Preface

I came to India and arrived in Delhi in 1999. The first thing that struck me is the ubiquity of street children on the street of Delhi. The emaciated body, dishevelled hair caused great anguish. At the same time I noticed things every child loves. I love their glee, their pranks and their acting to get a five-rupee coin. For an East Asian person grown up in Korea, the phenomenon was disquieting.

At the same time I got to know the richer side of Delhi on the street. Swanky cars, great display of wealth created a great anxiety. Scholars say that there has been growing income asymmetry across the world, and here is a city which best manifests this power and income imbalance. I got enrolled into M. Phil Programme of Jawahar Lal Nehru University and soon got into studying this phenomenon of Street Girls.

I came across few studies on street children, but very few works on street girls. Sexual abuse of girls, child prostitution greatly hurt me. I thought that relatively lesser number of girls on the street of Delhi must have something to do with child prostitution. There might be some hapless girls who end up in the red lights of the major cities of India. The thought caused great heartache.

By this time I have learnt a few things about research. I came to know about many NGOs who are working on street children. Their managers and directors were informative, passionate about the cause. I decided to study them. Meanwhile Butterflies, one of the prominent NGOs working with street children of Delhi began children radio, children Bank and other innovative schemes.

However, yearning does not translate into execution very easily. Language is a big problem. Both English and Hindi were difficult for me but I learnt the two languages. Still there are many problems. The NGOs were very reluctant to share personal information, viz. fund allocation, expense on different heads, board meeting, project conceptualisation process. It soon became clear that it is difficult to study the structure of NGOs in its entirety. I decided to study the phenomenon of street children and NGOs became one component only.

There are many people who helped me in this endeavour to understand the phenomenon of street girls and institutional responses to it. I thank for their support and encouragement without whom this thesis would not have shown the light of the day.
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Last, I am thankful God who loves street girls of Delhi and; The God gave me an opportunity to think for the future of these tiny lots,

However, I am alone responsible for the mistakes in the dissertation.

Jung Pae
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