Mediation Analysis of Factors Affecting the Children Welfare and Rehabilitation in Child Protection and Welfare Bureau in Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract

The focus of this study is to measure the performance of Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB), Punjab Pakistan and to analyze the impact of certain factors that account for its performance. CPWB is responsible to provide care, rehabilitation and education to the destitute children of the society in order to protect these children from the criminals. The data was collected from Child Protection Institutes (CPIs) established in 8 districts of Punjab (Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad and Lahore). The research design has been followed to explore the structural equation modeling of variables including Management/ Administration Operation (MAO), Facilities provided to the Child Protection Office (CPO), Implementation of Law and Regulations (ILR) and Efficiency of CPO (ECPO). The research has shown that MAO, Facilities provided (FP) to the CPO, ILR and ECPO have direct, positive and mediate relationship among each other. It is proposed to critically review their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on regular basis. Moreover, internal monitoring and evaluation at each CPI must be ensured. It is also suggested that facilities provided at each CPI needs to be improved and ensured. For policy maker's inter-departmental interaction of CPWB with Social Welfare Department and Vocational Training Centers must be ensured.

Keywords: Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB), Child Protection Institutes (CPI), Child Protection Officer (CPO), Management/ Administration Operation (MAO), Efficiency of CPO, Implementation of Law and Regulations (ILR)

Introduction

Industrial development and urbanization shapes the scenario of civilized world, which causes a number of social evils and problems resulting in social injustice and exploitation of human rights. Amongst humans, children are one of the most vulnerable group. By taking a glimpse of the history of civilization, we find that each war, famine and natural calamity has killed millions of children. For those who survive, the future remains dark. To provide safe heaven to destitute,

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neglected, abused, and run-away children where they are provided with shelter, education and protection with an emphasis on turning them into useful and productive members of the society is a mandate of every civilized state and society. Protection is the basic right of all children. They have the right to be provided with food, shelter, education, health, play and leisure. Realizing the importance of children and to safeguard the rights of children in the society, Child Protection & Welfare Bureau was established under Punjab Destitute & Neglected Children Act, 2004 as an autonomous body of the Government of Punjab. (CPWB, 2004)

Functions, structures and capacities that work together for achieving child protection goals make a child protection system. It requires numerous levels of work which varies from government to community, society and involves different ctors, includinggovernmentandcivilsocietyorganizationsorrepresentatives. Currently, the panned themes of child protection systems are: birth registration; child labor; harmful cultural practices; discrimination; physical, sexual and psychological abuse and neglect of children; lack of adequate family care or alternative care; child mobility and child trafficking; commercial sexual exploitation; children and justice; and child protection in emergencies/armed conflict(Khan et al. 2013).Child Protection & Welfare Bureau addresses some of these themes directly and others in some indirect ways.

Currently, Child Protection & Welfare Bureau is functioning in eight districts of Punjab including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad. The Bureau is responsible to provide education, health care and psychological counseling to the Destitute and Neglected Children for their protection and rehabilitation. Child Protection & Welfare Bureau aims to help the destitute and neglected children to turn into useful and productive citizens of beloved nation. (CPWB, 2004)

 One of the objectives for the establishment of this Bureau is to protect these children from criminals. This institution not only provides food and shelter but also imparts education and skills to these children to make them useful citizens. The Bureau endeavors for reunification of these children with their families. Besides this, child psychologists take various measures for mental development and rehabilitation of these children (CPWB, 2004)

Literature Review

Children are considered an integral part of any society. For the fulfillment of basic needs like food, shelter, education, safety and security, they are dependent on others and it makes them a vulnerable group. Primary caregivers are responsible for the provision of these needs but for the time effective delivery of

these some support from multiple agencies working at the national level can play effective role. Children's rights can be defined as "the rights, which are concerned both with the protection of the individual child and with the creation of the conditions in which all children can develop to their full potential." (Yatees, 2005). The domains like education, health, neglect, and abuse are larger domains in which these rights are seized. (Searle, Barry & Jempson, 2005).

In the South Asian culture, it is expected from the children that they tolerate the violence and be obedient to their elders. Children have a compliance-obedience relationship with people older than them, other than mutual trust and affection. The main cause for leaving school, running from homes or ending up on the street, in jails or in sex trade of children of South Asia, including Pakistan, is physical and psychological abuse (Heiberg, 2005; Save the Children, 2010; Bhattacharyya, 2017).According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a child is defined as "any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier" (UNCRC 1989). A Save the Children &United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) study (2005) stated that in South Asian societies, violence against children is an accepted and unavoidable part of their culture and it is highly underreported due to stigma, shame and guilt. (Masood et al. 2012; Mehnaz, 2011; Solotaroff and Pande, 2014).

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children is another study conducted in 2011 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, revealed that all children faced some form of common punishments in schools and homes such as ear-pulling, ear-twisting, hair-pulling, punching, kicking, smacking, humiliating. Due to this acceptance for 'violence as means of discipline', child protection is a recent entry into the South Asian nations' agenda (Pulla, 2014).Reinforcement of multi-stakeholder partnerships in child protection system in South Asian nations was suggested in South Asian countrywide initiatives' previous review about the development of child protection systems and cross-border collaboration between countries (Pulla, 2014).

Pakistan is the 6th largest country in the world by its population with210 million inhabitants; with 2.3 percent average annual growth rate (The World Bank, 2011). 37percent people are below the age of 14 years which are comparatively young population(Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2011). According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Pakistan's population which is below the age of 18 is approximately half of total population (2015). The population which lives below the international poverty line, US$1.25 per day, is one quarter of the total population. Central government allocated budget to health and education is 1% and 2% respectively (UNICEF, 2011). These demographic

and socioeconomic characteristics result in high dependency ratios, large families and few income earners. Child survival, health and quality of life has been implicated by such situations.

Pakistan is an alliance made up of provinces and territories. The traditional values held by the different cultures and in different provinces influence the Pakistan's child protection system and also effect the lawmaking throughout the country. This rambling approach shows that the Pakistan government has to struggle a lot in balancing international obligations and social values regarding child protection (Jabeen, 2016).In spite of being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC] and related protocols and conventions, Pakistan is the 5th amongst the countries that has a very miserable picture for its children because they are subjected to violence, lawlessness and denial of fundamental rights (Mehnaz, 2011). Prevention, address to discrimination, neglect, mistreatment, and ending abuse affecting the children, is the role of Pakistan's child protection system but due to tremendous variation in cultures around the country there are many hurdles to achieve adequate outcomes in this regard. Child protection is defined as the structures and measures designed to prevent and respond to neglect and abuse. It is the process of protecting individual children identified either as suffering or likely to suffer considerable harm due to abuse or neglect (Royal College of Pediatric and Child Health, 2016).

As the 2005 National Plan of Action (NPA) for children confirms, child protection is not only a sensitive area but also it is complex; therefore, other than subjective information, few statistics relating to child protection issues are available (Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, 2005). Systematic data availability related to child protection is vital if scholars and policymakers want to understand the nature of the issue and to provide evidence of the scale of protection problems that many Pakistani children experience. Such data informs national child protection policy, planning and then practicing (Pouwels, Swades, Mccoy & Peddle, 2010) and in some countries, such as the US, research is conducted at national level about negligence and child abuse on regular basis (Sedlak, Mettenburg, Basena, Petta,McPherson, Greene & Li, 2010). On the other hand, the UK depend mainly on official data from child protection registers or from child protection plans(NSPCC, 2012). However, such large-scale collection, analysis and maintenance of data demand expert humans, financial and organizational resources, which many countries around the world are lacking.

Regarding this situation, one of the key sources of data remains the empirical research on the incidence and prevalence of child abuse and mistreatment. They are also increasingly being used in relation to child abuse and protection research. Such research covers various forms of child abuse at local,

regional and national levels (Tonmyr, 1998), though, these studies have mostly been limited to the developed world of the global North. In Pakistan, Sahil – a non-governmental organization collect information about reported child abuses cases and publish a report annually named 'Cruel Numbers' (Sahil 2020). Some scholarly articles have also started to appear in the local and international journals from and about child abuse and protection in Pakistan (eg, Jabeen and Jabeen,2016; Jabeen and Akhundzada,2017; Syed and Jabeen; 2019).However, a lot more research is still needed to fully understand the issue and to address it. This paper is a contribution to the same end.

Rationale of the Study

Child Protection &Welfare Bureau (CPWB) is responsible to provide the care, rehabilitation and education to the destitute children of the society in order to protect these children from the criminals. CPWB has its own centers, schools and courts. In order to measure the performance of the CPWB and analyze the factors that account for its performance, a survey has been conducted in all the established centers/institutes of CPWB i.e. Child Protection Institutes CPIs. Child Protection Institutions managed by the Bureau provide residence, food, education, health care, psychological counseling and recreation to destitute and neglected children upon admission till the time that the children are reunited into their families. 3213 children were admitted in CPIs so far in different district offices of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau in the Financial Year 2014-15. (CPWB Website).At the time of survey 755 children were residing in 8 CPIs with 525 employees. The total expenditures on one child is approximately 0.8 million which is calculated from figures of Total Budget Allocation divided by Total Children staying in CPIs.(Home Department Budget Book)

Research Statement

To measure the performance and discovering experiences of CPWB centers established in Punjab Pakistan and to analyze the factors that account for its performance.

Research Objectives

The study had following research objectives:

Identification of factors related to performance of CPWB.

➢ Identification of factors effecting the rehabilitation of the Children
➢ Provision of facilities those satisfy the children staying and studying in CPIs
➢ Locate the elements in CPIs which need improvement

Methodology

The study was quantitative in nature and the purpose of the study was to find out the impact of certain factors that account for performance of CPWB. Self-report measure that provided best operationalization of the study variables according to theoretical background was used in the present study through purposive sampling technique.

CPWB is responsible for Child Protection in province Punjab, Pakistan, which has a geographic area of approximately 881,913 km^2. This research was carried out in all 8 districts of Punjab where Child Protection Institutes (CPIs) are working. The under-consideration population is from all 8 Child Protection Institutes (CPIs) established in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad. Purposive /Judgement Sampling Technique has been used for the sampling and Morgan Table was used for selecting the size of sample. (Krejcie, Morgan, D.W, 1970; Kanupriya, 2012). Structural Equation Model is used for analyzing structural results because of its special aspect of estimating multiple and interrelated dependence in a single analysis. (Anderson, Gerbin,1988;Bentler, P. M., & Chou, C., 1987).

Three variables has been used in this study: Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC)as Dependent Variable; Management/ Administration Operation (MAO) and Facilities provided (FP) to the CPO as Independent Variables;andImplementation of Law and Regulations (ILR) and Efficiency of CPO (ECPO) as Mediation Variables.

The present research is an attempt to explore the performance measuring and discovering experiences in the centers of CPWB in Punjab, Pakistan. Survey research design has been followed for this study.

Adaptation of performing indicators by National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children2009–2020 was adopted as Performance measuring survey questionnaire in this study and then pilot tested for reliability after getting comments from two experts and then used. This is 20 item scale with 1 to 5 rating scale (main items) starting from strongly disagree to strongly agree, reliability and validity of the scale has been established. The higher the score on scale indicates the strong commitment and vice versa.

For data collection ethical approval was obtained from Director General CPWB and participants were assured of the anonymity and the confidentiality of their information and identity. In the end of administration, forms were collected from the participants. The priority of ethical concerns was maintained during research work.

Limitation of the study

The limitation of the present study is regarding its generalizability of the findings, because the samples have been collected only from children staying in CPIs and not from those who have been discharged after entry in CPIs due to time and financial constraints. Therefore, it is recommended that in future studies may focus on samples from those children and their parents who have been discharged from CPIs which could help to increase the generalizability of the findings. Furthermore exact figures of budget and expenditures on each CPI were not shared by authorities.

Sample/Sampling

Using Morgan's table, data from the sample of 230 out of 750 respondents was collected which comprised of Employees, children, CPOs, Parentsfrom all eight districts (Cresswell,2003). A total of 210 filled questionnaires out of 230 were returned from respondents. Eleven responses were excluded due to more than 50% missing values and 199 valid responses were included for analysis.

In a cross-sectional (descriptive- analytic) study, the subjectivity of the selection mechanism, purposive sampling is generally considered most appropriate for the selection of small samples often from a limited geographic area or from a restricted population definition. (Michael, 2011; Henry, 1990; Peyravi et al., 2009)

Hypotheses of the Study

Based on the model of study, a total of 8 hypotheses were proposed to be tested which are given below:

H1: There is a direct association between Management/ Administration operations(MAO) and Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC).

H2: There is a direct association between Management/ Administration Operations(MAO) and Efficiency of CPO (ECPO).

H3: There is a direct association between Management/ Administration Operations (MAO) and Implementation of Law & Regulation (ILR).

H4: There is a positive relationship between Facilities provided (FP) to CPO and Efficiency of CPO (ECPO)**.**

H5: Implementation of Law &Regulations (ILR mediates the relationship between Management/ Administration Operations (MAO) and Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC).
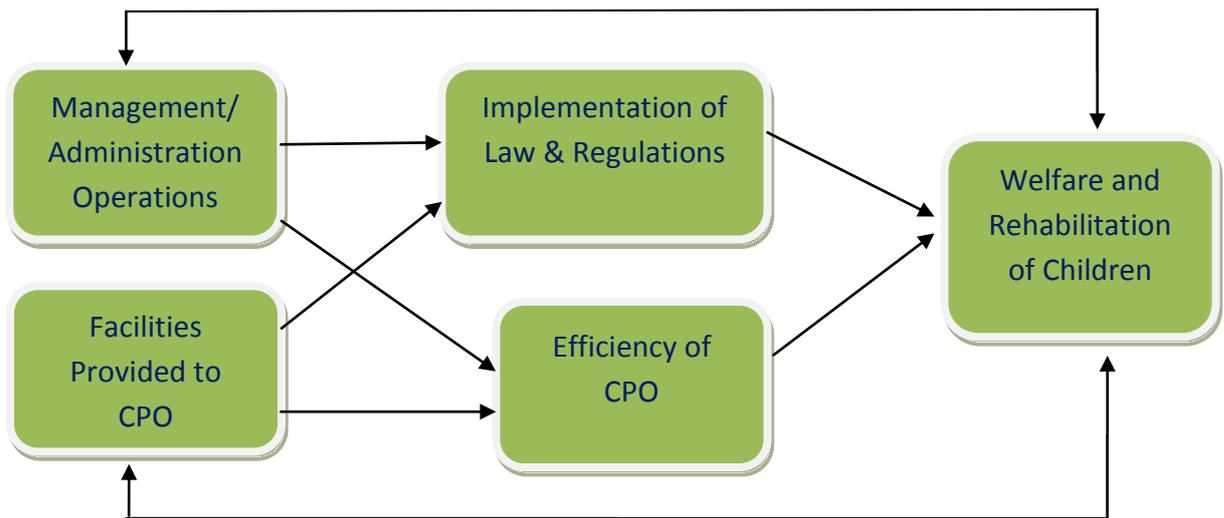
H6: Implementation of Law &Regulations (ILR) mediates the relationship between Facilities provided (FP) to CPO and Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC).

H7: Efficiency of CPO (ECPO) mediates the relationship between Management/ Administration Operations (MAO) and Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC).

H8: Efficiency of CPO (ECPO) mediates the relationship between Facilities provided (FP) to CPO and Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children (WRC).

Research Model:

Figure.1 Proposed Conceptual Framework

Results & Discussion

Table 1: Reliability and Validity:

Latent Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	AVE
ECPO	0.694	0.717	0.815	0.529
WRC	0.771	0.790	0.864	0.678
MAO	0.872	0.883	0.913	0.722
FP	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
ILR	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

The values of Cronbach's alpha for ECPO, WRC and MAO are 0.694, 0.771 and 0.872. In above table all the values are larger than 0.701 except for the value of ECPO which is 0.694 and very close to 0.701. The values of Cronbach's alpha should be greater than 0.701 in order to be considered acceptable. A value less than 0.402 shows that the item should be removed / extracted, and item with a loading of 0.402-0.701 may be removed in case if they increase the Composite

Reliability (CR) and AVE value more than threshold value (Chin, 2010; Hair, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2011).

Table 2: Discriminant Validity

	ECPO	WRC	FP	MAO	ILR
ECPO	0.727				
WRC	0.502	0.823			
FP	0.236	0.059	1.000		
MAO	0.722	0.315	0.140	0.849	
ILR	-0.485	-0.077	-0.547	-0.427	1.000

In order to have discriminant validity the diagonal values should be less than non-diagonal values. The results in table 2 show that all the values at non-diagonal; are lesser than diagonal values; it displays that no issue is reflected regarding discriminant validity in the model.

Another criterion known as the Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) ratio was also calculated as a more superior method to check discriminant validity. The results are shown in table 3.

Table 3: Heterotrait-Monotrait (HTMT) Ratio

	ECPO	WRC	FP	MAO	ILR
ECPO					
WRC	0.668				
FP	0.286	0.063			
MAO	0.913	0.357	0.152		
ILR	0.584	0.080	0.547	0.449	

In order to establish discriminant validity the values of HTMT should be between 0.85 and 0.90 (Henseler, Ringle & Sarstedt 2015).In our model the value of MAO for ECPO is 0.913.

Factor Loadings

The values of the factor loading for all the constructs of latent variables are shown in table 4.

Table 4: Factor Loading

Latent Variable	Constructs	Factor Loading
ECPO	ECPO1	0.640
	ECPO2	0.885
	ECPO3	0.774
	ECPO4	0.605
	ECPO5	0.175

WRC	WRC1	0.802
	WRC2	0.855
	WRC3	0.810
MAO	MAO1	0.798
	MAO2	0.876
	MAO3	0.830
	MAO4	0.892

The values of factor loadings show the reliability of individual indicators of constructs. The value for factor loading should be more than 0.701 for acceptance. The results in table 4show that the values for ECPO1, ECPO2, ECPO3, ECPO4 and ECPO5 are 0.640, 0.885, 0.774, 0.605 and 0.175 respectively. These values can be dropped for the sake of getting improvement in final results.

Collinearity Assessment

The values of inner VIF and outer VIF were also computed to check the issue of multi co linearity in the model. The results of outer VIF value and inner VIF values are shown in table 5 and 6 respectively.

Table 5: Outer VIF Values

Latent Variable	Constructs	Factor Loading
ECPO	ECPO1	1.361
	ECPO2	2.265
	ECPO3	1.810
	ECPO4	1.199
WRC	WRC1	2.211
	WRC2	2.560
	WRC3	1.320
MAO	MAO1	1.878
	MAO2	2.700
	MAO3	1.980
	MAO4	2.959

Table 6: Inner VIF Values

	ECPO	WRC	FP	MAO	ILR
ECPO				1.338	
WRC				1.338	
FP	1.427	1.427			
MAO					
ILR	1.427	1.427			

The results show that both the inner and outer VIF values are less than five. Therefore, it is determined that the problem / issue of multi collinearity is not present among the variables. In case if the values of Inner and Outer VIF are greater than five, then this is sign of presence of multi collinearity and hence those constructs need to be removed / excluded. This is not the case here.

R Square

The values of R square and Adjusted R square for the latent variables are presented in table 7.

Table 7: R Square

	R Square	**R Square Adjusted**
ECPO	0.238	0.220
WRC	0.007	-0.015
MAO	0.525	0.514

The values for R square for ECPO, WRC and MAO are 0.238, 0.007 and 0.525 respectively. Similarly the values for Adjusted R square for ECPO is 0.220 and for MAOis 0.514. It means that 51.4% of variation in MAO is explained by ECPO.

F Square

The value of F square portrays the influence of each constructs in between the relationships found. The value of F square also reflects the significance of one construct on another construct along with the degree of its effectiveness. The results of F square are shown in table 8.

Table 8: F Square

	ECPO	**WRC**	**FP**	**MAO**	**ILR**
ECPO				0.893	
WRC				0.007	
FP	0.002	0.000			
MAO					
ILR	0.238	0.004			

The value of F square should be less than 0.02 in order to hold significant relationship. The relation of ECPO and MAO has F square of 0.893. Similarly the relation of WRC and MAO has F value of 0.007.

Significance of Structural Paths in Bootstrapping (SEM for Hypothesis Testing Through Path Coefficients)

Bootstrapping is a method which is used to check and test the significance of a model. The value of t-statistics reflects significance of path coefficients

(Ringle, Wende& Becker, 2015). The table 9 shows the results of path coefficients.

Table 9: Path Coefficients

Hypothesis	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (ST.DEV)	T Statistics	P Values
ECPO ->MAO	0.756	0.759	0.069	11.012	0.000
WRC ->MAO	-0.066	-0.057	0.091	0.726	0.468
FP -> ECPO	-0.050	-0.049	0.112	0.447	0.655
FP ->WRC	0.025	0.025	0.139	0.175	0.863
ILR -> ECPO	-0.512	-0.514	0.090	5.663	0.000
ILR -> RO	-0.064	-0.068	0.122	0.521	0.602

The results of path coefficients in above table show that relationship between ECPO and MAO is positive having Beta value 0.756. The t-value for this relationship is 11.012 which is greater than 2. The p value is 0.000 which is less than 0.001 and statistically significant. Similarly the path coefficient between ILR and ECPO is also significant having t value of 5.663 and p value 0.000. The results of other path coefficients show that the relation among them is negative and insignificant.

Total Effects and Testing of Hypothesis

The bootstrapping results are shown in table 10below. The total original effects and total mean effects for all the constructs were computed. Table 10also shows the values of standard deviation, t-statistics and p-values. The results of table 10show that all the original and total mean values except for ECPO ->MAO and FP ->WRC are negative. But the t-value for FP ->WRC is 0.175 which is less than 2 and p value is 0.863 which is insignificant. It means that there is only one relationship i.e. ECPO ->MAO which has positive original and mean value, having 11.012 t-values (greater than 2) and 0.000 p value (significant). It also implies that the relationship between ECPO and MAO is positive and significant.

Table 10: Total Effects

Hypothesis	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics	P Values	Decision
ECPO -> MAO	0.756	0.759	0.069	11.012	0.000	Supported
WRC -> MAO	-0.066	-0.057	0.091	0.726	0.468	Not Supported
FP -> ECPO	-0.050	-0.049	0.112	0.447	0.655	Not Supported

FP -> WRC	0.025	0.025	0.139	0.175	0.863	Not Supported
FP -> MAO	-0.039	-0.043	0.083	0.476	0.634	Not Supported
ILR -> ECPO	-0.512	-0.514	0.090	5.663	0.000	Supported
ILR -> WRC	-0.064	-0.068	0.122	0.521	0.602	Not Supported
ILR -> MAO	-0.383	-0.390	0.077	4.962	0.000	Supported

Mediation Analysis

The mediation analysis was done by computing total indirect effects and specific indirect effects. The results of which are shown in table 11 and 12.

Table 11: Total Indirect Effects

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics	P Values
ECPO -> MAO					
WRC -> MAO					
FP -> ECPO					
FP -> WRC					
FP -> MAO	-0.039	-0.043	0.083	0.476	0.634
ILR -> ECPO					
ILR -> WRC					
ILR -> MAO	-0.383	-0.390	0.077	4.962	0.000

Table 12: Specific Indirect Effects

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics	P Values
FP -> ECPO -> MAO	-0.039	-0.0395	0.087	0.440	0.660
ILR -> ECPO -> MAO	-0.387	-0.391	0.081	4.783	0.000
FP -> WRC -> MAO	-0.002	-0.004	0.016	0.101	0.919
ILR -> WRC -> MAO	0.004	0.001	0.014	0.293	0.769

The results in the above table show that ECPO is mediating significantly between ILR and MAO with significant p value of 0.000 and t-statistics value 4.783, which is greater than acceptable value (greater than 2). It means that ECPO is a strong mediator between ILR and WRC (Welfare and Rehabilitation of Children)

Conclusions and Recommendations

   The analysis shows that Management/ Administration Operations (MAO)has direct association with Welfare and Rehabilitation of children (WRC), with Efficiency of CPO (ECPO) and with Implementation of law & Regulation (ILR), Positive relationship exists between Facilities provided to CPO and ECPO as it is also indicated by the previous study that primary caregivers are responsible for the provision of the facilities but with the support of multiple agencies at provincial level for their timely effective delivery (Yatees,2005).ILR mediates the relationship between MAO and WRC, and between Facilities provided to CPO and WRC as one of the previous study also shows that Pakistan government has to struggle a lot in balancing international obligations regarding child protection (Jabeen, 2016).Also Pakistan is the 5th amongst the countries that has a very miserable picture for its children because they are subjected to violence, lawlessness and denial of fundamental rights. (Mehnaz, 2011).ECPO mediates the relationship between MAO and WRC and between Facilities provided to CPO and WRC.

Keeping in view the above analysis, following proposals for the policy makers are suggested below:

Administrative Issues:

- Management and officers/officials having long tenure should be shuffled and transferred and their performance should be critically reviewed on regular basis**.**
- All CPOs must be engaged in facilitating CPI Manager/District Officer in managing, lodging, feeding and grooming of children. All CPOs to be employed as Duty Officers for monitoring the complete curriculum/activities of the children in different shifts.
- Moreover, internal monitoring and evaluation at each CPIs must be ensured and improved.
- The Bureau needs to be totally computerized through the help of Home Department. Statistics / record keeping of rescued children under section 24, 26 and 28 of Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act 2004 to be accurately maintained by the CP&WB / CPI.
- Inter departmental interaction of officers especially with Social Welfare Department and Vocational Training Centers must be ensured by every CPI In-charge

Facilitation to the Children:

- Facilities provided to the children at the Bureau must be ensured and improved. These facilities are: Counselling, Education/Schools,

Cleanliness of washrooms, kitchen, living area and surrounding, Medical facility, Sports activity, Provision of better quality   meals and Computer/Skilled Training and Library.

- The concept of Child Assessment Committee (CAC) should be revived with focused and integrated approach towards the grooming of the children.

- The existing school infrastructure needs to be further improved. Admission of children in external institutions to be encouraged. Unregistered in-house schools must be registered with school education department.

- Sports grounds to be made available in coordination with District Management for organizing outdoor sports activities.

- Screening test against communicable diseases for cooks, attendants and supervisors and children to be ensured at regular intervals.

- There is weak coordination between the CP&WB and other relevant departments. So this study has suggested policy level review for better policy implementation and performance of the Bureau.

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