Concerns with Missing Children in US

What is the issue?

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- To deter illegal border crossings into the US, the government has been separating the children from their parents.
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- This has resulted in many of the unaccompanied children to get lost while in federal custody.
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What decision was taken by the US to deter illegal migrants?

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- The US administration under the President Donald Trump has been concentrating on resolving the illegal border crossing issue.
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- They had announced that migrants smuggling their children into the US border would be separated from their children to reduce the illegal crossings.
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- Following this decision, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has reported as many as 1,475 unaccompanied children were missing while in federal custody during 2017.
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What is the current scenario of migrant children in US?

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- The migrant children who illegally cross borders with their parents are separated from them by the federal authorities and kept in their custody.
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- The HHShas reported that since October 2017, more than 700 migrant

children had been taken from adults claiming to be their parents.
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- The Federal dept. holds no accountability for these children and this has led to many children missing.
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- Thus, over the past week, public debate and outragehave erupted against the administration’s insensitive policy towards migrant children.
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What are the concerns with this decision?

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- While forcibly separating children from the parents, families face a lot of trauma and the health and wellbeing of the children are not considered.
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- After separation from parents, the children are not held responsible by the authorities and their needs are not properly being cared.
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- While according to the law to reduce illegal crossings, these actions are against the moral practices and not acceptable by the public.
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Source: The Indian Express

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