

The streets and public spaces of major Indian cities have become home to scores of children who find themselves “out of place” in many ways. Many of these children are runaways, who leave their family and homes behind for a plethora of reasons. However, some areas appear to produce more runaway children than others. In order to investigate the cause of this variation, these areas must first be identified. The fundamental goal of this study was to do a state-scale analysis of Bihar, a state in north-eastern India and reveal the spatial variability in runaway prevalence among its districts. Data collected at several locations around India regarding Bihari runaways was used to determine the children’s district of origin. 2011 Indian census data was then used to adjust for population to grant a more accurate picture of how prevalent runaway children are in each district. This study revealed three runaway origin hotspots, which can serve as the basis for further investigation of the “runaway culture”.