

A LONGITUDINAL STUDY TO ASSESS NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN CARE

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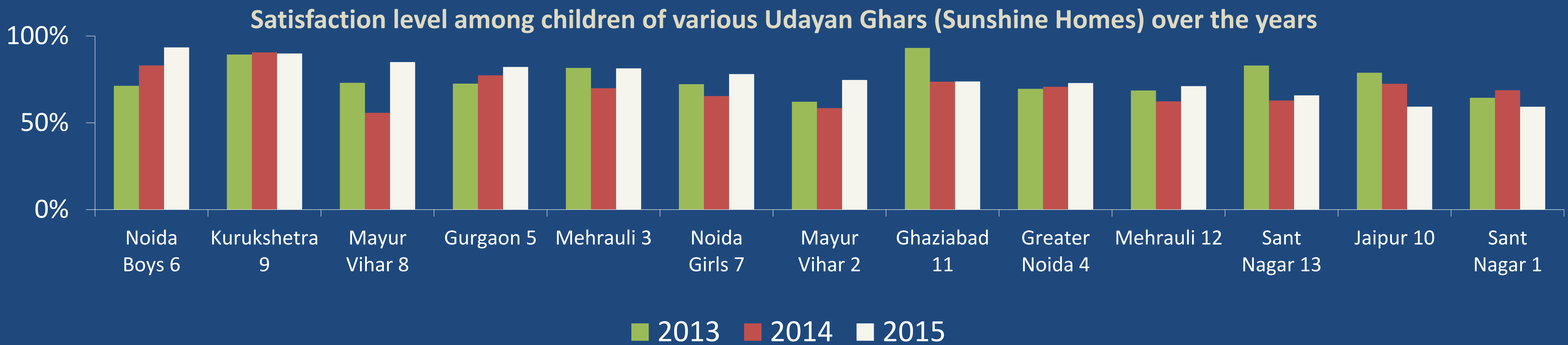
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BACKGROUND: Child development refers to the biological, psychological, and emotional changes that occur between birth and the end of adolescence, as the individual progresses from dependency to increasing autonomy. Most of the children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are in need of care and protection, land up in Child Care Institutions. They had been victims of repeated abuse and prolonged neglect and need a nurturing, stable, enabling environment during their growing up years.

OBJECTIVE: A longitudinal study, initiated in 2013 with the aim to assess the basic/ fundamental, emotional, educational and interpersonal needs of the children living across 13 Udayan Ghars (children homes) of Udayan Care.

METHODOLOGY: The questionnaire of this study is a self made tool. The methodology used is a convenient purposive sampling technique with children aged between 10-18 yrs, having lived minimum for 6 months at Udayan Care. The study excludes children with low IQ (below 70) and those restored back to their family.

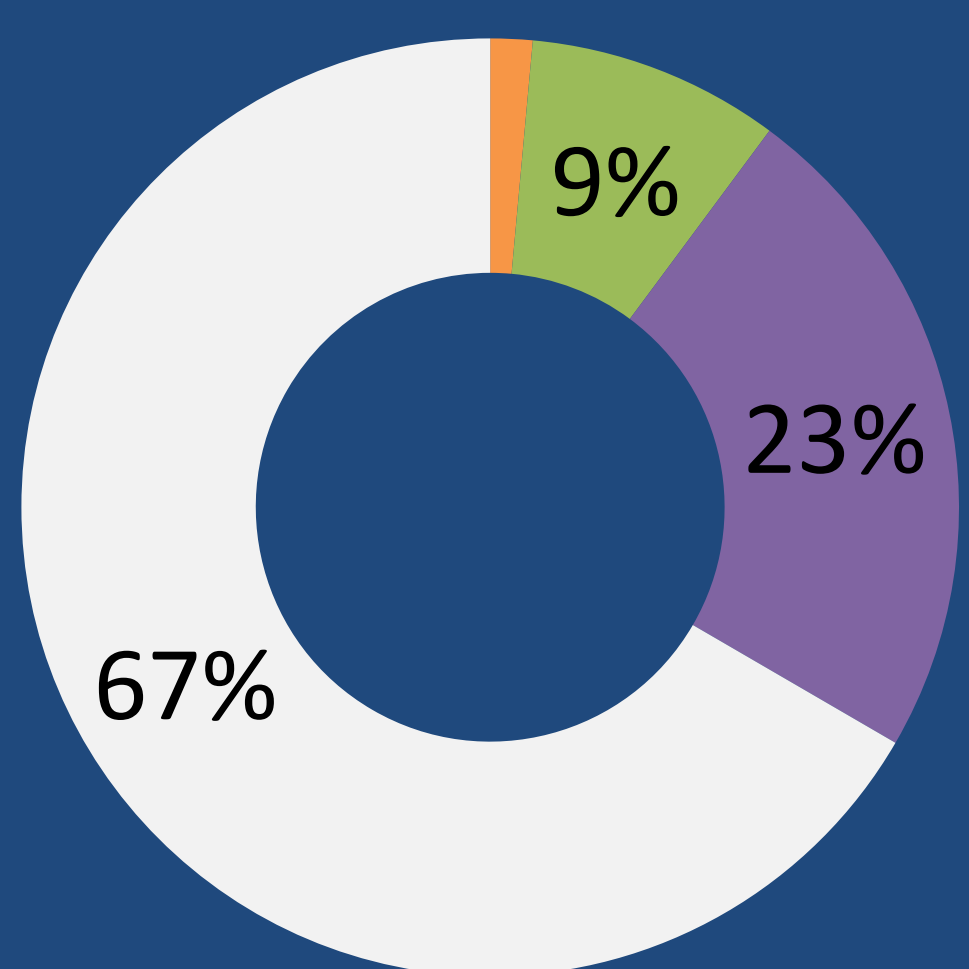
KEY FINDINGS: The results indicate that the satisfaction level among the children have substantially increased over these three years. In 2013 children mentioned that 75% of their needs are mostly met. In 2014, a slight dip was observed and had gone down to 70%. However, in 2015, corrective measures were taken and latest survey results show that children believe that over 80% of their needs are mostly met.



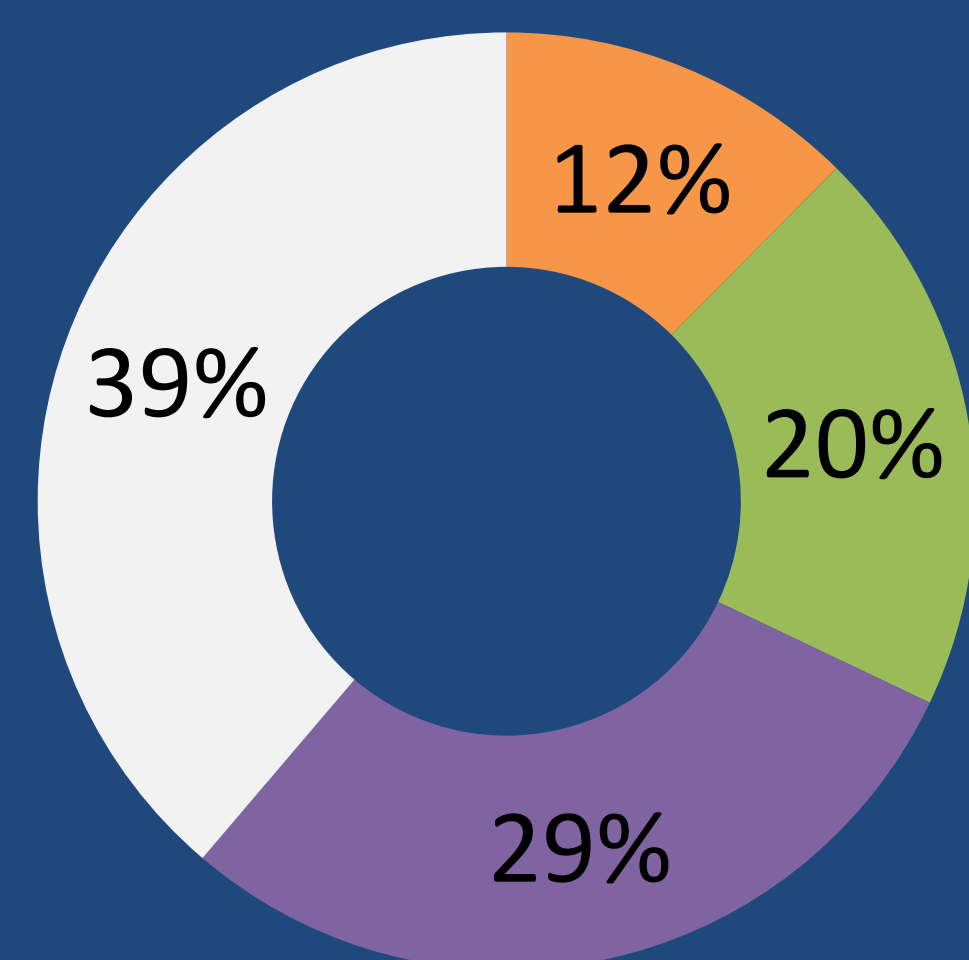
Note: The graph aligns Udayan Ghars in order of highest to lowest level of satisfaction achieved in 2015. Jaipur and Sant Nagar 1 home emerge as area of concern as a dip in the satisfaction level can be noted from previous year

NEED-WISE SATISFACTION: The latest survey results (2015) show that overall children feel that 90% basic/fundamental needs, 68% emotional needs, 76% educational needs and 74% interpersonal needs are 'most of the times/always' met.

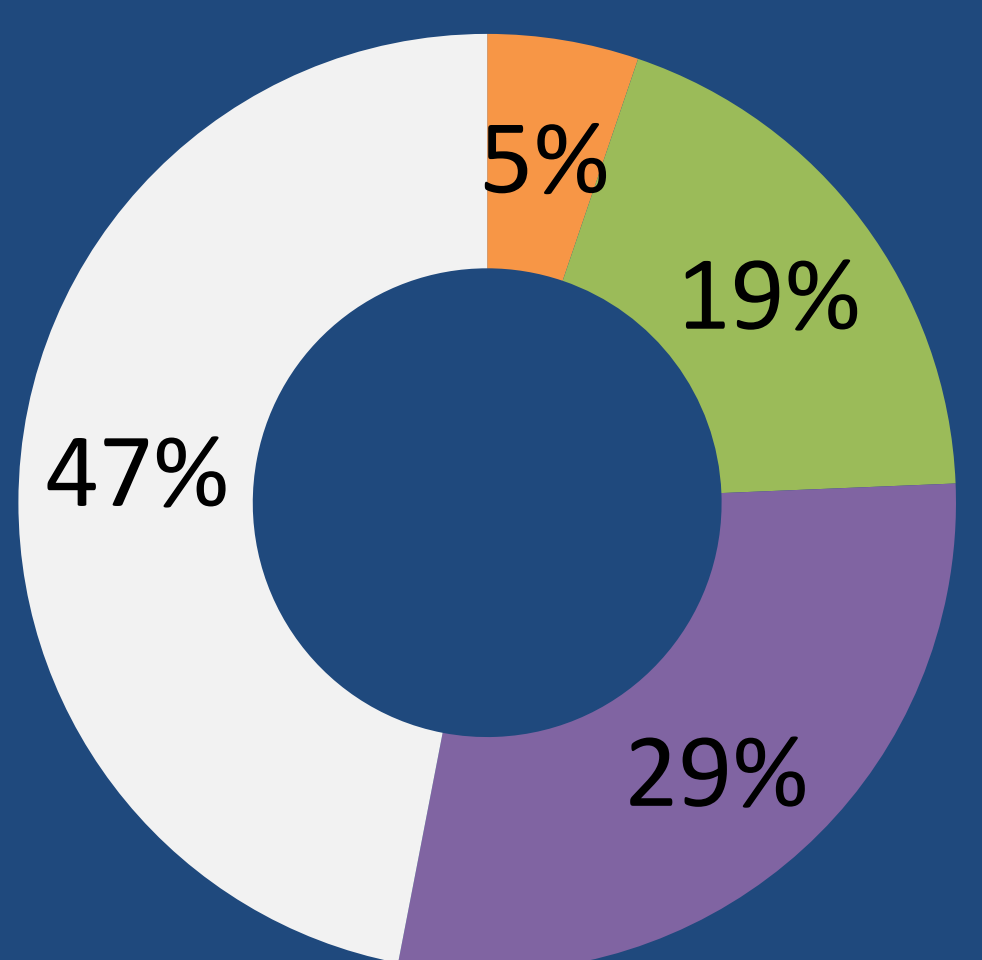
Basic/Fundamental Needs



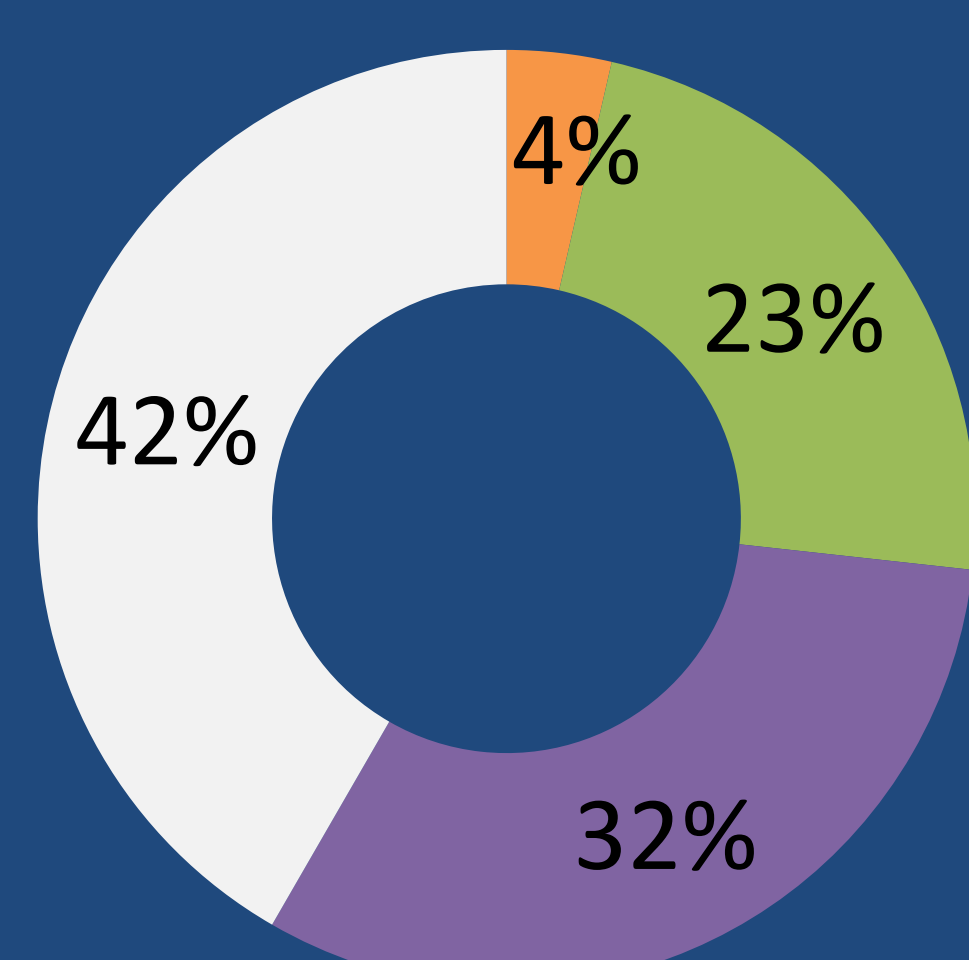
Emotional Needs



Educational Needs



Interpersonal Needs



Never Some times Most of the times Always

AREAS OF CONCERN: Udayan Care has been successful in providing a healthy, safe, secure and nurturing environment for the children in need of care and protection to a great extent. However, there are still many factors that need to be addressed to meet the unfulfilled needs of these children:

12% are unable to share their feelings & issues openly with their housemates



17% find that at times feeling of living in a family like environment is missing



CONCERNS



31% lack confidence in facing outside world



18% feel ashamed about being an orphan as they are scared of being teased about it at school