care, meals /safe housing, love and care/counseling in a timely manner than group of boy interviewees.
- Group of boy interviewees have more needs of vocational training than group of girl interviewees (*Diagram 15*).

Diagram 15: Current needs of children classified by sex



4.2. Qualitative research method

The purpose of interview/group discussion is to learn more about and clarify the questionnaires. The survey team organized 3 group discussions among children/youth (1 group of child interviewees who currently benefit support from LRWS/GBWS/SPI project, 1 group of child interviewees to have left LRWS/GBWS/SPI project, 1 group of project managers and educators).

Each group interview/discussion lasted 1.5 to 2 hours. There were 3 persons in the survey group including 2 persons as interviewers/facilitators and the other one as a minute-writer (secretary). Before the interview started, the survey team introduced about the purpose of the survey, timeline and privacy policy.

Content of the group interview/discussion was based on schildreni-structured questions.

- Results of interview/group discussion among child interviewees

Results of interview/group discussion among child interviewees show that 100% child interviewees confirmed that support services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project were essential to the children. Meals/safe housing were appraised by both groups of girl and boy interviewees as the most necessary services, and schooling & vocational training as necessary services. The group of boy interviewees appraised support of legal papers and transportation subsidy for family reunion/family visit more than the group of girl interviewees while the group of girl interviewees appraised support of life skills, health care, recreational activities and psychological therapy more than the group of boy interviewees.

Most of child interviewees highly appreciated support services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project. However, some children told that a shelter educator had inappropriate behaviors to the children, namely beating and insulting child beneficiaries. They suggested that there should be a positive change in the educator's conduct working with children.

100% child interviewees wanted to change their present lives. As for former child beneficiaries, they expected to go to university, to be a good cook, a tailor owner, a bakery owner, etc and they said that the possibility to change positively (feasibility) was around 70%. Relating to children benefiting support services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, they expected to continuously stay in the shelters and live a merry life; to get support so as to complete grade 12, to attend vocational training. Remarkably, some children expected that the educator should have appropriate behaviors, not to vent her anger on child beneficiaries due to her own personal affairs. She needs to treat children equally, not to use violence, bad words, insulting child beneficiaries and their relatives.

- Results of interview/group discussion among project managers and educators of GBWS/LRWS/SPI

100% project managers and educators confirmed that support services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project were essential to child beneficiaries. However, the quality and quantity depend on the funds of the project. In the present situation that fundraising becomes more difficult, the number of child beneficiaries would have to be accordingly reduced. Meals/safe housing were appraised by the project manager and educators as the most necessary services to child beneficiaries.

With reference to the process of family reunion/family visit, the project managers and educators shared their experiences that when a child beneficiary had enough condition to have family reunion (to leave the shelter), the plan for this activity would be as follows: the educators provide counseling to the child and help her with a family reunion plan; contact the child's family and relatives for counseling, prepare for paper work, provide family reunion subsidy, etc. After the child to reunite with her family, the educators keep in touch

with the child via telephone, social media (facebook, zalo...), and/or meet the child directly at her family's house or her rent-house/workplace or the child come to meet the shelter. The period of post family reunion support is 6 months at LRWS and 3 months at GBWS and SPI project.

With regards to educator-child beneficiary relationship, 1/6 interviewees said that the relationship was very good and the other five appraised it with good level. However, most of the interviewees agreed that some child beneficiaries found it hard integrating with shelter environment. Consequently, they had inappropriate behaviors towards the educators; some of the children wrote letters insulting or threatening the educators.

As far as the need for change in educators/social workers is concerned, they said that in order to better the care and education of children, the educators/social workers needed a stable salary to pursue their career without any worry; to avoid personal children to affect their job responsibilities adversely; to work more fervently, not to feel consent, etc.

As far as the need for change in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project is concerned, they said that in order to better the care and education of children, the leaders of HCWA were required to provide support for/participate in raising funds/seeking financial support resources for the projects; to issue a clear management/authorization policy; to recruit more staff (GBWS suggested). In addition, the project managers/educators had the same points of view that GBWS/LRWS/SPI project needed stable funds to run continuously; there should be an evaluation for the shelter model to see whether it is still relevant or it should be replaced by another new model; children's awareness about positive thinking be raised; there needs to be an activity of care of caretakers, etc.

V. Analysing the data and the findings

5.1 Limitations of the survey

This survey is intended to underprivileged children/youths consisting of former and present child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project over the last 5 years, which is one of the limitations of the survey. In addition, there were other issues such as:

- The survey samples are not equally allocated to each age group.
- The survey sample does not attach special importance to criterion of gender and age groups, resulting in the unequal numbers between boy and girl interviewees and age groups.
- Capacity and experience of the survey team are limited.

The survey team finds that to some certain extent, the quality of the survey is affected by limited capacity and experience of the survey team and other objective conditions.

5.2 Problems that children have ever been through

Of 50 child interviewees, 14 children (28%) used to suffer labor abuse (forced to work exhaustively, forced to be a beggar, work without pay, etc), 12 children to be in poor/starving situation (24%), 9 children to be looked down (18%). Other things were traffic/labor accidents, diseases, family conflict, being deceived, not being in school (by 12% to 14%), etc. There were 4 children who told that they used to be sexually abused from a very young age (under 12 years old), 3 of these girl victims were abused by her acquaintances (biological father, aunt's husband, a neighbor) and a stranger (**Table 9**).

5.3 Relevance of shelter/SPI project models

Generally, shelter model provides essential services so as to meet basic rights of children according to Vietnam Laws on Protection, Care and Education of Children in 2004, namely the Rights to birth certificate and citizenship, care & nurture, health care, education, recreational activities, etc.

Over 90% of children to benefit support services provided by GBWS/LRWS/SPI project appraised that the services were within good to very good/satisfactory to very satisfactory level; and that GBWS/LRWS/SPI project's regulations were appropriate. However, in the group discussions, some boy interviewees who are the former and present child beneficiaries of GBWS suggested that, the method of education that this educator is using for teaching children is definitely not appropriate. She uses violent behaviors and bad words insulting child beneficiaries, which hurts children's feeling and causes them to get angry, act against and defy her. Some girl interviewees who are the present child beneficiaries of LRWS suggested that, the educators should treat them equally, giving more attention and care for children's feeling. When girl beneficiaries did something wrong the educators inclined to tell over and over again "Old stories" or applied the discipline of 3-day breakfast money cut" to any items and equipment of LRWS to be damage or lost. All the child interviewees expected that the shelter educators would have to change their ways of education, not to use violence, rebuke and biased opinion in teaching child beneficiaries. They should give love and respect to children, instead.

5.4 Perception of children toward their future

As the survey results show, 34% of child interviewees experienced homesick/remembering relatives; labor abuse (28%), poverty (24%), being looked down (18%), being deceived/trapped (16%), family conflict (14%), diseases (14%), not being in school (12%), sexual abuse (8%), etc. Staying aware of risks of danger in the street, children expect to live a better and safe life. In the group discussion/interview, 100% children wanted to change their present lives.

As far as the need for change of the present difficult life is concerned, each child beneficiary has plan/intention to change their lives positively. A good and stable job is a way out. However, children's vocational capacity and educational attainment level are low without legal papers and support resources. Nevertheless, all the child interviewees were confident that their future lives would be changed in positive way.

5.5 Needs of children

When asked about the present needs, child interviewees mentioned schooling (46%), vocational training (46%), meals/safe housing (42%) love and care/counseling in a timely manner (36%), health care (32%), life skills, child's rights (30%), job placement (24%). Other needs are recreational activities, money, psychological therapy and legal papers.

Most of child interviewees who have ever suffered financial difficulties and stopped schooling to work to support their family income realize how precarious their present lives are. Therefore, they value the importance of their future by having to go to school and to attend vocational training. Accordingly, their present needs are school fee, school tool, vocational fees and vocational tools.

Needs for meals/safe housing were appraised by child interviewees as necessity. 80% of child interviewees came from other provinces/cities. Over 75% of child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project had poor family background. 32% of children answered that they had stayed with their parents' houses before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, while the others said that they had stay in rent-houses, grandparents', shelters', fosterers' houses or homeless. After leaving GBWS/LRWS/SPI project with some positive changes,

namely legal papers, higher educational attainment level and stable jobs, children still had to live in guest houses. Meals/safe housing be their big needs.

60% of child interviewees living without parent(s) or living with stepparent(s) and 8% having no idea about their parents, the lack of family love is the rational for the children to have a need for love and care/counseling in a timely manner. Also, other children said that they missed their relatives/homesick (34%), were deceived (12%), were looked down (18%).

With reference to health status of children, before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, over 50% of children bought medicine at the pharmacy by themselves or did nothing when they got sick, which shows that they received less care from adults. After being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, this matter changed much better with a ratio of 70% of children to inform the educators of their sickness to get proper health care. 60% of child interviewees attach most importance to good health. As such, both former and present child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project have needs for health care.

As for life skills and child's rights, they are one of children's needs for self-protection as children stay aware of their present lives full of risks of drug addiction, labor & sexual abuse, traffic/labor accidents, laws violation/being in a jail, being looked down, being deceived, etc.

Accordingly, the present expectation and needs of children originate in their past difficulties.

5.6 Differences between boy and girl interviewees on life and situation (Gender based analysis)

As of the survey results, life and situation of former and present child beneficiaries are of similarity. Most of children came from poor and difficult migrant families. Family factors affect mostly children's life, namely house expenditures and family relationship. However, in regards to gender based analysis, there are some differences as follows: 17.6% of boy interviewees told that they left for Ho Chi Minh City due to family conflict, while the ratio for girl interviewees is only 4.3%. On contrary, 69.6% of girl interviewees left for Ho Chi Minh City due to difficult family background/poverty/debt, while the ratio for boy interviewees is 29.4%. The rationale for such differences is that, 66.7% of boy interviewees to have ever lived/to live in the situation that their parent(s) died got divorced/separated or they did not have any information on their parents; while the ratio for girl interviewees is 41.4%.

As far as children's educational attainment level is concerned, boy interviewees have lower educational attainment level than girl interviewees. 24 children (12 boys and 12 girls) who stopped schooling have the same difficult/poor family background which according to them, caused school drop-out. However, when asked about the reasons to work, there was a difference in ratio between boy and girl interviewees: 76.9% of girl interviewees told that they had to work to support their family income due to poor family, while 35.7% of boy interviewees told that working brought them freedom/an independent life though most of the boys acknowledged that having a job helped them to support their family income.

As for housing status, before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, by 50% of boy children lived in rent houses while 70% of girl children lived in parents or grandparents' houses. As a matter of fact, such a difference is because of different projects themselves (GBWS supporting boy children in or at risk of street situation; LRWS supporting girl victims or those at risk of sexual abuse; SPI project providing services of social professional integration for disadvantaged children/youth).

Based on group discussions and questionnaires, among both groups of boy and girl children, the survey team find that the number of boy children has more risks of financial/labor abuse than girl children (71.4% boy interviewees answered that they had risks of labor abuse). On contrary, the number of girl children has more risks of sexual abuse than boy children (72.4% girl interviewees answered that they had risks of sexual abuse). The ratios about risks that both groups reflected is rather relevant to problems that both groups of children have been through (42,9% of boy interviewees said that they had been labor abused, while the ratio for girl interviewees is 17.2%; 10.3% of girl interviewees said that they used to be sexually abused, while the ratio for boy interviewees is 4.8%).

When asked about things that children consider as important, girl interviewees inclined to emotional factors. 58.6% of them answered that supporting parents/relatives was the most important thing and 44.8% of them considered that “love“ factor was the most important to them.

Due to different qualifications enrolling child beneficiaries in each project, there were different reasons that children went to GBWS/LRWS/SPI project accordingly. Apart from other reasons, the main reason for both groups of boy and girl interviewees to go to GBWS/LRWS/SPI project for support is poor family background (as mentioned above).

In regards to the present needs of children, girl interviewees recommended that the following services would be helpful to them: Schooling (by 51.7%); life skill & child’s right (31%); health care (by 44.8%); recreational activities (by 27.6%); meals/safe housing (48.3%); love and care/counseling in a timely manner (by 44.8%). Boy interviewees also need for the said services but the ratios are lower. However, they have higher needs for vocational training, job placement and legal papers than girl beneficiaries (please see Diagram...)

5.7 Correlations between relevant results

As of the related results, there is correlation between schooling and job placement. Most of children to have dropped out of school are now working. They had to stop schooling earlier than expected with a view to finding jobs to support their family income.

95% of former beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project are now working and 84.2% of these children have been through job training. On contrary, only 26.7% of the present child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project have jobs as most of them go to school or attend vocational training. As such, most of former beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project now have stable jobs.

Also, there is a correlation between children’s living condition full of risks and things that children consider as important to them.

Schooling, job placement and a bright future being considered as the most important things to children, such needs are not adequately met, due to their poor family background. As such, children need support for schooling and vocational training, namely school fees, school tools and bicycles.

A life full of risks of (drug addiction/use of illegal substances, labor & sexual abuse, not being in school, poverty, being looked down, being trapped) that children have to face with everyday teaches children that meals/safe housing, life skills & child’s rights are the most important things to them.

Love and care/counseling in a timely manner is one of the big needs of children, which may originate from the insufficiency of family care.

Before being enrolled in GBWS/LRWS/SPI project children's health was not properly cared by their parents who had to strive to make a living. Ever since being the child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, their health was well cared and checked up on a regular basis. However, once they are no longer child beneficiaries, their health status may be again at risk. It is not surprising that 60% of child interviewees answered that health condition was the most important to them. As such, health care be always essential to children no matter that they are the former or present child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project.

Overall, children identified their needs by staying aware of their own problems and they confirmed that their present needs were big but the support services to meet their demands were limited. It is advisable that Vietnamese competent governmental agencies and NGOs and the entire communities should strengthen their support services provided to disadvantaged children.

VI. CONCLUSION

1. Before being the child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project, child interviewees faced the following main problems: 1) Homesick/remembering relatives, 2) Labor abuse (forced to work exhaustedly, forced to be a beggar, work without pay, etc), 3) Poor family background, 4) Being looked down, 5) Accident (labor, traffic, etc), 6) Diseases, 7) Family conflict, 8) Being deceived, 9) Not being in school, 10) Sexual abuse, etc.
2. Disadvantaged children have high risks of different abuses. Typically, boy children face financial/labor abuse and girl children face sexual abuse.
3. Diseases and health care of children were not properly cared by their parents but children themselves to buy medicine at the pharmacy without informing their parents/relatives of their sickness. Ever since becoming the child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project children were well aware of health condition and informed the educators of their sickness for support.
4. With reference to children's future possibility, most of the former child beneficiaries of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project now have good stable jobs and are able to live an independent life, which implies that the shelter/SPI project models are essential to helping children to reintegrate successfully into society.
5. Given different life background and problems among disadvantaged children, they have different needs. Generally, children have the main needs for support as follows: schooling, vocational training, meals/safe housing, love and care/counseling in a timely manner, life skills, child's rights, etc cần được trang bị kỹ năng sống/quyền trẻ children, health care, job placement, recreational activities, psychological therapy, legal papers.
6. Based on the survey results that there are some differences on life and situation among both groups of boy and girl interviewees (Gender based analysis), it is notwithstanding of no reason to affirm that there are major differences among two groups relating to their present life and situation.
7. Overall, the GBWS/LRWS/SPI project models are relevant to the present needs of disadvantaged children. However, with a view to strengthening the achievements and sustainability of these models, there needs to be an entire evaluation of activities of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project to ensure that they could adapt themselves to the new

circumstances. Remarkably, the monitoring activity should be strengthened, warning some educators conforming to code of conduct in the care and education of child beneficiaries at GBWS/LRWS/SPI project.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is advisable that the Vietnamese governmental competent agencies and NGOs should provide micro-credit program giving loans and small business training to , etc migrant families and poor families in Ho Chi Minh City, which unable them to emeliorate their family income, helping their children with schooling, health care, recreational activities.
2. The Vietnamese governmental competent agencies and NGOs should strengthen the publicizing of International Convention of the Rights of the Child, Vietnam Laws on Protection, Care and Education of Children và other relevant legal documents so that parents and fosterers could stay awarenes of their responsibilities towards the care of children. In addition, strict punishment should be applied to child offenders relating to different types of child abuses.
3. The Vietnamese governmental competent agencies and the communities should strengthen anti-crime campaigns for public security in general and for disadvantaged children in particular.
4. The Vietnamese governmental competent agencies and NGOs should develop additional programs/projects that provide knowledge and soft skills (life skills, child's rights, child sexual abuse prevention, etc) for disadvantaged children.
5. Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Association should try best to enlist the financial support of different funding agencies as well as organize fundraising events with a view to sustain the models of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project which be essential to the helping of children in street situation, orphans, victims or those at risk of violence and sexual abuse.
6. Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Association should conduct an entire evaluation of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project to ensure that they could adapt the present situation, especially personnel management.
7. In the framework of the project of The Rights of Underprivileged Migrant Children in Ho Chi Minh City, there needs to be
 - a. A close cooperation between this project and other projects of HCWA in order to use and share the resources effectively to help disadvantaged children of GBWS/LRWS/SPI project and those in the local communities.
 - b. A close cooperation between this project, local authorities and other projects of HCWA in order to conduct advocacy/awareness-raising activities on child's rights (forum, contest, club, etc), training programs on life skills, adolescent reproductive health, child sexual abuse prevention, etc for disadvantaged children.
 - c. A close cooperation between this project, local authorities and other projects of HCWA in order to conduct thematic discussions, training on child sexual abuse prevention, parenting skills, domestic violence, etc for child care & protection officers of the local authorities, teachers, parents and local people.