This thesis studies the state of the childhood of the street boys in an urban Bangladeshi setting. The aim of the study is to examine the issues those concerns the perception of these children's childhood and the way they construct their identity within the context of the street. This thesis addresses that the childhood is a contested domain even within a particular people.

The setting of this ethnographic study is the Kamlapur Railway Station of the city of Dhaka. The core of the data consists of six months long participant observations with 15 street boys. The boys are chosen randomly and the age ranges between 8 years to 16 years.

This study shows that there are many discourses of childhood prevalent even in a homogenous society like Bangladesh. Here the major discourses of Bangladeshi childhood create a background for understanding the context of the childhood of the street. One of the major features of this study is the heavy use of lengthy personal narratives and conversations. These materials secure the marginal child’s voice without any distortion and dehumanisation.

The concern of this study is about locating the Kamlapur boys’ inside the childhood discourses. One of the main conclusions of this study is the way the context of the street is internalised by the children close to it, which resembles the overall state of their childhood.

**Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords**
- childhood
- street boys
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- ethnography
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**Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information**

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