

“Despite having their parents alive and at least one member of the extended family in the same city, street children are orphans; they are psychologically orphaned”

(Raffaelli, 1997)

A Rapid Assessment Study on

The Situation of the Phenomenon of Children and Youth of the Street in Karatu Township

Evans Anthony Rwamuhuru

October, 2011

A group of children and youth are gathered outdoors, holding a large white banner. The banner has text in Swahili and English. The English text reads 'MWEMA STREET CHILDREN CENTRE KARATU'. The Swahili text reads 'MTAA HAUJAZAA WATOTO CENHAKA WENU'. The children are dressed in casual clothing, and the background shows a dry, open landscape with some trees.

The Situation of the Phenomenon of Children and Youth of the Street in Karatu Township

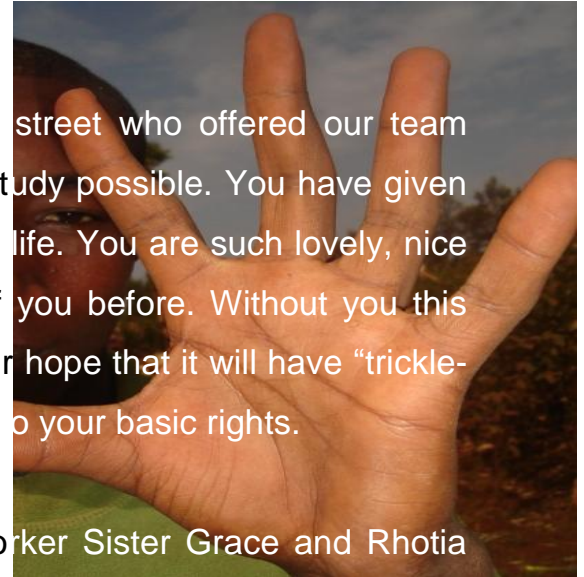
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Executive Summary

Street children are, perhaps, the most vulnerable section of the society who suffers from human deprivations of all forms. They are forced to live on the street adding to their vulnerable and distressed situations which leave them with serious implications for their growth and development. To us all – politicians, decision makers and general public – these children are repulsive, making us offended considering them as anarchy of our beauty towns and cities. However, irrespective of our conceptions and perceptions of these children, they have the rights as human being and we are all obliged to ensure this special group of vulnerable children gains access to basic human and children rights. This is at the centre of this study, bringing into stakeholders and actors understanding the situation children of the street are facing on living in streets, for informed decisions.

This study covered a total of 27 children of the street of whom all were boys. No girls were interviewed as there were no girls who were found to be in the group “*children of the street*”, who were the focus of this study. However, this does not mean that there are no street girls as there were many girls who abandoned their homes and working in street to fend for their living. Their detailed case is presented in section 3.5.1 of this study.

Children and youth covered were between 9 to 21 years of age and majority of them have been to school (92.7%) and dropped out between Standard 1 and 4 (80%) of primary school education level. Majority of respondents (around 89.9%) were found to have their origin in different Wards in Karatu District, with Karatu Town Ward taking a lead with around 40.7%, while Iraq being a dominant ethnic tribe. It was also found in this study that majority of children (about 81.5%) of street having at least 1 parent alive (59.3% of respondents with both parents alive). About 62.5% from Interview affirmed that their parents are separated while from the Focus Group Discussion about 71% of FGD attendee affirmed that their parents are separated. With regard to availability of members of extended family, this study found that around 62.69% of respondents have at least one member of extended family close to Karatu Town. However this study found that these members of extended family are not supportive to the growth of these children as majority of respondents made it clear that it is hard for them to turn to them in case of emergency as they count them as delinquent and criminals sometimes chasing them away swearing they do not want to see them.

With regard to reasons forcing children to run away from their homes to the streets, this study found that there is variability on the reasons and that there is no single dominant factor. On the other hand, it was clearly found that there are situations when a child runs away from home for more than one factor. About 37.04% of them confirmed that poverty at their homes was the key reason forcing them to abandon their families as their needs were unmet and causes parents to abandon their children to their grandparents with no support while around 33.33% of them affirmed that they abandoned their homes as a result of being

severely beaten by their parents (most being stepparents). This study also found that there are moments when children of the street get tired of street life and wanted to abandon it. This was apparently confirmed by respondents as 37.04% claimed that they made a number of trials to join their families after finding life in street to be hard and unbearable. This being the case, however, respondents went on explaining that they returned back to the street after not finding receptive welcome back to their homes for similar reasons to those previously forced them run away from their homes to the street.

Findings from this study also found that for these children to survive in street they engage themselves in a wide range of petty activities such as selling empty bottles, carrying luggage, gambling, cleaning people's and shops floors and collecting and selling iron and steel pieces. This study found out that the money these children earn is so meager not to enable them to meet their needs such as access to reliable quality food and other social services. As an outcome of foregoing, respondents were found fishing food from garbage bins as one of their sources of food which, as a matter of fact, put them into health concern. Respondents confirmed that they are so frequently suffering from diarrhea, severe stomach pains, high fever (malaria) and cough/chest pains. They also narrated to investigators that the cause for their suffering from these diseases is largely due to the fact that they sleep in unhygienic condition and eating food from unhygienic sources such as garbage bins. It was also found in this study that majority of respondents do not have access to health services as 85.2% of respondents affirmed that they usually go for self medication. On the other hand, findings from this study reveal that children of the street do not have access to toilet service and they do open defecation. Also respondents made it clear that they do not bother taking shower or washing and change their clothes regularly and they do not have any specific place of abode and they just sleep anywhere, only putting cardboards on the ground to make a bed with no bed-sheet for cover. This unhygienic condition puts these children into health concerns including skin infections and cold/cough.

This study recommends for establishment of District Children Advisory Committee to spearhead joint efforts among different actors and stakeholders at the district level to promote children's access to their basic rights from the grass root. It is in the opinion of the authors, basing on experience from other studies, that it's only the concerted efforts from the local government, religious institutions, NGOs, political figures and general public that the problem of street children, and children vulnerability in its generality, will be solved and prevented. It is worth to note here that, it is the same state and community that create the problem and its only concerted efforts from these parties and other stakeholders that the problem will be worked out. Also this study recommends for all parties to ensure that basic national laws providing for children's protection and access to their basic rights are observed and enforcement. This will be of great importance towards ensuring children and youth of the street are well protected, cared and gain access to their basic citizenry rights. Finally, a model for an effective reintegration of street children in different social settings is provided. The model aims to provide a framework to guide actors and stakeholders concerted efforts to problems facing street children and youth and ensure for effective reintegration.

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List of Acronyms

CAP - Chapter

CBD – Central Business District

DAP – Draw-a-Person Test

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

GN – Government Notice

KM – Kilometer

MCK – Mwema Children Karatu

MdM – Medicos Del Mundo (Doctors of the World)

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

NMC – National Milling Corporation

RE – Revised Edition

SPSS – Statistical Package for Social Scientist

TFA – Tanganyika Farmers Association

UN – United Nations

UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

URT – United Republic of Tanzania

WHO – World Health Organization

Definition of terms

Children of the Street: In the opinion of Aptekar (1994) children of the street are “*real street children*”. Known as homeless children in other literatures, children of the street refer to those children who live full-time independently in streets and they have broken off contact with their families (Raffaelli, 1997).

Extended Family: In African context, the traditional African extended family network comprises the family members who are related by blood, marriage, and adoption (fictive and legal) and who share domestic and familial care-giving obligations. These long-established African kin institutions are often considered as the core source of material, social and emotional support, as well as social security for its members, particularly in times of need and crisis such as unemployment, sickness, old age and bereavement as families live together and share their resources (Jarreta & Burton, 1999). They are also the base of reciprocal care-giving relations between generations.

With regard to child care, extended family structure offer an improved alternatives for child care arrangements since persons other than the biological parents may assume child care responsibilities (Berhman and Wolfe, 1984) as a child is greatly desired in the family and is regarded as a guarantee of the continuance of the family lineage (Ntozi & Zirimenya, 1999).

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 Background Information

Over the past five decades, the phenomenon of street children has become prominent globally in major cities of the world. The United Nations estimates the worldwide population of street children at 150 million. The phenomenon is incessantly transcending to the level where it is viewed as strictly uncommon occurrence to a worrisome global existing problems¹, endlessly escalating and further compounding to the nature of urban crisis², representing one of humanity's most complex and serious challenges and a major issue³. No country, and virtually no city, anywhere in the world today is without the presence of street children⁴. These children are often abandoned, but are also AIDS orphans or offspring of impoverished parents who have them live and work in the streets. In addition, some children are on the street as they have run away from abusive homes. Street children are often “defenceless victims of brutal violence, sexual exploitation, abject neglect, chemical addiction, and human rights violations”⁵.

Despite dearth of many empirical studies on the problem of street children, these studies principally assent that in Tanzania, the phenomenon of street children who are famously known as “*machokora*” or “*watoto wa mitaan*”, is acute in big cities of Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha, Morogoro, Tanga, Mbeya and Mwanza, in search for living, leaving these children with serious implications for their survival⁶. The phenomenon is partly a reflection of many problems such as extreme poverty, hunger, insecurity, lack of social services that are endemic in many highly populated urban areas, child abuse, domestic violence, displacement caused by communal clashes, inadequate care, death of a parent (or both parents), need for income in the family, inability to continue in school, willful deviance in a few children, unemployment of one or both parents, illiteracy, housing challenges, drug use by children, and peer influence⁷. Suffice to say, these children find themselves with no choice but to make a living in the street for their own survival and often that of their families⁸. For most of them, street life has become the best alternative in search for their livelihoods after family settings and other community support systems failed, thereby assuming roles traditionally played by their parents⁹.

¹ Omiyinka and Festus, 2010

² Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999; Volpi, 2002; Le Roux & Smith, 1998; Le Roux, 1998

³ Kopoka, 2000; Mehta, 2000; Omiyinka and Festus, 2010

⁴ Le Roux, 1994, Le Roux & Smith, 1998

⁵ Pangaea, 2001; Tillman, 2006

⁶ Omiyinka & Festus, 2010; Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999

⁷ Kopoka, 2010; Omiyinka and Festus, 2010; Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999

⁸ Kobayashi, 2004

⁹ Rwamuhuru, 2011; Kobayashi, 2004

In streets they live alone with no reliable shelter and other social services including health and education, vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other health concerns, do not enjoy parental love and care, developing themselves materially, culturally and morally, largely suffering psychosocial distress¹. Their search for survival has branded them with many abusive and pejorative names – such as hooligans, vagabonds, thieves etcetera – and prone to commit crimes which make them the first target of the harassment of law enforcement organs by being beaten, detained and sometimes repatriated to their rural homes². All in all, life in the street is a constant mêlée among street children with the general public in search for survival, belongingness and security leaving them with many life implications.

In working with this group of children we came to realize that there are vast of assumptions behind the underlying causes to the phenomenon and detrimental impact street life has to these children compounded with lack of enough empirical information to guide effectuation of programs to intervene the phenomenon. In absence of research-based information regarding to the situation of street children in Karatu, Social Welfare professionals, decision makers, NGOs and other stakeholders and actors may find themselves forced to make decisions based on stereotypes or personal beliefs rather than the reality of their clients' lives³. This is what made Mwema, as the sole NGO in Karatu striving to foster for the rights of street children, to take into key consideration the need for an empirical and informative study to provide research-based information for informed decisions necessary to put in place programs to intervene the phenomenon of street children at the district level.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

This study will be undertaken with the aim of attaining the following objectives.

- 1.2.1 To bring into account the socio-economic and cultural background of children of the street
- 1.2.2 To understand the nature of the phenomenon and examination of key major factors escalating the problem of children of the street in Karatu Township
- 1.2.3 To analyze the means and strategies of livelihoods among children of the street in Karatu Township
- 1.2.4 To examine children's understanding of the implications of street life on their growth and development
- 1.2.5 To develop a model that will guide the process of reintegration of street children with their families and different social and economic settings.

¹ Cohen *et.al* 1991; Lugalla & Mbwapbo, 1999; Rajan and Kudrat, 1996

² Lugalla & Mbwapbo, 1999; Biggar, 1999; de Benitez, 2001

³ Raffaelli, 1997

SECTION II: STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Design and Ethical Considerations

2.1.1 Study Design

A case study design of research was employed in this study. The choice of this design base on the fact that this method gives unitary character of data being studied by inter-relating a variety of facts to a single case, taking into account its flexibility in terms of methods for data collection and analysis that can be used but also provide opportunity for researcher to analyze many specific details that are often overlooked with other methods. Moreover, the design is less costly in comparison to other empirical studies designs¹.

2.1.2 Ethical Considerations

It is of paramount importance for any scientific study to be conducted in an ethical way. Taking into account that a researcher is in a privileged position to have access to information including those, in respondent's opinion, to be private, some set of ethics are critical to ensure that the information are well treated with care and consideration. The following ethics were employed in this study.

- i. *Inform respondents the objective of the study:* The purpose of this study was clearly explained to all children and other respondents of the study prior to commencement of the interview. Before the interview start, all questions were read to respondents and informed what is expected of this study (to bring into light some key information necessary for an informed decision to intervene the situation of the phenomenon) and were asked if they are ready to participate and their decision whether to participate in this study or not was final.
- ii. *Voluntary Participation:* This study was voluntary and consent was obtained from children to participate and no single child was forced to participate. It is known that due to the nature of the respondents it had been hard for children to sign any physical document to signify their consent to participate in the study however the consent was made orally. During the whole period we were keen to ensure that no any act of giving any kind incentive to a child in order to solicit for their participation. If a child were found to demand anything (be it food or money) as condition for their active participation in this study, he was instinctively removed from the sample population and was not interviewed.
- iii. *Minimum Risk consideration:* This study is conducted under a minimum risk consideration. In this sense, no actual name of a child will be mentioned in this study and all names used are just merely synonymous.

¹ Chauri & Gronhaug, 2002; Simon et.al., 1985; Tipaph & Shukla, 2002

- iv. *Zero expectation environments*: Grave concern of this study is to bring into light some key issues as far as the problem of children and youth of the street is concerned so as to share the obtained information with different actors, partners and stakeholders. This is to help in making important decisions towards dealing and working (interventions) with street children. However, during the time of conducting this study, attention was paid not to raise any expectation from the children by abstaining from anything that will be translated to these children as a promise.

2.2 Data Collection Procedures

2.2.1 Sampling procedure

In the first four days of this study, we conducted a simple informal survey, in collaboration with heads of street children's groups, in order to establish the number of children of the street in different streets in Karatu Township. A result from this simple survey shows that, by the time of this study, there were around 49¹ children of the street in different streets in Karatu. This data was available after summing up the number of children from each groups provided by the leaders of the group and later on, during focus group discussion, children were asked to mention those children of the street who are yet to have any affiliation to any group and finally their number were summed up. However, it is worthy to note here that the number might be more than that as in the later days of our study it came into our attention that there are other children who abandoned their homes and they are yet to join groups and still unknown to other children as they are still afraid of joining the other children of the street. These children sleep out of Karatu CBD streets in places such as farms and in burnt-bricks making sites located at NMC area. It is from this sample of 49 children of the street that a total of 27 children were randomly picked for an interview using a simple random sampling technique.

2.2.2 Data Collection

2.2.2.1 Data types, Sources and Instruments

Primary data of both qualitative and quantitative nature was collected pertinent to the provision of answers to research questions. Using guidelines and suggestions from Aptekar (1988), Estela (1994) and Hecht (1998), this study intended to interview three groups of respondents which were; children and youth² still in the street (*children of the street*); some available parents of street children; and individual community members in constant contact with these children for the purpose of giving their experience

¹ This is the number only of "*children of the street*" and it does not include those who come to work during day time and get back to their homes during night times (*children on the street*) as the main concern and focus of this study was with the children of the street.

² The definition of youth and children in this study base on UN definition of "youth", as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years and with "children" as those person being under the age of 18 (UN 1985)

about the survival of children of the street. However it was difficult to interview the second group (parents of the children available in Karatu) as most of those who were reached (almost 9 of them) were not in position to give any assistance to interviewers for reasons including finding them already drunk and some other parents did not want to talk about their children and one of our enumerator was chased away by a parent after finding that the interviewer want to talk to him about “*that street dog*”. Only 4 parents were able to offer cooperation and still we are convinced that further effort in studying the phenomenon of street children from parents’ point of view is still needed. Also we had an informal interview with grandparents of children of the street to paint us a picture especially on the legality of marital situation of parents of respondents. A total of 4 grandparents were covered in this study. On the other hand we had been able to talk for an in-depth interview with a total of 5 adults to paint us with a picture of their general understanding and perception on the phenomenon of street children. It was from this group that we managed to gain enormous sight on means of survival among these children when they are in the street.

In order to collect as much information as required and to ensure precision and reliability of information to be collected by this study, researchers employed four different data collection instruments through the principle of triangulation. These are in-depth interviewing, focus group discussion, structured questionnaire and case study and observations. In-depth interview using structured Questionnaires and focus group discussions was used to street children. Case study was used to some selected children to narrate their life on the street including cases on reasons for their departure from home and how do they survive in the streets. Borrowing experience from Subedi (2002) and Huang *et. al.* (2004), though this study used questionnaires to interview a child, no interview with street children was done when any member of research team hold a pen or paper to write the explanations and answers from respondents taking into account that these children do not offer cooperation whenever they see someone writing what they express fearing that their information will be disclosed to their number one “*worst enemy*” (government officials) and thus they will be easily recognized and become the primary target of police and local militia brutality. Therefore, we used voice recording applications from our personal mobile phones to record specific answers from respondents and later on filling in their respective questionnaire forms.

2.2.2.2 Data Collection Techniques

In order to ensure that data collection process produces expected result and that all of the ethical and methodological considerations are taken into account, a team of enumerators were trained in the first three days prior to commencement of field observations and data interview. Taking into account the

nature of the respondent covered by this study is difficult to handle due to life complexities which affect them psychologically making street children to offer unreliable answers¹, this study was undertaken both in field and observation research settings where by investigators used the existing children's natural social settings such as their own meeting places and use of their cohort/peer groups leaders.

Borrowing experience from Huang *et.al* (2004) field and observation research help investigators attain three (3) major purposes which are (i) first, giving the investigators expected gain of the trust and confidence of the children by developing some form of intimate friendship with these children by being part of their life during day and evening time when observing their situation; (ii) Second, the extensive observation will permit accurate classification of the children as “children of the street” and those who are “children on the street”; (iii) Third, observing the children in their natural environment essentially help investigators to have clear and concise information about the general lives of these children when in the street and to understand many characteristics such as the daily work schedule, methods of obtaining food, how do they sleep and various strategies for their survival. This also, at some instances, forced investigators to make visits of children's homes so as to get clear picture of the information provided by the children. All these helped investigators to increase the precision of validity and reliability of information that was collected from the children.

Many studies reveals that it is hard to find street children during the day time as most of them are relentless tending to work in several areas for their livelihood² which made most of these studies to be substantially be undertaken during night times. However, the case in this study was different from the rest and substantially it was conducted during day time. This was by far contributed by a trust developed by these children and their friendship to MCK staff and hence their availability for most of activities arranged by MCK is always positive and enabled this study to be undertaken during day time and night time was used for observation of their general timetable and how they sleep in the streets. Taking into account this trust, it enabled our team to be able to take a single child and separate from a group for a personal interview. To make the availability of these children possible, children were selected from their normal settings where they are always available. The identification of interview locations and points (*catchment areas*) was solely identified by the help of MCK's Street Worker borrowing their experience on the street children preferential areas.

¹ McAlpine *et.al*, 2009

² Huang *et.al*, 2004; McAlpine *et.al*, 2009

Borrowing experience from study by Huang *et.al* (2004) that in most cases these children provide unreliable answers, this study administered the *repeated data collection technique* to the children. According to Huang *et.al* (ibid), this technique helps to reconfirm the data and to minimize missing data. Two persons from the research team were selected to ask each child similar questions and then compare the findings. In case of conflicting answers, researchers decided to call the head of the group of which a child was identified to belong to so as to provide a details about a child and finally to reconfirm the exact answers. Also repetition to a child with conflicting information was done during a focus group discussion, as it came into our attention that in most cases children would not tell a lie in front of the whole group and if they did so their fellow will stand against his story. And, of course, it was the focus group discussion that by far helped to reconfirm the data and provided the clear and accurate information. On the other hand, at some instances, the MCK street educator provided a great help in confirming the answers from children taking into account that before he started the work he was previously also a street child and thus he has a lot of knowledge about these children and their background.

Also with lessons learnt from a study by Subedi (2002), this study employed a *gradual approach* in data gathering as it is hard to spend much time with them taking into account that their life is always in hustle be it night or day time. Under this approach, investigators asked children some specific issues at specific time before getting back again to ask on other things. That is to say, children were not asked to answer all the questions at a time but instead questions were asked in between two to three different times and this reduced the problem of children to run away from researchers amid of the interview as many other studies found this to be the case. Also in order to help these children cooperate with researchers, two different approaches were employed as suggested by Subedi (ibid) which were;

- (i). To befriend these children by being part of their daily life and get familiarize with their world of work. In this regard, we spent the first 5 days as orientation days, getting where children stay and spent their lives and also to induce to the children the idea that we are going to have a study with a positive aim of bringing into light some important information about their lives when in streets for an informed decision to intervene their situation. This strategy gained the morale of these children to prepare for the study and it was what made their participation positive more than what it we conceived in the beginning.
- (ii). To separate a child from a group by the moment of interview with the intention not to raise suspicion among them as they have already gained some confidence on investigators and have their good-will on us. This helped children feel free to express even those things that maybe a child would think the rest of the group could have laughed him such as own desire to leave the

group and get back home and some other private information required from each child.

2.3 Data processing, Analysis and Presentation

After the field work, the collected data was reviewed to detect errors and omissions and then assigned codes so as to make them amenable for analysis. Statistical package for Social Scientists (SPSS) Windows Version 19 software was used to enter data collected from questionnaires and the same program was used for analysis. Analysis based on descriptive analysis where by distribution of respondents in frequencies and percentage was presented particularly in case of qualitative data. Detailed case histories and information from respondents was recorded using investigators personal mobile phones' voice recording applications then the information was first translated into English from Swahili and transcribed them in the exact wording of the respondents. Explanations of these wording in the case histories and other findings was provided in the corresponding text so as to put many issues pertaining to the transcription in clear and understandable manner.

SECTION III: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

This section provides findings from this study with key discussions, whenever necessary, in line with findings from other studies done similar to this study. This is to provide some answers to objectives of this study while adding into our understanding of the phenomenon of street children from different other studies.

3.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS

3.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by Age, Education Background and Area of Residence

3.1.1.1 Distribution by Sex, Age and Age at First Move

Children covered by this study were only boys basing on the fact there are no girls who are “*children of the street*” as many of girls are those working street children (children on the street) living in other people’s houses doing domestic activities and they are not visible in streets. So they do not appear in this study not because there are no girls abandoning their families and run to the street but it is because they do not spent their entire life in the street and as such they are out of the concern of this study as it focus much on children of the street. However, for the purpose of clarity and unveiling the situation street girls are facing, their case is detailed in later section 3.5.1 of this study.

Table 1 below shows majority of children of the street in Karatu Town are those with age below 18 years of age (children). The findings reveal that majority of children and youth of the street (about 55.6%) are those ranging between 12 to 15 years of age followed by the group of children between 8 to 11 and those between 16 to 19 years of age both forming about 18.5% of children reached by this study. Those aging above 19 years of age were found to be far less that the rest of the age groups and this was found in this study as caused by most of these children when they reach the age of 18 they start to feel ashamed of living and sleeping in streets and decided to rent rooms where they live in groups and their only contact with street life is when they work to earn money for their survival.

Of the respondents who came into direct interview with interviewers, the minimum age was 9 years and the maximum age is 21 years of age. However, during the observation sessions, interviewers found a small child of 5 years of age who is in the streets together with his elder brother who is of the age of 12 years. It was observed that the youngest is living at home with their father who is not responsible with care of his children, while the elder brother is living independently in streets. It was found that the youngest brother in many cases he joins his brother during day time and gets back home during evening time. This again means that if the youngest boy is not helped to cut this regular contact with

street life, then it is apparent that this boy is likely that he will abandon his home and join street life soon or near.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Ranges and Time Spent in Street

Category		Frequency	Percent
Age Range	8 – 11	5	18.5
	12 – 15	15	55.6
	16 – 19	5	18.5
	Above 19 years	2	7.4
	Total	27.0	100.0
Time Spent in Street (N=27)			
Between 6months - 1 years		3	11.1
Between 1 years - 2 Years		3	11.1
Between 2 to 4 years		15	55.6
Between 4 to 5 years		5	18.5
Above 5 years		1	3.7
Total		27	100.0

With regard to time already spent by these children since become a child of the street, majority of these children (about 55.6%) spend between 2 to 4 years fully in the street followed by 18.5% who spent between 4 to 5 years of age. Findings also shows that the least period for children covered by this study is 8 months while the oldest in the street was found to have about 9 years in the street. On the other hand, further investigation showed that these children had a long period of contact with street life before they decided to leave their families and depend on their own in the street. This is due to the fact that becoming a child of the street is a gradual process and a child may spend, sometimes, more than a year coming to the street getting used to the environment and waiting for the “*perfect time*” to join while still maintaining contact with families before they sever that contact and develop strong tie with street life.

3.1.1.2 Education Background of Respondents

Findings from this study also reveal that only 7.4% of children of the street have never been to school and the remained 92.6% of these children have been to school but they have dropped out of school before finishing primary education. It was found in this study that those children who dropped out of school before finishing primary education, majority of them (80.0%) have dropped out of school at the very initial stages of their primary education (Between Standard 1 and 4) and the remained 20% of the respondents have dropped out of school at the final stages of their primary education level (between class 5 and 7).

Table 2: Respondents Education Background

Response	Frequency	Percent
Education Background (N=27)		
Never been to school	2	7.4
I have been to school but dropped out	25	92.7
Total	27	100
Grades Respondents Dropped out of School (N=25)		
Class 1 – 4	20	80
Class 5 – 7	5	20
Total	25	100.0
Children who can Read and Write (N=25)		
Can Read and Write well	5	20
Can Read and Write Fairly	7	28
Can't read and Write	13	52
Total	25	100.0

On the other hand, further investigation was done to respondents who confirmed that they have been to school to find if they can read and write well, read and write but with difficulties or cannot read and write at all. Respondents were given a piece of paper with a paragraph of written short story for them to read and a piece of pencil to write their names and the result showed that majority of the respondents (52%) failed to read and write while only 20% managed to read and write fluently without any trouble and about 28% of the respondents can read and write though with some difficulties. That is to say, despite the fact that they have been to school before, they don't know how to read and write.

This can be attributed by the fact that most of those children who had been to school (80%), as it was found above, have absconded their studies at the very initial stages of their primary education before they managed to read and write. It is customarily agreed that primary school standards 1 to 4 are initial grades of which children are considered illiterate as they have yet gained much to be able to read and right fluently. On the other hand, as suggested by WHO (2000) and van Rooyen & Hartell (2002), the reason why these children lost memory of what they had learned in the past can be attributed by the nature and the impact street life pose to the development and growth of street children. Their use of drugs and alcohol (substance abuse), tiredness due nervous nature of street life, problems with concentration, depression and hyperactivity etcetera, all results, in the opinion of these authors, into never and brain damage and loss of memory.

Discussions

Basing on the findings above, it is apparent that majority of children of the street lack access to one of the most basic human and constitutional right^{[1] [2] [3]}, the universal right to education. This is similar to studies by Agu & Tukai (2000), Ahmad (2003) and Shrestha (2009) which affirm that street children have little or no access to basic education and planning for their access to education is an important endeavor towards their social and economic reintegration. In the opinion of Agu & Tukai (2002), as a result of poor support provided to these children; including attending school hungry, unwashed, lack of self sense and failure of schools system to support a child etcetera; most of these poor children drop-out from school and their last resort is to go to the streets to get socialized which prepare their ways to become members of street gangs. That is to say, though it is most challenging, ensuring access to education to these children is an important step towards ensuring positive socialization which will prepare them to become potent and responsible adult and this calls re-thinking and planning on helping street children and youth gain access to education (be it basic primary education or vocational, formal or informal education).

¹ Articles 11(2) and 11(3) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides that *every person* has right to education and *that every citizen* shall be free to pursue education and that the government shall endeavour to ensure that there are equal and adequate opportunities *to all persons* to acquire knowledge

² The National Education Act No. 25 of 1978 (as amended) provides that “every citizen of the URT shall be entitled to such category, nature and level of education as his ability may permit.

³ Tanzania Education Policy of 1996 and the Children Development Policy of 1996 both provides for coordinated effort to ensure children are enrolled in schools, without any form of discrimination, and that alternative programs are set for older children.

3.1.1.3 Distribution of Respondents by Areas of Residence and Ethnic Background

Respondents were asked to mention areas of origin where they came from before engaging with street life. This is probably one of the hardest information to find from street children as they do not like to tell about where they come from fearing that they will be rounded up and forced back to their native areas. In this case, this is one of the questions we cautiously asked respondents to ensure that we get reliable answers from them. To reconfirm respondents' answers, this question was again asked to leaders of specific group where a specific child is affiliated to and finally the same question was asked to respective child during the focus group discussion and when a child answer a place which is not his exact place of origin, the whole group stand against the response and provided the investigators with appropriate answer.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Areas of Residence and Ethnic Background

Category	Frequency	Percent
Children's Areas of Residence (Wards) (N=27)		
Karatu Town	11	40.7
Rhotia Khainam	4	14.8
Mang'ola & Baray	3	11.1
Ganako	6	22.2
Areas Out Of Karatu	3	11.1
Total	27	100.0
Children Ethnic Background (N=27)		
Iraq (Both Parents or Father Only)	17	63.0
Only Mother Iraq but not father	4	14.8
Not Iraq (Both mother and father not Iraq)	5	18.5
No idea	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0

Findings from this study reveals that majority (about 40.7%) of respondents come from different suburbs around Karatu Town Ward. The dominant ones are NMC, MARIE STOPES, BWAANI, G/ARUSHA, G/LAMBO and TFA (Kwa Awtu) suburbs. TFA suburb is the leading one to have a large number of respondents more than any other suburb in Karatu Town Ward. Categorically, this suburb is one of the suburbs in Karatu Township with large number of houses where local brew is

prepared and sold. The Ganako Ward (Ayalabe and Tloma divisions on the lead) is the second leading ward found in this study to produce a large number of children of the street with a proportion of about 22.2% followed by Rhotia Ward (Rhotia Khainam) with a proportion of about 14.8% and Mang'ola (Both Mang'ola and Baray Wards) with about 11.1% of respondents. Findings show that only 11.1% of respondents came from outside Karatu Town.

From these findings it is apparent that majority of respondents have their place of origin from different suburbs across Karatu Township area (Karatu Town, Ganako and Rhotia Ward) with small number of them coming outside Karatu Township and Karatu District in general as it is shown in Table 3 above. Those coming outside Karatu District are coming from Mbulu District, Mto wa Mbu (Monduli District) and one child found to come to Karatu from Majengo Arusha Municipal in search for his close relatives after the death of his parents.

With regard to ethnic background, it was found that majority (63%) of these children are Iraq by tribe born either by both parents Iraq or an Iraq father and a mother from another tribe¹ of which majority of them are from both Iraq parents while only about 18.5% of respondents claimed not to be Iraq or born to one Iraq parent with second parent from another tribe apart from Iraq. The fact that majority of respondents are Iraq by tribe base on the fact that Iraq tribe is a dominant tribe in both Karatu and Mbulu District where hefty number of respondents have their origin.

3.1.2 Background Information of Parents of Respondents, Availability of Members of Extended Family and Availability of Resource Support Networks

3.1.2.1 Survival of Respondents' Parents and Marital Situations

Findings from this study shows that only 11.1% of all respondents claimed to be orphaned while majority of them (81.5%) have at least one of their parents alive (59.3 of them with both parents alive and 22.2% having one parent alive) and 7.2% of respondents affirming to have no any idea whether their parents are alive or not.

Of those respondents who claimed to have both of their parents alive (N=16), about 62.5% claimed that their parents are not living together (separated) and from those who attended focus group discussion (N=14) 71% claimed that their parents are separated. Cases presented during focus group discussions revealed that majority of these children have their parents married to another man or woman, to find themselves being raised in hands of their step parents enduring many life miseries and

¹ Iraq tribe follows patriarchal system and a father's tribe is child's tribe

abuses. One child whose father married to another two different wives from his mother assented this by saying:-

“My mother is now married to another man after parting with my father...the same to my father is married to another woman now who is the third from my mother.....then I had to live with my father and my step mother who did me bad things including threatening to kill me....it was hard to live in that house....”

Furthermore, during the focus group discussion it was also found out that even those families that still stick together (father and mother not separated) the families are instable with frequent domestic violence. One boy assented this during focus group discussion by saying:

“My parents still lives together but they live in two different parts of the world....when I was still at home everyday night when my father is back drunk he start beating everyone even our mother...One day he get back drunk and he started to beat us and when our mother intervened and told him to stop he decided to take a turn and start to beat our mother and we decided to stand for our mother and beat him as he was drunk....then I run to the street in fear of him....”

Table 4: Survival and Marital Situation among Parents of Children and Youth of the Street

Response	Frequency	Percent
Survival of Respondents' Parents (N= 27)		
Both Alive	16	59.3
One Parent Alive	6	22.2
Both Not alive	3	11.1
No response/No idea	2	7.4
Total	27	100.0
Marital Situations (If Parents Live Together) (N= 16)		
Parents Live Together	4	25.0
Parents Do not Live together	10	62.5
No response/No idea	2	12.5
Total	16	100.0

This study went on studying the nature of parents' marital status to find from the respondents if their parents were legally married¹. It is worthy to note here that it was hard to find any positive response from our respondents as majority of them made it clear that they do not have any idea whether their parents were legally bound or not. However, we had to study this from the 4 parents covered and who offered cooperation to the investigation team and 4 grandparents of the children. Out of the 4 parents, only 2 couples was found to have legal marital affair and the rest maintained that they did not have any legal marital affair. Of all the 4 grandparents covered, all of them affirmed that their children had no legally recognizable marital affair. This means that out of 8 children of the street we managed to get information about the marital affair of their parents, only 2 (25%) had marital affairs (which means children were born in wedlock) and the remained 6 respondents (about 75%) were born out of wedlock. Though it is hard to rely on these data as they do not represent the whole sample supposed to be covered as detailed earlier in methodological part of this study, they leave as an alarming picture with a big lesson to learn. This is to say, many of the children of the street are born from parents who had no marital affairs and this can also be manifested by the fact that majority of these parents are not living together (62.5%) and what has been explained earlier in this section that some children made it clear during the FGD that their parents (both mother and father) have married to more than two to three different wives or husbands.

Discussions

Contrary to many other reports and beliefs of many describing street youth as orphaned, majority of children covered by this study do have either of their parents alive (about 81.5%) but not living together (62.5%). These findings are similar to findings from the studies by Wright *et.al*, (1993) and Rafaelli (1997) which found that the proportion of orphaned street children in their studies to be around 2 to 7 percent. However, despite them being alive most of them do not stay together as they are either divorced or separated. Study by Ngoy (2005) shows that most of the parents of children of the street are living out of wedlock, a good number of them being married when they were small girls, and this is what account for such level of separation among parents and living children with no proper care plan.

¹ Definition of Marriage applied in this section refers to the definition of marriage as provided in Section (9) of Marriages Act No. 5 of 1971 which provides that marriage is "a voluntary union of a man and a woman intended to last for their joint lives". Section 25 of the Law provide that a marriage is recognized only if contracted in civil form, in rites of religion (Christianity), in Islamic form or according to the rites of the customary law where the parties belong to a community or communities which follow customary law

The divorce or separate of parents has been at the centre of debate as they live children with no one to attend them and sometimes leaving heavy burden for mother only to be able to meet needs of children he will be left with. A study by Amury and Komba (2010) made it clear that family instability and divorce has a lot to do with the increase of street children in Tanzania. A report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes - UNODC (2001) shows that about 62% of street children covered in its study in Alexandria and Cairo Egypt claimed neglect of their parents after divorce/separation to be the cause for them to be in streets. Studies¹ elsewhere makes it lucid that there is a very close link between family break-ups, family instability/dysfunctional with psychological maladjustment which make children suffer a number of life melancholies beyond their capacity to handle making abandoning their families a last resort. These studies shows that children and adolescent lives a stressful side of life as a result of family instability/dysfunctional families (family break-ups inclusive) and those children coming from dysfunctional families are no better off – and sometimes more worse. Studies by Hutz *et. al* (1995) and Campos *et.al* (1994) in Brazil further suggests that parents divorce left children and adolescents with many deleterious effects on the well-being of children at different developmental stages in childhood and adolescents including consequences on children's scholastic performance, psychological maladjustment, misconduct, social incompetence, and poor relationships with their parents. These studies further argues that these family discord and aberrant lead to the increased abuses, because of either the stress already associated with poverty or the presence of non-parental adult at home² and that the continuum of these consequences (behavioral, psychological, and cognitive development impairments) will further result into higher risks of internalizing and externalizing disorders, substance abuse, and alcohol consumption among adolescence which by far contribute to their runaway behavior. This means, in any program to help these children, there is a need to help these children of the street to adjust to the pains and psychological effects they endured as a result of malfunction family relations and parents' separation and divorce. This has been the case with one child we observed his reintegration with his biological parents as he was very angry and infuriated as they abandoned him to suffer in hands of his grandparent after their separation. This simply means, if not helped to restore relationships with their parents, the reunification of most of children of street with their parents/families will not be possible.

Worthy of notice, a very threatening fact from the findings of this study in this section, is the fact that there is a significant number of children and youth of the street born out of wedlock. This is an

¹ HealthPlace, 2008; Mkombozi , 2005; Roustit *et. al.*, 2007; Dillip, 2000; Hetherington *et. al.*, 1989; Amato & Keith. 1991; Amato, 2001; Emery, 1999; Wallerstein. 1991

² Raffaelli, 1997

alarming finding basing on the fact that non-marital children are accorded a lower status than marital children.¹ According to Mniwassa (2003) children born out of wedlock are accorded low status due to failure of legal regime to protect children out of wedlock and due to socio-religious prejudices and ineffectual operation of non-governmental organizations in advocating for the rights of women and children, which account for the subordinate position of non-marital children and their mothers. On the other hand, this is similar as to what will be detailed later in section 3.1.2.3 that with the reduced legitimacy of polygyny, lack of legal rights of women in “affairs”, and demise of role of extended family in caring for children, women have little or no support to care for their children. It is in this vein that majority of women find it hard to fend for their children making them abandon their families and run to the streets after finding life back home offering no prospect of their future. Their deprived their basic rights as provided in local laws and constitution of the URT and many International Human Rights Instruments² to which Tanzania is party. They lack access to food, place of abode, health care, parental care and opportunity to access education and acquire knowledge, skills and values through educational channels which result to many non-marital children becoming illiterate and disempowered. This is similar to what is happening to children of the street and calls for immediate responsive and preventive measures, both at the legal regime and community level, to reduce the vulnerability of children³.

3.1.2.2 Availability of Supportive Resource Persons (Members of Extended Family) and How Are They Resourceful and Supportive

Majority of respondents (62.96%) covered by this study have their close relatives living in Karatu Township and its vicinities while 25.93% claimed that they do not have any close relative living close to Karatu. The remained (11.11%) claimed that they do not have any idea whether they have any member of extended family living in Karatu or areas close to Karatu or not. Therefore, these findings clearly suggest that majority of them have their relatives close to Karatu.

¹ Mniwassa, 2003 and Ngoy, 2005

² These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 38 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. All of these recognizes and promote, *inter alia*, the Universal rights of children such as rights to survival, protection and development without any form of discrimination, *inter alia*, on the grounds of birth, status or other status or that of his other parents or status

³ A study by Mniwassa (2003) and a report of the Commission on the Law Relating to Children in Tanzania (1994) provides more lessons on the situation and status of Tanzanian children and their protection

It was in the interest of this study to understand how these available networks of close relatives (members of extended family) are resources to children in case of emergency and if children of the street can turn to them in case of emergency. Only 11.11% of respondents made it clear that they have ever tried to contact members of extended family for support and the rest mentioned to have resourceful person out of members of extended family and they have never turn to them or they will never try. Results on where they turn for support shows that majority (88.89%) depends and always get support from their peer children/youth; 51.85% depends and receive support from the adults in the street (other than members of the extended family) who offered to support them in case of emergency; and 11.11% that they have made trial to try reaching available members of extended families for assistance but to no avail.

Table 5: Availability and Resourcefulness of Supportive Network

Response	Frequency	Percent
Availability of Extended Family Network Close to Karatu (N=27)		
Members of Extended Family Available	17	62.96
Members of Extended Family Not Available	7	25.93
No response/no idea	3	11.11
Total	27	100
Where children Frequently Turn/Get Help From (Multiple responses)		
To close relatives around Karatu	3	11.11
To my friends in Street (<i>Masela</i> ¹)	24	88.89
From adults in Streets	14	51.85

When asked during focus group discussion why they do not prefer turning to their relatives or they do not receive support from them, respondents pointed out on the fact that they are not welcomed by their parents or relatives as they are assumed to be delinquent, vagabonds and thieves but also others said that they cannot turn to them as their families are so poor in such a way that they cannot bother seeking any assistance from them. These kinds of notions and perceptions keep on placing children far away from their families.

¹ A famous slang used by street children meaning “a close peer friend”

Discussions

These findings also affirm the fact that children of the street have a member of extended family close to them but fail to turn to them in times of trouble as it was found in studies by (Raffaelli, 1997; Raffaelli, 1995; Ennew, 1995). A study by Raffaelli (1995) shows that about 83% of his respondents who were children of the street claimed to have a relative (member of extended family) in the same city but they cannot turn to them in times of trouble. A study by Campos *et.al.*, (1994) similarly shows in his study with children of the street in Belo Horizonte Brazil, that homeless children (those who always slept on the street) are less likely to have someone who would give them a place to sleep, protection or help if they were injured or sick despite having family relatives in the same city. The report of UNODC (2001) made it apparent that there is a close relationship between the problem of street children and the declining role of extended families, especially in urban areas due to modernization, leaving children with no support to turn when facing problems therefore making them turn to streets to fend for their needs. Under this modernization hypothesis, Aptekar (1994) holds that children no longer grow up in extended families with strong community support.

There might be two major reason to explain why children does not return to their families or close relatives as observed in this study. First, it base on the fact that the relationship between parents or relatives and their children living on the street is severed making parents to lose faith and trust in their children, counting them as thieves and delinquent and if they come home it means they are going to steal something at home and run to the street to sell. Basing on this presumption, parents and relatives will not risk welcoming their children back again. Second, is the persisting poverty situation back to their homes which does not offer these children a hope of getting any kind of support from their parents or relatives. This makes children and youth of street to decide fighting on their own in streets depending on the available resources within the limit of street life. This all account to what made Raffaelli (1997) to conclude that despite these children having parents or any member of extended family close to them; they are “*psychologically orphaned*”.

3.1.2.3 Who were Respondents Living with Before Coming to the Street?

With regard to who respondents were living with before coming to the street, 40% claimed they were raised and living with their mothers alone, either following death of father (which is insignificant proportion) or following family disintegrations which found to be the fundamental reason leaving children raised with their mothers alone. Another 33.3% raised by their grandparents, 14.8% living with both parents and about 11.1% living with their fathers alone. In this same vein, during focus group discussion it was found that around 21.4% of those attended focus group (N=14) had experience of

living with step parents before coming to the street.

Informal discussion done with some adults members of community to give their account of the problem of street children made it clear that the habit of men not to prefer taking their children with them to be the reason why many children claim to be living only with their mothers. When asked why they think this to be the cause, their response was what is constructed in many of our societies that father do not prefer taking their children with them as they are not so sure if they will find a woman who will raise well their children. This, therefore, force them to abandon and leave their children live with their biological mother. Similar thing happens with women as they do not prefer going on with their children as it will make it hard for them to “find other men to marry them” and it is the reason why most of them end up abandoning their children with their grandparents. We had a chance to talk to a woman who is a biological mother of one of our respondents, who made it clear that she gave birth to that boy when she was a “small girl” and going on with a child would mean jeopardizing his possibility of finding another man and a father to her child is already abandoned her married to another woman.

Table 6: Who Street Children has been Living with before Coming to the Street (N=27)

Category	Frequency	Percent
With Both parents	4	14.81
With mothers only	11	40.74
With father only	3	11.11
Grandparents	9	33.33
Total	27	100.0

Another thing of interest to note was the personal discussion with one of the elders (65 years) at Mang’ola whom we asked him about his personal opinion on parents’ attitude of leaving their children roaming in streets. This elder narrated without hesitating that it is shame to see parents nowadays let their children live independently without their care, support and guidance. He rued about fathers abandoning their families and failing to fulfill their responsibilities which result into family impoverishment, but to our amazement we were left shocked with a solid comment from this elder who in his opinion, although admitting it to be unacceptable for fathers to abandon their families, he said that he is more than upset with the tendency of women letting their children go away from home as that proves that she is not a “woman enough” because a real woman “will go on with a child even if a father decide to abandon a family”. In his opinion, it is the responsibility of a father to provide for a

family but more over it is the responsibility of a mother to care (and actually to look for whatever the means to do so) for her children in cases where a father abandon the family. This again pose a question about the burden that women bear on their shoulder within the community they live as it might be the reason why men leave their children behind knowing that women will show that they are “*women enough*” by ensuring they provide for their children.

On the other hand, during focus group discussion with the children it was found that majority of those children who were left with their grandparents it was not because their parents died. Of the 9 children who claimed they were living with their grandparents, only 1 child (11.11%) said it was because both of his parents died when he was 8 years of age. The rest confirmed that their parents (both or either) are alive but they have decided to abandon them and leave them with their grandparents for no apparent reason. One boy explaining his case during focus group discussion he said:-

“Both of my parents are alive....my father is living just here in Karatu married to another woman and my mother is also married to another man now living in Moshi.....they left me unattended with my grandparents (mother’s parents) and they are old to be able to provide for me.....”

Discussions

Findings from this section apparently reveal that street children are coming from families headed by single mother or grandparents (enough to say grandmothers) with available members of the extended family¹ but with limited social support network,² as it was found earlier in this study. That is to say, majority of children of the street have been living either with their mothers only or female guardians or as their potential economic providers with fathers of children of the street being married to other women, not fulfilling their parental obligations. As found earlier in the study by Aptekar (1994), these single female parents are living in isolation from the community and as a result of modernization which reduces legitimacy of polygyny, they receive little or no support to help raise her children from male-counterparts or from extended families. Kilbride and Kilbride (1990) contends this has not been the case before modernization as men were expected to take care of all their children – not just of a current wife or of the first only – and if a man was not able to do so, the man’s extended family fostered his children and took care of the children³. Within this modern system, with the continual increase of extramarital affairs, women having an “affair” have no legal rights to get help from former male-counterparts and extended families which made it hard for them to raise their children.

¹ Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999; Matuku and Mutiso, 1994

² Bourdieu, 1977

³ Connolly, 1990; Aptekar, 1994

This tendency of men abandoning their families and leaving women with burden of raising their children on their own has twofold detrimental impact on the lives of the children. First, is what Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999) defined as a subjective consequence of female headed household on the problem of street children. Referring to what earlier has been found by Rizzini *et.al* (1994) these two authors asserts that the phenomenon of women to remain with the responsibility of raising children alone without support from a husband leaves them bear much more workload and give them stressful workday which affect, not only relationship with her children, but more on her ability to control them. *Second*, as women are likely to get married to another man (same case if men get married to another women) children are likely to suffer abuses and mistreatment from stepparents forcing them to run away from their families and turn to the street as it is found in studies elsewhere that proportion of street children tend to abandon their homes so as to avoid abuses and beatings from stepparents¹. This is similar to what found earlier in this study as many children claimed to be suffering much at the hands of stepparents.

3.1.2.4 Parents' Occupations

Response from respondents shows that majority of their parents have no reliable work and most of them have multiple income generating activities. Of all the children and youths interviewed, their parents are variably distributed in terms of economic activities, response showing their parents are employed as bar tenders or they are preparing and selling local brews at their residences (11.11%), businessmen/women (18.52%), petty business/activities (about 62.96%) such as food vending, hawking foodstuff/handful of vegetables, domestic activities, selling charcoal etcetera. Other children claimed their parents to be employed as casual labourers in brick-making, working in coffee estates, masonry and lumbering and about 22.22% of children mentioned their parents to be peasant farmers.

Table 7: Children's of the Street's Parents Occupations (Multiple Responses)

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Bar tenders, preparing and selling local brews	8	29.63
Businessmen/Women	5	18.52
Petty businesses/activities	17	62.96
Casual labourers (brick making, selling)	8	29.63
Peasant farmers	6	22.22

¹ Ngoy, 2005; UNODC, 2001;

It was found during the focus group discussion that in most of these activities, parents are doing these businesses with involvement of their children. For instance, during focus group discussion one child whose mother is selling and preparing local brews affirmed that they are being involved in washing dishes used to prepare and sell local brew to customers sometimes denying their right to play and going to school and this cause misunderstanding between parents contributing to child abuse and beatings. Another respondent, whose mother is selling handful of vegetables carrying them walking around Karatu areas in search for customers, narrated during the FGD that they are supposed to carry basins with handful of vegetables to go around different streets in Karatu so as to sell them at their mother's order and "*not doing so means you are not going to eat that day*". That is undeniably true that it denies children their basic rights and freedom including denied a chance to go to school consistently and right to play so that they can have time to participate in these businesses.

3.1.2.5 Alcohol Consumption and Drug Abuse among Parents' of Children of the Street and its Detrimental Impacts on Children Welfare

Results from interview and focus group discussion show that majority of children of the street, their parents (either both or one of them) take alcohol and/or drugs. As presented in Table 8 below, 25.93% said that both of their parents are alcohol and/or drug addicts while 40.74% said that either of their parents are alcohol addicts. Only 18.52% said that both of their parents do not use either alcohol and/or any type of drugs. This means that significant number of parents of children of the street is alcohol and/or drug addicts and it is of no wonder to see most of the street children associated their home abusive environment and their parents' excessive-consumption of alcohol.

When asked to tell any perceived or experienced effect endured following parents' excessive-consumption of alcohol: 92.59% associated their parents' excessive-consumption of alcohol with beating their children without any sound reason; 62.96% linked their parents' alcoholism with persisting poverty in their families; and 33.39% mentioned break-up of families and families' instability to be the end result of over-excessive consumption of alcohol.

Those who associated poverty and family conflicts with their parents' excessive alcoholism behavior, they further contended during focus group discussion that poverty situation in their families is widely contributed by their parents' failure to engage in productive activities and spend their time – others claimed that their parents spend the whole day in local brew bars – just drinking or if they have some money instead of investing their money in productive endeavors they waste the money in taking alcohol. They went further by stressing that the use of alcohol is also one of the contributing factors

for break-up of their families as fathers do not have time to earn money to support their families and hence made their wives decide to abandon their homes or some husbands are in continual discontentment of their wives drinking behavior and make them decide to leave them and find other wives.

There is another group of children (55.56%), worthy of special notice, which associated their parents' excessive consumption of alcohol and lack of time to be with their children, to listen and attend their needs. To these children, the key question they pose to investigator was *"how can a parent take a time to seat, listen and provide life lessons to his/her children if he/she is drunk the whole day"* and this is actually a challenging question that need to be addressed as these children lack someone who is there for them when they need someone a most to provide them with lifelong lessons and assist them to become responsible adults in the community.

Table 8: Alcohol Consumption and Drug Abuse among Parents' of Children of the Street and its Detrimental Impacts on Children Welfare

Category	Frequency	Percent
Parents' consumption of alcohol (N=27)		
Both parents use alcohol	7	25.93
Only one parent using alcohol	11	40.74
Both parents not use alcohol	5	18.52
No idea/no response	4	14.81
Total	27	1000
Children's perception and experience on their parents' excessive consumption of Alcohol (Multiple Responses)		
Beat us for no apparent reason	25	92.59
Make families more poor as parents do not work and lost money to support their families	17	62.96
Result to families breakup	9	33.33
They lack time to be with us and care	15	55.56

Further analysis from children and youth in focus group discussion affirmed that they have never had a chance to have those private moments together with their parents and parents had never bothered taking time with them providing them with close follow-ups and lifelong lessons to help achieve in life.

What they explained to experience is the abuses and beatings whenever they did anything displeasing as if their (parents) are “*bold and have never done anything wrong during their childhood*” not to understand that even their children are subject to mistakes, both as children and as human being. When asked to elaborate what they think were the reason, there were two interesting response from the children; First, they further stress on their parents’ excessive alcoholism with lack of time to seat and listen as they claim that sometimes their parents spent the whole day just drinking; and secondly, they pointed out that some parents consider spending time talking with their children as a waste of time, belittling themselves before their children and nonsense and, by default, it will only mean to spoil a child.

Discussions

This study found that majority of children are vulnerable to many life miseries as a result of their parents’ excessive alcoholic behavior. It is within this over-excessive alcoholic consumption behavior children expounded that their parents spend money imprudently instead of saving for the development of their families and better upbringing of their children and, worthy of noticing, that it makes their parents lack time to seat with them and give them life lessons and ending up beating them when they are drunk. This simply means that children of the street have lacked that parental care and attention which made it difficult for them to deal with the life challenges they face at their young age. This has a great impact on children lives as studies¹ elsewhere evidently affirm that there is close relationship between parents’ attitude of spending time providing life lessons to their children and teens’ and their development.

In our opinions, spending time with children have such a vital role to play in; helping children and teenagers to become responsible and future productive adults by: helping them to be able to deal with peer pressures such as bad companions and oppositional behaviors; strengthening emotional bonding between parents and children; and provide children with a close support in time of need. All of these are important and needed for children and teens in shaping and molding their character and attitudes. These studies further suggest that if no time spent together with children, children are left with many unattended and unresolved problems likely to affect the relationship with parents and results into long-term detrimental effect on children and teenagers’ growth and development. This is what has been at the centre of opinions of followers of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory which contends that deficient of meeting children’s needs (both physiological and psychological) will practically result into negative impact on individual’s child growth resulting into fears, anxieties, many unresolved problems,

¹ Zolten & Long, 1997; Cooksey & Fondell, 1996; Pearce, 2003; Heritage Foundation, 2011; Moore *et.al.*, 2003; Samuelson, 2010; Guryan *et.al.*, 2009.

feeling of rejection, loss of self-esteem and identities and sense of inferiority and discouragement¹ which further compounds to the already existing problems facing children and which are key elements forming children's desire to abandon their families.

3.2 NATURE OF THE PHENOMENON AND FACTORS OBSTRUCTING THEM

ABANDONING STREET LIFE

3.2.1 Reason's for Children Departure from Home

Findings from this study show that there is variation on causes forcing children of the street to abandon their families and live in streets. About 37.04% of respondents affirmed that poverty and its immediate effects was a root cause for their decision to abandon their families. They went further explaining that they found it hard to continue staying at home as they lack access to basic services. Narration from focus group discussions reveals that poverty left these children with their needs unmet, no food at home and no money to afford schooling expenses. More pathetic some children noted that they are sometimes required to work so as to help their parents² earn some money to sustain their homes: One boy narrated his case during the focus group discussion assented this by saying:-

"I am living with my three siblings, together with our mother only. We are of two different fathers and all of our fathers do not live with us. The problem at home is that our family is poor and our mother fails to support us. Sometimes no food and if we ask for money or materials for school our mother said no money. She sometimes asked us to take a basin with handful of vegetables so that we can carry them and go around different streets in Karatu therefore missing school...if we do not do that then no food and we will be beaten....so we had to do it without option...."

On the other hand, this study found that 8 out of 10 children (80%) of all respondents who mentioned poverty to be the key reason for them to abandon their families are coming from those families that are headed by mothers only.

Another group of respondents (33.33%) interviewed pointed out that the key factor for their decision to abandon their homes was that they were severely beaten by their parents (both biological and step parents), sometimes for a justifiable cause and sometimes without any apparent reason. During the focus group discussion respondents clearly pointed out that there are times when their parents beat them up because they have done some mistakes but there are also some moments that they were being beaten up for reason that they even don't understand. It was also observed that the case of child beatings without any justifiable cause is more apparent to children living with step parents, as it was

¹ Boeree, 2004; Van Staden, 1985; Meyer et al, 1997 and Hergenbahn, 1994

² This case was reported by children who were living with their mothers or grandparents

earlier found in this study that majority of the children of the streets are a result of family break-ups, causing some of them ending up enduring many abuses under step parents. Also it was established during the focus group discussion that sometimes children are being punished beyond the point that they can tolerate and make some of them to start hating their parents.

One boy narrated the following story during the focus group discussion:-

“I had to run away from my mother because she was beating me up so much....one day I came late from home and she started beating me up till I bleed....another day again I didn’t wash the dishes and went to play and came back home late and when I reached home she hold me tightly and started beating me up until all the straws she prepared for me was over and she locked me inside going out to take another straws and beat me up and when they were over she went again for the third time to take another one.....one thing that served me was that there was a friend in neighborhood who heard me crying and when he came and open the door I quickly run away from home and never returned since”

Another boy from Mang’ola Gorfán presented his case by saying:-

“I refused to go to school and I had to go and work for people in Mang’ola so that I can get some money. This made my father angry and he was beating me up almost every day.....One day he locked me inside the house with a chain and I had spent almost 3 days inside, locked with chains.....When I got a chance I run and walk by feet from Mang’ola to Karatu using a Mamabau short-cut’...whenever I found some people with bicycles or motorcycles I asked them for a lift and if none appeared then I had to walk until I reached Karatu so I can be away from my family”

Table 9: Major Reasons for Children to Abandon Their Families (N=27)

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Poverty - lack of food and other essential at home	10	37.04
Beaten severely by parents	9	33.33
Parents left me with my grand’s and no care	6	22.22
No response	2	7.41
Total	27	100.0

On the other hand, there was a group of children (22.2%) who said that they left their homes because they were living with grandparents who could not support them and finding themselves in a situation that they have a lot of unmet needs and no assurance that their needs will be met. During the focus group discussion it was established that most of these children found themselves in a situation that their grandparents, to whom they depends, they do themselves need a hand of support. A 13 years boy from Tloma suburb said that he was living with his grandmother (his mother’s parents) after their

¹ Between 35 to 40 Kms

parents were separated and he was sometimes finding himself in a position that he has to work to support his grandparents or to fend for his needs which was the primary cause for his first contact with street. He said he started to come and work and get back home during evening times before he met with friends who lured him to join with them and run away from home (and of course from the burden of caring for his grandparents while himself needs a support).

One thing that was apparent during the interview and during the focus group discussion was the fact that many of these children did not end making up a decision to run away from their homes basing on just a single reason. Most of them children clearly pointed there are more than one reason which compounded to the major factor for them to abandon their families. For instance it was observed most of them mentioning extreme poverty, parents' alcoholism and domestic violence to go together and force them to abandon their families. Other issues raised included abuses from step parents, death of both parents leaving children with nowhere to turn for a help. It was further observed that a desire of children to seek freedom which gives children previously unknown control of their lives from their families to be one of the motivations for them to leave their homes.

Discussion

It is worthy to note here that, despite the fact that there is variability on the reasons that forces children to abandon their families, with whatever the inquiry it might lead, it is important not to assume that for these children leaving their homes is a mistake¹. It is worst to assume that for them to be in street means that they are criminals and have abandon their homes for no apparent reason. It will be much more worst to assume that children of the street are in street because it is “*their*” problem, but it is of more help if we will understand that their existence in street is a result of “*system failure*” to provide safety net for this group of disadvantaged children, both from their homes and in the streets. Facing such unjust and uncaring life at home, these children seek for “*empowerment*” in street by abandoning their families and fend for their lives in streets. To these children, once they find their living conditions at home not satisfying and offering no promise for their future, turning to the street is the best alternative and hope they remain with. In their own narrations, in most cases they find their living conditions in the street to be often better than staying at home as, though street life is not good for their growth and development, it offer them a little hope they need that hope that they will live a day and face tomorrow. That is why some studies contend that children in the street are somewhat better off compared to their young sibling who decided to stick with their families enduring the hardship of lacking access to basic amenities.

¹ Tyler *et.al*, 1991; Aptekar, 1989

Studies¹ committed to make comparisons between those children in the street and their young siblings who still stick together with their families found that children in street have better physical and mental health than their young siblings and peers that stay at home and that the “second and third degree of malnutrition” was found only among those children that stick with their families, and just minor cases (and in some other areas of study no such cases) has been seen to those children of the street.

That is to say, despite the fact that street life is not good for children and poses great danger for their growth and development, still empirical studies shows that it is the best alternative a child remain with when families and other social settings fails to provide a clear future for them. This is what the studies of the Tyler group² earlier found that for these children the act of leaving their homes and becoming street children is in itself an act of empowerment. All these should help us all to rethink and reshape our assumptions on the decision of these children to abandon their home and live independently in streets. For every child in the street you see, he has a specific and unique reason behind his decision and we will not find ourselves in a point to help them until we accept that fact, face it and have a comprehensive care plan that will consider child’s specific reason for abandoning their families than generalizing that all of children of the street are run-away, delinquent and criminals who run from their homes after doing an illicit act.

3.2.2. Bronfenbrenner’s Ecology of Human Development & Maslow Self-Actualization Theory to Explain Etiology of Street Children in Karatu

Studies³ on street children maintained that the process of becoming a street child is not a simple one to explain as it does not occur within a vacuum and it is influenced at different levels of environments and, by far, the phenomenon is not a “*child problem*” but rather a “*system problem*”⁴. Followers of this model contend that the development of a child is largely influenced by the interactions of the members of the community within which they live⁵ and this simply means that interrelationship between street youth and their social settings/environments⁶ has a lot to do with the evolution of street children. As found in this study, to every child we see in street there is a reason behind his decision to abandon his home and engage with street life. To explain this in its detail and help readers gain more insight on the etiology of street children in Karatu, this study adopts two models as presented in the study by

¹ Connolly, 1990; Aptekar, 1988; Aptekar, 1989; and Wright *et.al*, 1993

² Tyler *et.al*, 1987 and Tyler *et.al*, 1991

³ Mvungi 2000; Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005; Maphatane, 1994

⁴ Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005; Maphatane, 1994

⁵ Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005

⁶ Maphatane, 1994

Thudoric-Ghemo (2005) on his study on the life of children and young person in the street with key focus on the mental health of street children. These are Bronfenbrenner's Ecology of Human Development Model and the Maslow Hierarchy of Human Needs model.

3.2.2.1 Bronfenbrenner's Ecology of Human Development Model & Etiology of Street Children in Karatu

In this model, Bronfenbrenner provide a suitable framework which helps to understand the dynamic relationship between individual behavior and social context¹ by providing different environmental systems/functioning to characterize and explain the etiology of street youth². This ecological model proposed by Bronfenbrenner consists of five environmental systems namely the microsystems, mesosystems, exosystems, macrosystems and chronosystems. Table below analyze these systems:

Table 10: Description Summary of Bronfenbrenner's Ecology of Human Development Model Systems

System	Descriptions and Examples
Microsystems Influences	<p>This system take into account the interpersonal day-to-day experience and activities in the immediate environments such as the patterns of the roles, activities and the personal relations that the individual child has in the face-to-face settings that comprise children particular social encounters³.</p> <p>Children relationship and interactions (adverse factors and child immediate experience) within family. These adversities include; poverty, needs unfulfilled, hunger, abusive family-life, degradation and children being seen as financial burden, violence, abuse and feelings of unwantedness and unlovedness.</p>
Mesosystems influences	<p>This level considers the interactions between several Microsystems in which individuals shift between various roles as a result of moving between one microsystem to the next, including individual roles in relations to school, the neighborhood, peers, the family and religious institutions¹.</p> <p>Multi-problem families: marital problems, substance abuse, child neglect and abuse, ill-health and sometimes the death of parents (i.e. low socio-economic status and unemployment of parents and poor housing)</p> <p>Family relationship: child abuse and violence, family instability (fighting between parents), living with step-parents</p> <p>Multiple-headed household: children care by different caretakers in coping life difficulties. This results in confusion among children and results in feeling of inadequacy in dealing with emotional issues such as loneliness, anxiety, loss of self-esteem and impaired</p>

¹ Bronfenbrenner, 1993

² De Moura, 2002

³ Harper and Carver, 1999 and Maphatane, 1994 as cited in Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005

System	Descriptions and Examples
	<p>coping skills that results in child being viewed as a stress and burden on the family</p> <p>Low-income influence: forcing children to work to help maintain their families</p> <p>Attitude of the community: seen as “norm” and no any pressure exerted on families, including maintenance of apathetic attitude by family members to discipline or regulate the behavior of their children. Sometimes preferred as they provide “cheap labor”</p>
Exosystem Influences	<p>Involves the social settings not containing the individual child including the general community’s structures, resources, welfare services and extended families, of which processes thought to exert a one-way influence on the individual child, even though she or he does not have an immediate participation in its processes².</p> <p>Malfunctioning of the welfare and infrastructures: constitutional rights of access to community, social and health services and to the economic resources of the country.</p> <p>Poverty and unemployment: directly linked with labor market and by inference, on the welfare of the children.</p>
Macro-system Influences	<p>This is the largest level of the system, represents and describes the overarching societal ground plan for the ecology of human development³. At this level, according to Thudoric-Ghemo (2005), there is a hierarchical pattern of systems that include the government, policies, laws and customs of one’s culture, sub-culture or social class, broad social ideologies and values and beliefs systems where opportunity and life-course options of an individual exists⁴.</p> <p>Cross-cultural perspectives; social construct that operates to identify the diverse characteristics and attributes shared with others;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Working environments of these children ii. Educational environments iii. Spiritual beliefs and health practices
Chronosystem influences	<p>Does not fall within the system but is temporarily based and involves history, development and change, reflecting dynamic environmental (ecological) transitions, encompassing entries, exits, milestones and turning points overtime⁵. Generally, this level of analysis deals with the socio-historical conditions and changes in individuals and their environments over time⁶</p> <p>Globalization and westernization/modernization</p>

Source: Thudoric-Ghemo (2005)

¹ Bronfenbrenner, 1993 & Harper & Carver, 1999

² Harper & Carver, 1999

³ Bronfenbrenner, 1993

⁴ Muus *et. al*, 1996

⁵ Cobb & Seery, 2001

⁶ Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005

3.2.2.2 Maslow Self-Actualization Theory and Etiology of Street Children in Karatu

Maslow Self-actualization theory contends that development occurs according to the hierarchy of needs whereby lower needs must be met first before there is any motivation to fulfill any higher needs. According to Maslow, the need of human are innate and operate at different levels of functioning motivated towards the satisfaction of the higher levels of need to which people strive. Followers of this model contends that deficient of meeting these needs will practically result into negative impact of individual child growth resulting into fears, anxieties, many unresolved problems, rejection, loss of self-esteem and identities and sense of inferiority and discouragement¹.

According to Maslow, the needs that are to be met at different levels are as identified in Table 11 below

Table 11: Summary of Maslow Hierarchy of Needs

Need Level	Description
Physiological needs	Basic needs: food, water, shelter, to be active and to rest, to avoid pain and have sex. They are fundamental to our existence and will dominate our lives and doings
Safety needs	Safety and security needs: structures, order, limits, security, consistency, predictability and freedom from fear ² in order for children to feel safe as they helpless, defenseless and dependent on others ³ , deficit of which will result a child becoming concerned with fears and anxieties ⁴ .
Belongingness and Love	Need for affiliation become more salient ⁵ particularly if the above needs are met (physical and safety). Child is received in a loving and warm way and hence helps a child to receive and treat others in loving and warm way and as a result a child will have a sense of identity and worthiness (self-worth) ⁶ . Lack of this will result in increased susceptibility to feelings of loneliness and social isolation. ⁷
Self esteem	Implies the extent or degree to which an individual values him/herself positively. They base on two factors; personal achievements and the esteem one receives from other people ⁸ . These imply and encourage the feelings of competency,

¹ Boeree, 2004; Van Staden, 1985; Meyer et al, 1997 and Hergenbahn, 1994

² Hergenbahn, 1994

³ Meyer et al, 1997

⁴ Boeree, 2004

⁵ Meyer et al, 1997)

⁶ Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005

⁷ Van Staden, 1985

⁸ Hergenbahn, 1994

Need Level	Description
	achievements, self-confidence, independence and personal strength ¹ . Result in feelings of honor, acceptance, status, dignity and appreciation. ² Deficiency results in low-self esteem, sense of inferiority, discouragement, and feelings of weakness and helplessness and hopelessness. ³
Self Actualization	Reaching ones full potential through one's abilities and talents ⁴ . At this level individuals are aware of their potentials, values, capacities and talents.

This is what was obtained in this study as majority of children and youth of the street covered by this study apparently noted out that they left abandoned their homes and decide to live on their own in the streets following their parents' inability to meet their psychological, physical and economical needs.

3.2.3 Street Children with their Relatives/Siblings in Street

This study found that there are children who are living and working in the street together with either their young or elder siblings from a single family. A total of 4 pairs of children who are relatives were identified to be living together with their relatives in streets after finding life at home to be difficult, forcing them both to come and work in the street. Of the 4 pairs of children, 1 pair were found to come and work so as to bring food and other necessities to their young siblings back home. One of the investigators managed to observe the general situation of these children and found that they set their own timetable and schedule on who is responsible to take food and other essential to their three young siblings who stay back home without any adult to supervise and care for them. Observations showed that the elder one is responsible to bring food during day time and the youngest brother during evening time to ensure survival of their young siblings back home. This simply means that, in the near future if no any assistance provided to this family, it is likely that all of the three young siblings are potential candidates to be enrolled in street life and join their young brothers.

Also during focus group discussion, children were asked to mention those families they know that more than one child has abandoned from home either to the street or to live or employed elsewhere. A total of 9 different pairs were identified to abandon their homes in search for living elsewhere, with many of the girls turning to be bar tenders and others being used as housemaids for no any significant

¹ Thudoric-Ghemo, 2005

² Boeree, 2004

³ Meyer et al, 1997

⁴ Meyer et al, 1997

pay than payment in kind (food and clothes and other basic needs a child may gain access as member of a new family).

3.2.4 Alcohol and Drugs Abuse, Reason for Use and Perceived and Experienced Effect of the Uses

In many studies it is apparent that street children are exposed to drug abuse and use of alcohol as part of their strategies to accommodate the challenges associated with street life. Findings from this study shows that: 66.67% are using both alcohol and drugs; 14.81% using only drugs; 11.11% using only alcohol and 7.41% claim that they do not use alcohol or any drug. Further analysis from this study shows that bhanghi (cannabis or *ganja*), tobacco and sniffing glue and petrol as forms of drugs mostly used by these children. Most of them maintained that they enjoy taking *ganja* than sniffing glue or alcohol as *ganja* make them not to get angry and it act as an appetizer. Something worthy of a notice, this study found that more than 90% of respondents claimed to have stopped sniffing glue as part of their collective agreement¹ not to sniff glue after attending some open public awareness campaigns and trainings² on the impacts of drug abuse (or HIV/AIDS campaign with subtopics on drug abuse) and with the support of some adults who were previously in the street but are now committed to help these children to stop sniffing glue. On the other hand, children themselves claimed to investigator that they have experienced some detrimental effects (as it will be explained later) which made them come into conclusion that sniffing glue is danger to their lives.

When asked by investigators reasons forcing them to use alcohol most of respondents (70.37%) claimed that they use alcohol as social fluid to help them forget the stresses associated with street life and to give them support to overcome adversities they face in streets. In their own opinions respondents of this study made it clear that, despite knowing the detrimental effects associated with consumption of alcohol and drugs, they found themselves with no option than using them to help cope with street life. When asked of conditions forcing them to use alcohol and drugs as social fluid, they said they use alcohol as social fluid when they fall sick (as explained in section 3.3.3 of this study), when it is cold and they need to sleep and when they are in deep grief after experiencing some difficulties in life while other children said that they are sometimes forced to use them when they have no enough amount of money to spend for food and find themselves so hungry. One of the respondents during FGD explained the following:-

¹ Through their management body (known as *bunge la machokoraa*)

² They mentioned to attend trainings at Mwema Children through Mwema day programs and other awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS organized at the district level

“Sometimes alcohol and drugs is the very best friend you find close to you...it gives us company we need when things does not work....I normally use them to help me forget the difficulties and abuses I face in the street and sometimes I had to use them when I fall sick so as at least it will give me some relief”

Another boy of 12 years of age said the following in the same FGD:-

“I remember I started to use alcohol and sniff glue when I was sick..... That day we had no money enough to buy food and medicine and my friends told me to take some local brew and sniff glue and I will get better...I took some alcohol and sniff glue and I started to see like clouds are falling on me and like there are some snakes coming my way to bite me...however after a while when my senses get back I felt somewhat better and from that day I became used to the things”

Another boy in the FGD associated his alcohol and drug consumption with lack of food and giving him warmth when it is cold:-

“I use to take bhang and alcohol during night time. As you know that we sleep just outside with no cover then when it is cold there is no option left than smoking bhang and taking some local brew at least to help not feeling the cold...also sometimes I take it when I have no enough money to buy food and as the local brew is somewhat stiff, then it help feel my stomach and I enjoy the night”

Moreover, it was evident that the consumption of both alcohol and bhang is high during rainy and cold season as it is when children take it more so as to stand the cold and rain. This is similar to what was found in the studies by Swart (1990) and George (1998) which found that street children covered by their studies maintain that use of alcohol and drugs is the best way of escaping from the cold, loneliness and hunger that they experience. This is what Mwakaheya (1996) labelled it as *“shutting themselves off from the world and its problems”* and Rai *et. al.* (2002) labelled it as *“tension reliever”*.

On the other hand, as shown in Table 12 above, 48.15% of respondents associated their use of alcohol and drug to be as a source of energy when they are to do heavy work (especially bhang) as some children said that sometimes they feel to have more strength when they take bhang.

This study also cross-examined children perspectives and personal experience on the impact they are likely to face following their attitude of drugs and alcohol abuse. It was found that all of the children interviewed are familiar with the short and long-term detrimental effects that alcohol and drug use pose to their growth and wellbeing. As shown in Table 12 above, majority of these children (about 77.78%) associated their alcohol consumption and drug abuse with health problems including severe chest pains as a result of smoking bhang and sniffing glue but also linked alcohol consumption with kidney problem as these alcohol are poisonous. This was to our surprise as these children showed to be familiar with the fact that these local brew are prepared in unhygienic condition and hence are poisonous to their health and they noted to investigators that they received these information thanks to

the work that had been previously done by the project Fluid Number 9 and MdM and Mwema Day training programs when they were doing education on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to the children and youths of the street.

Table 12: Respondents' Use of Alcohol and Drugs and Perceived Impacts

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Alcohol and Drug Use (N=27)		
Alcohol alone	3	11.11
Drugs not alcohol	4	14.81
Both drugs and alcohol	18	66.67
I do not use either	2	7.41
Total	27	100.00
Reasons for Alcohol and Drug Use (Multiple Responses)		
As social lubricant	19	70.37
Energy to do work	13	48.15
I just enjoy (entertainment)	14	51.85
My parents prepares and I learn using from home	4	14.81
No reason/No response	3	11.11
Children Perceived & Personal Experience of the Alcohol and Drugs Use (Multiple Responses)		
Prone to beating by adults/policies /local militia	3	11.11
Fight between ourselves	5	18.52
Health impact (chest, headache)	21	77.78
Make us steal other people's things	4	14.81
Misuse of little money we get	9	33.33

Discussions

This study found that majority of children of the street use alcohol and other forms of drugs for a number of reasons mostly as a social fluid to help them forget the hardship of street life, others using it as entertainment, food supplement and as a source of energy to help them work better as it was found

with a group of children who maintained that they cannot carry the luggage or move the carts if not drunk. All in all, with whatever the case it might be, children and youth of the streets exposure to alcohol and drugs is not an accident but they have a reason for their use, associated with their life in streets as majority of them maintained that they have never tested any form of alcohol or drug back home until when they came and start living in streets. These findings are similar to findings from the study of Dhital *et. al.*, (2002) and a study by Rai *et. al.*, (2002) which both maintained that it is inevitable for street children taking drugs while on the streets. Rai *et. al.*, (Ibid) further contend that, despite the fact that these habits of taking drugs and alcohol use among children act as “tension reliever” for them, it left these children with many ill effect which made some of them want to quite addiction. Saying so, it is important that concerted efforts be directed to helping children of the street in Karatu Township, to supplement their personal effort to stop drugs addiction, with training and rehabilitation programs and support which will help them stop drug addiction which have short and long term effect in their growth and personal development.

3.2.4 Trials to Join Families and Factors Impeding their Stay with Families

In the first place, children were asked by investigators to explain whether they have ever had in mind the idea of getting back home and live with their families. Majority of respondents covered by this study showed that there are times when they find street life to be hard and unbearable and they have made a number of trials to get back home with only 18.52% claiming they have never returned and never had an idea of returning home since they decided to part with family life. Findings, as presented in Table 13 below, shows that majority (40.76%) of respondents had one visit to their homes to their parents, grandparents or other members of extended family over the past 6 months before this study was undertaken; 29.67% said they had that family contact a period between past 7 to 12 months; and only 11.1% of children of the street noted that they still have regular contact with their families and this is found to be the case with those children who work to support for their young siblings back home.

When asked what force them go back to their families, majority of these children (37.0%) said they have willingly made the decision after missing their families and relatives followed by those children (33.3%) who claimed it is because they were taken by the government officers as part of round-ups aimed at culminating the problem of street children by joining them with their families or relatives. Investigators also found that over the past four months before the undertaking of this study, a total of two round-ups has been arranged and executed, one by the District Community Development Office and the other by the District Social Work Department. It is due to these two round-ups that majority of street children said that they had almost more than two trials to join their families.

Table 13: Respondents' Home Visit and Reasons for the Visit

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Last Home Visit (N=27)		
At least once over the past 6 months	11	40.74
At least once over the past 7 to 12 months	8	29.63
Frequently whenever possible	3	11.11
Never since I moved out/I do not remember	5	18.52
Total	27	100.0
What forced Children Contact their families (N=27)		
I was taken by the government officials (<i>mgambo</i>)	9	33.33
I went willingly after missing my family/relatives	10	37.04
To take food for my siblings	3	11.11
No response	5	18.52
Total	27	100.0

From these findings it is clear that there are times when children start to realize that street life is hard one to endure and they left with no option than to try to get back and join with their families. One child was noted assent this by saying:-

“One day when I slept during the night with my stomach groaning because I did not take anything for food that night, and after finding myself sleeping in an open space, that night was so cold and it was raining, I did have no cover than a sack I put myself in it.....then I started to remember that I left at home a good bed, a bed sheet and foodthen I started to think why shouldn't I get back and join back my family.....then next morning first thing when I woke up I went home directly”

In this same vein, children were asked to explain the reason which forces them to go back to street again after they have decided to abandon it. Response from the focus group discussion showed reasons similar to those which pushed them to the street. Majority of them claimed that they have decided to get back to the street again after facing similar threat and lack of care and support from their parents. They noted that they were not much welcomed by their parents/relatives and they were counted like some thieves who came to still things at home. Though during the same focus group discussion

children agree that there are some children who steal when they went back home, but that is not a general case and most of them they like joining their families but not welcomed. One boy of 13 years of age said the following during the FGD:-

“I once decided to go back home but when I approached, my father saw me from a far and I heard him saying to me ‘you dog, what are you doing close to my house’ and after hearing those words I hard to turn back, run and get back to the street and live with my friends”

Another child said these words during the FGD:-

“I went home it was January this year after deciding I do not want to continue with street life anymore....My mother was more than happy and she welcomed me in and I stay though she told me that she don’t trust me anymore.....I had to tell her that I want to go to school and I will be glad if they can make arrangements for me....Later that evening my dad came back and when he heard that I was back home I heard him saying, I do not want to see that fool and I am going to kill him...he is such arrogant...and I hard to run from the back door”

From these statements it is quite amazing to find that parents are one of the obstacles for their children and youth to get back and peacefully stay at home. One of the enumerators observed this situation when participated in the family reintegration process of one child of the street and he was surprised to see a father of a child was unhappy and fails to welcome a boy’s decision to join with family. There is however also still a need for further study on parents’ behavior of denying their parental obligations and fail to accept their children when they want to join back their families from the street.

3.3 STREET CHILDREN ADAPTATION AND COPING STRATEGIES

The key aim of this objective was to understand how street children adopt to different situations when in street as part of their survival strategies. The key focus was to see how children gain access to basic services including health services, food, shelter (place to sleep) and their sources of income.

3.3.1 Children’s Sources of Income and Expenditures Pattern

This study observed that street children don’t have a single dependable source of income and they perform multiple petty jobs to have such required diversity of sources of income to be sure of earning money or paid in kind to enable them survive in street. Findings shows that children engage themselves in the following petty activities as their sources of income: collecting and selling empty plastic bottles and boxes (74.07%); collecting and selling metal and irony pieces (62.96%); gambling (59.26%); Carrying luggage (55.56%); and sweeping and cleaning floors in shops and other business area (37.04). Some children mentioning that they sometimes earn money after being sent to sell drugs (11.11%). It is important to note here that some of these activities are illegal and harmful which in one way or another

put their lives prone to different associated dangers such as being used to sell drugs (by large, selling Bhangi/cannabis).

This study found that there is a variation between activities done by children with those below 15 years of age concentrating much on collecting empty bottles and boxes, selling scrapers and cleaning floors of different shops in Karatu while those above 15 years concentrating much on gambling and carrying luggage and the older young persons found to sometimes survive at the expense of small children (small children work for them and have to give them some money to have such assurance of staying in the group protected and cared). In terms of expenditures of money they get in meeting their needs, this study found that most of their expenditures end up in meeting their physical needs and more on food, drugs and alcohol and in gambling.

Table 14: Respondents' Sources of Income/Economic Activities (Multiple Responses N=27)

Sources	Frequency	Percent
Selling empty boxes and empty plastic bottles	20	74.07
Selling scrapers	17	62.96
Gambling	16	59.26
Carrying luggage	15	55.56
Floor Cleaning	10	37.04
Selling drugs (used to sell)	3	11.11
Others (car wash e.t.c)	3	11.11

It was also observed that it is these activities that sometimes result to conflicts between street children and members of the community. For instance during this study, most of adult community members came into contact with investigators claimed that one of the danger street children pose to them is stealing their irony/steel utensils and sell them as scrapers. That is to say, while these activities are potential for street children they do also put them into danger of coming into conflict with community members and at the same time putting their lives into risk of being beaten by adults, cases which are common to be observed when you study the lives of street children.

It was hard to establish the exact estimation on the amount of money children and youth of the street

earn per month as they claimed their income to be varying making it hard for them to estimate and also they do not keep in record the amount of money they earn. However, during the focus group discussion, these children established that on average they can earn between 30,000/= to 60,000/= per month depending on the availability of work in such a month. To most of them, they earn more money on open market day (*mnada*) which takes place on 7th of each month as they have more works to do including carrying peoples' luggage, loading and unloading luggage from vehicles, getting more bottles to sell and sell plastic-bags and other petty works.

3.3.2 Street Children Access to food

Many studies have revealed that access to food is one of the biggest challenges street children faces resulting to their stunted growth. In this regard, researchers were interested to find how street children gain access to food. Findings shows that food purchase from food vendors is the major mean of respondents' access to food (96.3%) closely followed by working for *mama lishe* (food vendors) so that they are paid food in exchange for their services like washing dishes and cleaning cooking areas. More pathetically and dangerous to children's health, findings also reveal that more than half (51.9%) of these children confirmed that sometimes they use leftovers and fishing from garbage bins so as to get food and this was mainly observed for those small children below the age of 15. Passing along restaurants and close to Karatu Town Market you will see these children fighting to gain access to food (*manjee*¹ and *rojoo*²) thrown away after people finished eating or the food become spoiled and not good for human consumption. This pose a great health impact to these children and one child who came into contact with one of the investigators asked a challenging question "*help me choose one, should I fish food from garbage and survive or should I not pick and starve to death?*", it is obvious that, when left with no best option to ensure our survival, the final resolution is always to opt for what will ensure survival at any cost and this is what happen to children of the street, they are aware of the effects of fishing dirty food from garbage but it is the very option they are left with to ensure their survival.

With regard to reliability of access to food (with regard to three adequate meals per day) most of the children 85.2% % said that their access to food is unreliable and there is no such a guarantee of three meals per day in their world while only 14.8% affirmed to have assurance of getting three meals per day. During focus group discussion respondents said that there are days that they can have all three meals, some other days they have two meals and other days just one meal or none at all. It was also found during the FGD that majority of these children prefer taking two meals per day so that they can

¹ Street children slang to refer to leftovers from cooking pots

² Street children slang to refer to leftovers in plates after people finished eating

save money for the next day (if he fail to earn money for the day) or for other plans. That is to say, access to food to most of street children is unreliable, due to lack of enough money to buy enough and quality food.

Table 15: Means and Reliability of Food Access

Response	Frequency	Percent
Respondents Means of getting food (Multiple Responses)		
Buying from food vendors	26	96.3
Using left-over and fishing from garbage	14	51.9
Work and get paid food	24	88.9
Support from friends especially bad days	9	33.3
Stealing at the market and other places when day is bad and no alternative	3	11.1
Reliability of Access to Three Meals per Day (N=27)		
I am sure of having three meals per day	4	14.8
Not regular, it just depend, sometimes no food	23	85.2
Total	27	100

3.3.3 Health Concerns and Health-Seeking Behavior Among Children of the Street

As an upshot of the street life, street children are in health concern and prone to diseases. Investigators asked children to mention diseases that they frequently suffer¹ and findings shows that majority of them (85.2%) reported to have suffered from high fever including severe headache followed by those who reported severe stomach pains (70.4%), cough/flu (59.3%) and diarrhea (51.9%). During the focus group discussion children were asked to tell why they think is the reason for them to suffer from these diseases and the response shows that they clearly know the facts behind them suffering these diseases. Results of the FDG shows that children mentioned to suffer from stomach pains and diarrhea because they eat without washing hands but also they eat food from garbage bins which is not good for their health. On the other hand they said that they suffer from cough/chest as they sleep outside without

¹ The question based on diseases they suffered over the past three months

any cover than just putting themselves in a sack or covering with their big coats and sometimes they do not have coats and walk with just their t-shirts and shirts.

Table 16: Diseases Reported to Frequently Occur and Health Seeking Behavior

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Diseases respondents claim to frequently suffer from (Multiple Responses)		
High fever	23	85.2
Diarrhea	14	51.9
Severe stomach/abdominal pains	19	70.4
Cough and Chest	16	59.3
What Children Do when they Fall Sick (Multiple Responses)		
I go to the hospital/nearby health facility	3	11.1
I go/My friend go and buy medicine in any pharmacy/shop	23	85.2
Sleep until I get better (first smoke/drink)	14	51.9

Observation from this study also showed that open wounds is one of the problem these children suffer as a result of injuries they endure due to many reasons such as beatings from adults after they were suspected or caught stealing or doing something illicit; beatings among children themselves; and other injuries found to be a result of self-harm as children tend to scratch their hands to a point that an open wound occur, something which is mentioned in many literatures as a one of the signs of psychological impairment. It was no wonder that during FGD and observation sessions some children were found with open wounds and others with puss oozing from these open wounds which implies that they did not received any treatment after sustaining injuries something which shows their limited access to health care. Other observed diseases were skin and eyes infectious diseases which were found to be common among street children, with more than three-quarter of children who attended focus group discussion with either or both of the infections.

On the other hand, this study found that street children do not have access to reliable health service when they fall sick and their health-seeking behavior to be quite limited. When asked what they do when they fall sick, majority (85.2%) affirmed that they usually go in any close pharmacy or shop and buy pain killers or any medicine to help them treat. Also it was found that if they cannot manage to go

and buy medicine (if a boy has no money or he is seriously ill not to be able to go to the shop/pharmacy) then members of his group or any close friends will take the responsibility to donate and buy medicines for him. On the other hand, 51.9% of respondents confirmed that sometimes they do not have money or their friends are not in position to raise some money to buy medicine for their treatment and the very best option remained for them is to find a place that they will sleep and when they wake up they feel better. During the focus group discussion, respondents of this study confirmed that in most cases before they sleep they use to take alcohol or bhang (or sniffing glue) and falls asleep and when they wake up they find themselves feeling better. This conforms to the earlier findings of this study that children of the street sometimes associate their alcohol and drugs consumption as “*pain reliever*” in case they fall sick. Those who confirmed to have attended hospital last time (or so often) when they fall sick are only 11.1% of all respondents covered by this study.

3.3.4 Environmental Health, Sanitation and Personal Hygiene

The main concern of this part was to understand issues of environmental health and sanitation as far as street life is concerned. In the first place, children were asked to tell how they get toilet services for defecate. This study found that 88.9% of children do not bother to find where toilets are and instead they do open defecation in different unfinished buildings or any other open space they find they will privately defecate. The remaining 11.1% said that they use to pay at the bar or sometimes to places they are employed to work. On the other hand, it was observed that a decision to seek toilet for defecation is in one way influenced by the age as majority of those who confirmed to bother to seek for a toilet are those of the age above 16.

On the other hand, this study went further to find out whether children of the street have the tendency of taking shower regularly. Question was asked to them how frequently they take bath per week and majority of them (77.8%) showed that they have not taken shower over the past two weeks; 22.2% have taken shower once over the last two weeks. Result from focus group discussion also showed that 78.6% (N=14) of those attended the focus group interview have never taken a shower over the past month. During the FGD children clearly explained that they can even finish a month without taking a shower even once and that is something usual to them.

Those who said they sometimes take shower said that they take shower when they get work to do in people's house and they ask their employers to take shower. Majority of children said that they usually take shower regularly during rainy season at the pond located at Bwawani area as they enjoy swimming in the pond. However the challenge remains here that the water of the pond are not clean for such a

use.

Table 17: Where Children of the Street Defecate, Frequency of Taking Shower and Change of Clothes

Question	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Where do you defecate?	Pay at bars and any public spaces	2	7.4
	Any open space or unfinished buildings (open defecation)	24	88.9
	Ask in people's/employers' houses	1	3.7
	Total	27	100
Taken shower over the past two weeks	At least once	6	22.2
	Not over the past two weeks	21	77.8
	Total	27	100
How often do you change your clothes?	I am sure of changing at least once per week	3	11.11
	I am sure of changing at least once per month	6	22.22
	It depend if I get new clothes	18	66.67
	Total	27	100

With regard to change of clothes majority (66.7%) of respondents revealed that they are not so sure of when they will change the clothes they wear and it can sometimes take long to more than a month with the same clothes on their bodies. Other group of 22.22% said that they are sure of changing their clothes at least once per month while other 11.11% said that they are sure of changing clothes at least once per week. It was found that these children depend on the open market day to find new clothes to change the one they have. Once the market hours are over and that the businessmen throw clothes that they find are not good to be sold, these children go and pick clothes they will find to be good that they can wear. During one of the open market day, we managed to see children and youth of the street wrestle to find and pick clothes thrown away to see if they can have their luck of finding any that will fit them. If a child is lucky to find a cloth then that is when he will change his clothes and wear the new one without washing them. Also during focus group discussion respondents said that apart from market day, they can change in any day if they have a luck to find thrown clothes in garbage or anywhere and pick them if they will fit them. This again make it clear why most of these children suffer from skin infections as they just pick clothes without washing them and also stay with the same clothes for such a very long period of time without changing.

3.3.5 Where and How do Street Children Sleep

The result from the focus group discussion and interview showed that all of the street children affirmed that they do not have a reliable place to sleep. In their response, these children claimed that they sleep in unfinished houses and culverts and no child will have a certain place to be his reliable and permanent place of abode as there are changes in the places they sleep including being chased away by owners of these unfinished houses or by the night guards in places they use to sleep. Some other small children (especially those below 12 years) said that sometimes they make a deal with guards of different shops and restaurants that they will offer them a place to sleep outside the hotels under their protection and that these children will go wherever they send them to do their “*businesses*”, businesses which these children were not in position to mention. Areas that these children mention that they sleep includes under bridges, unfinished buildings/building sites, corridors, pavements, bushes and sometimes in bricks furnaces that are yet to be set on fire and any other places that they will find to offer them protection from cold, wind and rain.

When asked what they sleep on, they said that they use boxes/card boards and some collected scraps of clothes (rags) and put them on the ground to make their sleeping quarters. They also noted that they do not have anything for a cover when they sleep and during focus group discussion most of them said that when they sleep they cover themselves with their big coats and sometimes when it is too cold they put themselves in sack/bags. During our observation we managed to see places where these children sleep; they are more than unsafe, dusty and unhygienic exposing these children to a risk of diseases and infections. It is for this reason that it is no wonder these children claimed to suffer from chest pains/cough, skin infections and stomach-pains and diarrhea diseases as they sleep in these unhygienic and dusty environments.

Also this study found these that these children do not sleep alone but they sleep in groups of between three to five children and during interview and focus group discussion these children maintained that they do sleep in groups as part of their safety measure for their protection against adult and anyone who is likely to disturb their “*cool nights*”

3.4. Respondents Understanding and Experience of the Implication of Street Life on their Lives

It was in the interest of this study to understand from children and youth of the street own perspective on the impacts and threats that street life pose to their wellbeing and development. Most of us sometimes assume that street children are not aware of the detrimental effect street life poses to their lives and that is why they continue living in streets and not getting back to their families. However, this

study found something contrary to these assumptions as it was found that all of the respondents said that street life is bad and has many detrimental effects in their lives continuum.

Table 18: Street Children Perceived Impact of Street Life on their Development and Wellbeing

Question	Response	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Is street life beneficial as compared to living at home with families</i> (N=27)	Yes it is beneficial	0	0
	No, it is worse living in street and affect our lives	27	100
Total		27	100
<i>What are the disadvantages/implications of street life to you general growth and development?</i> (Multiple Responses)	Lack access to basic services (health, education e.t.c.)	24	88.89
	Prone to diseases and stagnant growth (lack of edible food, sleep outside, heavy and dangerous works e.t.c.)	14	51.85
	Lack of parental care and guide	17	62.96
	Living in restless and distraught in streets (community disapproval)	23	85.19
<i>How can you compare your life at the street those at home?</i> (N=27)	No any advantage, it is worse and no good from it compared to with home life	22	81.48
	Yes it is worse, but at least better than at home	5	18.52
Total		27	100

When asked to mention the disadvantages of street life and detrimental effects street life pose in their lives, these children mentioned: lack of access to basic social services such as education and reliable health cover/services (88.89%); prone to diseases and stagnant growth as a result of lack of adequate, reliable and edible food and doing work that are not in conformity with their age and living in unhygienic and unhealthy environment (51.85%); lack of parental care and guidance (62.96%); and living in anxious following community disapproval which makes their life in street restless as people are mocking, calling them every bad and insulting name and chasing them away, look at them every time as a thieves, criminals and likely to be apprehended by police officers or local militias (*mgambo*) and/or get beaten by adults even for those problems they did not cause or for things they did not steal (about 85.19%). When looking at these statistics, it is evident that most of children and youth of the street are more concerned of the physical abuses and insults they face from adult and law enforcement organs compared to other problems they face in street.

There is a group of respondents (18.52%) who said, despite the fact that street life is worse, for them it is better to be, and even if is to die, in the streets than staying with their families. One child narrated

the following during the FGD concurring with the “*better die in street*” situation:

“It is real that staying home is better than living in street. In street I miss a lot of opportunities, not going to school, sometimes no food, beaten by adult and leaving a hide-and-seek life....but somewhat there is better side in street than at home.....sometimes I think it is better staying in street and endure the pains than going back and live with a father who threaten to cut my throat....better die in street”.

Some other children explicitly made it clear that it is better you take them to jail than ask them to get back and live with their families as their families are “little hells” compared to street life which to them give them the freedom they were not previously enjoying at home.

Discussions

From these findings, it is clear that street children have an understanding of the disadvantage of street life and they know how many developmental opportunities they lack and loose as a result of staying on streets. These problems are similarly to all that children of the street faces around the world. Studies by WHO (2000), Rajani and Kudrat (1996) and Lugalla (1995) made it clear that for children living in the streets with no supervision, protection or guidance, often makes them vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards such as violence – including robbery of their savings – from adults and from themselves, community disapproval, police arrests, health problems and lack of attachment and parental care and affection. In its report WHO (2000) made it clear that, in its sample of street children interviewed, around 86% of respondents mentioned violence as a major feature of their everyday life and as determining factor for their abilities to cope with street life and it takes place in three main channels; violence within children groups or by their peer or eldest children; violence from the surrounding community when other people tend to exploit them or as a community reaction towards their existence; and violence while working, either from their employers or from their peers working in the same place. Also the same study reveal that 48% of the sample children mentioned disapproval from community as their key concern in streets as they are not welcomed in specific areas of the community basing on their general appearance and behavior, and people tend to drive them away and sometimes uses violence against them so as to drive them away to such specific areas.

Also taking a deep look in findings from this section, it will come into one’s attention that there are moments children of the street get tired and fed up with street life and start to develop that sense of abandoning it though still facing the similar challenge which made them decide to abandon their families. This is similar to what found in the study by Ngoy (2005) in its study of children in distress in Kinshasa that about 72. 2% of street children are quite longing to see themselves abandoning street life and start new life off the streets. However, the study went further to show that children from this study

face the same challenge to children covered by this study, the situation of not being welcomed or finding similar situations and conditions that does not provide incentive for them to stay.

Furthermore, looking closely at the responses in this study, one can deduct that children are in constant pressure whether to continue living in the street or abandon street life. There are two opposing forces that act in opposing direction in the lives of children when in streets leaving them in a limbo whether to abandon street life or continue living in streets. There are forces pushing them away from street life there is another force opposing and acting to dissuade their decision to join their families or any other setting. The former has to do with the hardship they experience in street including loneliness, lack of care and support, lack of basic services, abuses and violence and fear of being seized with police officers etcetera. Finally, the later is from what a child think or perceive of his new setting after abandoning street life or the way the new setting offer an incentive for him to join including how parents or relatives will receive his decision to abandon street life etcetera. That is to say, the first force pushes these children away from street and the second force is what pushes children away from joining their families. It is these two forces which determine the final decision of a child either to abandon street life and join with family life or continue staying in the street depending on which side (between home and street) will exert much more pressure on a child. If a pressure to abandon street life is more than the pressure that forces him not to return back home or join any other setting and that he finds that the new setting offer receptive and incentive environment, then his decision will be to abandon street life for reintegration in new setting. On the other hand, if the pressure exerted from homes or new setting to restrict children to join their families or new setting is more than what push them to abandon street life, it is evident that a child will continue living in the street. However, there are circumstances when a child is left stranded between the two options, and it is hard for him to be in either of the two. This happens when a child is forced to leave streets and it is not possible for him to continue in street – such as in cases when their existence in street means being seized by police or local militias – and the situation at home or an alternative setting does not promise him receptive environment and incentives for them to abandon street life. This is one of the very difficult and nervous moments for street children.

These is what calls for a need to have a holistic and integral model for an effective reintegration of children with families and other socio-economical settings – which will consider all these aspects – which will open access to basic rights and services among children of the street to prepare them to become responsible and productive adults in the community.

3.5 PRESENTATION OF KEY OBSERVATIONS OF THIS STUDY

3.5.1 Girls and the Phenomenon of Street Life in Karatu District

In those early days of this study, of the many adult came into contact with investigators, there was one question that was asked repetitively by many of them when they were asked to explain the cause of children to run away from their homes and the situation of street children in Karatu Township. Their question was *“If the problem is with families, why then there are no girls in the streets? Does this mean that parents are so mean and harsh to boys only and not girls?”* These people maintained that street boys run away from their homes not because there are any problem back home but just because they have decided to live on their own. In their opinion, the problem is not with the parents or families but with boys themselves and that is why there are no “children of the street” who are girls. This stirred our desire to take a time to study the gender aspect of street life. In the beginning, it was also quite visible to us as investigators that it was hard to see street girls the same way you can see street boys moving around different streets. This also has been quite contrary to our experience in many big cities like Arusha, Mwanza and Dar-es-salaam where street girls are more visible (though not at the same magnitude to boys).

From this point we started to ask ourselves whether really there are street girls or if it is real that no girls who trail their brothers’ behavior of running away from home when they find life at home not to be promising and attractive to make them stay. Apart from observation, we had to ask our respondents about the availability and situation of girls who are street children and their responses were quite shocking and painted us with a new picture we never contemplated before. Our respondents made it clear that it is not true that their sisters are not running from their homes. As it was discussed earlier in this study, some children themselves mentioned that their own sisters had to run away from home and live in the street for few days before they found some people to stay with.

Basing on the response from these children, from other adults we came into contact and from our observation after being helped with our respondents, it was clear that there are girls who run away from their homes and become street children but they are not visible in the streets after some few days. Observations from this study shows that girls do not stay in the street as they are taken by people to be employed in domestic activities (as house girls) without any pay but only to be paid in kind with the shelter provided, food and other amenities. While their brothers will continue to stay in streets and find no one to bother taking care of them, girls end up working for other people and it is where the different between the two groups come.

However, we found also that there is a second pathetic side of street girls as it came into attention that there are young and small girls as small as 12 years of age ending up recruited as potential candidate for brothel (prostitution). These children are taken by adult members of community who they call them “*dada*” or “*mama*”¹ and are the one who uses these children in such businesses and guarantee them place in the “family” which will enable them to get food, accommodation and other care and amenities. In this very same line, in one of our investigation, we came into contact with girls as young as 14 years of age selling their bodies during night times in bars and others were working with *mama ntilie*² helping them to serve food for their customers.

From this it is evident that even girls run away from their homes for similar reasons to those that force their brothers to run away from their homes. However, there is a difference between the two groups as girls fails to accommodate the difficulties associated with street life and find themselves agree to be used as cheap labor in domestic activities and, more pathetic, ending themselves engaging in prostitution at such a small age. However, there is a need for further study on this group of street children and an immediate intervention to rescue these children from this life which poses a big threat in their life.

3.5.2 Children and Labor; Two Cases from Mang’ola and NMC Karatu

Case 1: Children as Cheap Laborers in Paddy and Onion Farms in Mang’ola

Mang’ola is one of the divisions in Karatu District. The area is located about 45KM from Karatu Township and is well-known for wheat and onion cultivation. Despite its geographical location, Mang’ola is one of areas producing vast number of street children who are roaming around Mang’ola streets and others travelling to Karatu Township and more surprisingly some manage to travel to Arusha as we managed to see one child from Mang’ola who was brought by Social Workers from Mkombozi an organization working with Street children in Moshi and Arusha town. With estimation of natives in Mang’ola Barazani and Mang’ola Gorfani, it is estimated that the division has about 20 street children or more roaming in different streets in Mang’ola. This is vast number considering that the area is located in rural Karatu and this rose some curiosity among the team of investigators (taking also into account that we came into contact with street children in Karatu streets coming from Mang’ola) and we wanted to at least probe and gain some insight to the course as it is the only rural area away from Karatu producing significant number of children of the street in Karatu township.

¹ *Dada* is a Swahili word for “sister” and *Mama* a Swahili word for “Mother” – literally here used to refer to a person who is not your bloody sister or mother but play that role in one’s life

² A Swahili word meaning “food vendor”

This forced us to travel to Mang'ola and meet with some individual adults to paint us a picture on the situation at the ground causing Mang'ola to produce street children. We met and talk to 3 parents whom we were helped to know that they have their children in Mang'ola streets and one with a child from Karatu street and 3 other adult community members who were a former primary school teacher living in Mang'ola, a teacher from one of Mang'ola primary schools and with Baray Ward Executive Officer. During our conversation we came to realize that Mang'ola has got a big problem that need to be addressed as soon as possible by all parents, community, religious leaders and NGOs. The problem is big to make us all start to fear on the future development of the children in Mang'ola. These elders and teachers told us that there is a high rate of employment to their children employed as casual laborers by big businessmen and in the big onion and paddy farmers. In their opinion, it is this which makes most of their children ending up in the street. One narrated us the following amazing story:-

“Most of the children problems including the runaway is a result of businessmen and those who own big farmers to employ our children to work for their farms. You cannot imagine when it is farming season as parents our concern is with our children than anything.....even school attendance to most of the children drops significantly. It is no wonder if you go to a farm and find almost more than a quarter of single class students working as casual laborers in these farms. And you know once a child stated to receive money as wage they start to change and they will not want to hear from anyone”

The former teacher also narrated similar story when he told the investigator the following:-

“Mang'ola now has many street children though is located in rural area. We have one big problem why these children are in the streets. They are employed as casual laborers in big farms and also in doing other activities which made them not attend school and as a result they work to earn some money. The problem start when these children have money in their pocket, it is hard to find them listening to their parents and they even don't want to go to school but look for other jobs to enable them continue getting some money. This is where the problem start and parents start to beat their children and children decide to run from home”

Our interview with a parent of a child from Mang'ola also found similar kind of cry from a father of a child. In his explanation he made it clear that he and other parents always fight to the best they can to ensure that their children attend school regularly but the problem comes with people who employ their children, who in his opinion, there is no anyone to dare to put them responsible for their actions. This parent continued to lament that those people who employ their children are many in Mang'ola and are the one who destroy their children and if they will be stopped then he is positive that the problem of street children in Mang'ola will significantly diminish. It is no wonder that of the parents we contacted said that they need someone who will dare to stand and stop them not to continue spoiling their children and put them responsible as they do not have any power to put them responsible. This is genuine cry from the parents and, in our opinion, something need be done so as to help end the problem of child labor in Mang'ola which, to the opinions of these parents, is the key reason for their

children runaway

Case 2: Children as Cheap Laborers in Brick Making in NMC Karatu

Another case that we managed to observe was the case of children employed to work in making bricks in a site located at NMC suburb in Karatu Township. When we were conducting the interview with some adults in Karatu one of the adult community member whom we came into contact, helped our team to discover that there is a group of children who do not roam in different streets in Karatu but they have abandoned their homes and working in brick making and it is where they sleep.

Our team went there and succeeded to meet a total of 7 children right on the site of age between 10 years of age to around 15 years of age. When asked why they abandoned their homes and come to work and sleep in the brick making site, these children claimed it is because of the poverty at their families, family abuses including being beaten by their step parents and other children noted that they just run away from home to come and work and earn money. In a private interview with our team, these children clearly noted that at some point they were lured by the owners of the bricks making site to go and work for them and they will pay them well though it was found that they are being used as cheap laborers and paid less (by far less than half of what the adults could have been paid for such similar work). We also came to understand that one boy feared to get back home after he was made some mistakes back home and he was beaten and decided to run away and afraid of getting back home. We hard to join him with Mwema Social Worker who helped with the reconciliation and the reintegration of a child with his family and helping him get back to school.

These two cases present the reality of the existence of all the elements of child labor which is one of the serious crimes against children. Efforts need to be invested to stop child labor, not just in these two areas, but at the district level and ensure implementation of the Law of the Child Act of 1999 and other local regulations and laws and international treaties of which Tanzania is one of the signatories, which prohibit child labors. Actions should be imposed against those who employ children and hence deny them with their basic rights for their proper growth and development.

SECTION IV: CONCLUSIVE REMARKS AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

To politicians, decision makers, general public and all of us the problem of street children is repulsive. Most of us feel offended, in one way or another, when we see these children moving across different streets looking shabby, making all of us jeer and connote them with all kind of pejorative names and consider them as “mucky” of our beauty towns and cities, causing instability and social problems and disorders in our societies. It is no wonder that these children are regularly arrested by the police and other authorities for the very fact of what we call “their vagrancy”. However, with whatever assumption and action we make for these children, it is worthy to bring into everybody’s attention that the problem of these children to be in the street is not their problem rather it is “*system*” problem. For them to be in the street is an outcome of “*system* failure”. Accepting mockery and insult, reaching decision of living such a perilous life with lack of access to their basic rights, no parental care and love, no food, no clothing and no acceptance (Mvungi, 2002) is such a testimony of both parents, community and state failure (be it explicitly or implicitly). Somewhere something is not happening between these three groups (state, community and parents) and that is the reason why this problem is increasing significantly day by day. Somewhere, something must be fixed and be put in its right order to ensure that these children are well protected and cared taking into account that they have rights like any other child or any other human being as rectified in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC) and other international human rights conventions of which Tanzania is one of the signatories. It is our responsibility, the state, community members, religious leaders and NGOs to ensure that all these rights are observed irrespective of our assumptions on who these children are and what went wrong on their side.

It is not doubt we have a very serious social problem at our hand. It is worthy of being identified as a problem as it is undeniably that an important part (remember youth and children compose almost half of Tanzania’s population) have been denied their right of living in a rightful place in their family and to be cared for and now they are living a dejected life bearing such a responsibility of fending for themselves, such a heavy burden for such small innocent part of the population. It is a problem that needs an immediate address and demands more of a concerted effort from the community, government, religious institutions and NGOs. It is in this light that we would suggest the following two key points to be taken into consideration by all parties concerned so as to ensure that there are responsive measures to ensure that those children in the street are cared for and provided with their

basic rights and preventive measures to prevent the continuation of the phenomenon:-

4.2 Establishment of District Children's Advisory Committee

It is undeniably true that children in Karatu District in general, as is the case with other areas, are exposed to many risks that make them vulnerable including abuses and denial of their basic rights. If you try to analyze the situation of children of the street and hundreds of children who come to work in day time and get back to their homes in the evening; recalling many of the recent events¹ happened to Karatu children including denial of their basic constitutional right, right to life², all these sound an alarm to call for our immediate actions and response to ensure that children in Karatu District are well cared and protected.

This is not a simple work. It demands holistic and integrated approach and concerted participation of all groups from the community. These children we call children of the street are not real "*children of the street*" but rather they are our children. They are coming from our communities, we are all their parents or relatives and no one came from *nowhere* just to be found on the street. The same community that point fingers towards them is the same community these children are coming from. They are children of the state and they deserve access to their basic rights as stipulated in the constitution and in different laws and regulations of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Studies elsewhere reveals that effective solution to the problem of street children requires a well formulated and coordinated plans which integrates all stakeholders contributing to the problem as well as those involved in solving the problem. Taking that into account, we would like to argue all the actors, decision makers, politicians, religious institutions and the community in its generality to join together and make a District Integrated Plan which will clearly incorporate and solicit for the participation of all concerned parties providing both responsive and preventive measure to solve the problem of street children in Karatu.

There is a concerted need for Karatu District Council, through its Department of Social Welfare and Community Development and participation of Mwema Children Karatu as a lone NGO in Karatu District to foster for the access to basic rights among street children, to pioneer the process of formulation of the District Children's Advisory Council, which will follow the decision-making model, (a consultative model which decision making chain is neither bottom-up or top-down) with the aim of

¹ Such as the killing of all 3 children of one family at G/Arusha and similar event which happened at Mang'ola when fathers in respective cases decided to kill their children due to marital conflicts

² Article 14 of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977

identifying appropriate policies and programs for betterment of all vulnerable children at the district level. It is within our hope that it through this approach that the problem of street children will be solved and prevented.

4.3 Enforcement of Different Basic Laws aimed to Protect Children's and Young Person's Rights for their Proper Growth and Development

It important to note here that, as a country, despite the continued growth of the problem of street children, still these children are not well recognized and no special law and not even specifically mentioned in any law, as is the case with other vulnerable groups (such as orphaned children), to provide for their protection and care despite the voices of many demanding for special position in legal regime to render special protection to street children as this group do not have more rights or fewer rights compared to other children¹.

However, despite this weakness in the legal regime, it is enough to say that there are basic legal provisions for combating acts that are accounted for the widespread of the problem such as child labor, exploitation and abuses if enforced will reduce the vulnerability of these children. If enforced, these laws to a large extent will reduce vulnerability of street children and gain their access to basic rights.

As pointed out earlier by Mbunda (2002) the challenge is not only on the insufficiency of the law but with the commitment and willingness to enforcement of these basic laws. In his opinion Mbunda found that the law that was found to be more implemented with many law enforcement bodies is the Criminal Procedure Act No. 9 of 1985² of which, either by design or by default makes street children more vulnerable and compounding to their existing problems. That is why it is undeniably true that street children, and not their parents, are the ones invariably harassed by police and held criminally liable. It is now important that, whenever possible, some legal actions be taken to parents who are in position to provide care for their children but decline the responsibility.

¹ Shaidi, 1991; Mbunda, 2002

² Section 28 of the Law empower police to arrest rogues and vagabonds by providing that any officer in charge of the police station may arrest or cause to be arrested any person within the limit of such station who has no ostensible means of subsistence and who cannot give account of himself and to arrest any person without warrant found lying and loitering in any highway, yard at night and unable to give satisfactory account of himself.

This section presents some of these basic legal provisions so as to ensure that children are protected and well cared and hence reduce if not eliminate the problem. This study clearly understand the difficulties in putting into action these legal procedures due to the nature of parents of the children of street but calls for the actions to be taken whenever possible for the best interest of child¹ as it came into our realization that there are some parents who can play that part of providing care to ensure their children's survival and development. The process can be informal through the district social work office and if need arise the cases can be referred to any law enforcement body for further legal actions especially in cases of abandonment while parents can provide for their children. It is hereby recommended that each specific case be well studied by the Social Work officers so as to establish a ground on which specific part of the law will be appropriate under each specific situation/case.

¹ Section 4(2) of the Law of the Child Act No. 21 of 2009 provides that the interest of a child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning a child whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts or administrative bodies.

Table 19: Some Basic Legal Provisions that can be enforced to Protect Street Children and Gain Access to their Basic Rights

Category	Legal Provision	Description	Implication
Universal Human Rights	Articles 11 – 19 and 29 of the constitution of the URT 1977 and Section 4 to 7 of the Law of the Child Act No. 21 of 2009	Provide for basic rights for Tanzanians (children inclusive) and for the child's access to basic human rights including protection from the law, right to speak and to be heard, education and other basic amenities free from discrimination on the grounds of race, age, gender, sex, birth, rural or urban ground or any other status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special treatment and services will be provided for street children to ensure that they gain access to basic human rights they previously were denied • Legal protection (basing on any specific law) will be put in place to reduce vulnerability of street children
Mutual responsibility (Local government and community in protection of children's rights)	Section 94 of the Law of the Child Act of 2009	It is the duty of local government authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (street children inclusive) including giving them assistance whenever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District authorities will take into concern the problem of street children and put in their annual plan as special case to be at the centre of their operational focus.
	Section 95 of the Law of the Child Act of 2009	It is the duty of any member of the community to ensure child's rights are not infringed and report any infringement he/she has information and evidence about to the authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special programs and activities at the district level will be put in place to ensure that street children gain access to basic rights • All members of the community and private institutions will stand in a front line and play vital role in promoting access to basic rights among street children and help reduce their vulnerability from the family to community level.

Category	Legal Provision	Description	Implication
Protection of Children from desertion, abandonment and neglect of a parent to care for the child	Section 166 of the Penal Code CAP 16 (Revised Laws) of the URT	Make it an offense for a parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 years to desert willfully the child and leave them without means of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents who are in position to care for their children but neglect to fulfill their parental obligation without any ground reason will be put responsible to provide means of support for their children under any setting that will be determined appropriate by the District Social Welfare Officer
	Chapter 20 of the Penal Code	It is an offense for a parents or guardian to refuse or neglect to provide sufficient food, clothes, bedding and other necessities so as to injure the health of a child	
	Section 9 of the Law of the Child Act of 2009	Provide that every parents have duties and responsibilities, whether imposed by the law or otherwise, to maintain their children and ensure that they are protected against neglect, discrimination and violence.	
	Section 7 of the Law of the Child Act of 2009	Provide that children are entitled to live with their parents and if it is determined by competent authority or court order that it is for the best of child's interest to separate a child from parent(s) are best substitute care for a child should be provided	
Protection of Children after Parents'	Section 3 of the Law of Marriage Act Cap 29 and Section 26 of the	Provides for the protection of rights of children in case of separation or dissolution/divorce of marriage by directing that the principle interest to be followed in resolving	Children rights and interests (both born in and out of wedlock) will be observed when parents separate or dissolve their marital affairs. This

Category	Legal Provision	Description	Implication
Separation or Dissolution	Law of the Child Act No. 21 of 2009	custody and access disputes is the “ <i>best interests of the child</i> ”.	will ensure that children are left well cared and not abandoned to bear the burden of fending for their own living
	Customary Law Rule G.N No. 179 of 1963 (Law of Persons)	Offer legislative attempts to address the problem of neglect or denial of paternity to children born out of wedlock which form a significant part of street children	
Protection from Child Labor and Exploitations	Section 12 and Sections 77 to 86 of the Law of the Child Act No. 21 of 2009	Provide that no person shall employ or engage a child in any activity that may be harmful to his health, education, mental, physical or moral development and protect children of age above 14 who are allowed under this specified condition of this law to engage in “ <i>light work</i> ” against any form of exploitations and that they do not work in any “ <i>hazardous work</i> ”.	Children will protected against any form of employment that is not permitted by the law and members of the community will be well informed on the penalties to be imposed in case they violate the provision of these laws.
Protection of children from torture and degrading treatment	Section 13 of the Law of the Child Act No. 21 of 2009	Provides that it is an offence for a person to subject a child to torture or cruel and inhuman punishment or degrading treatment which dehumanizes or is injurious to the physical and mental well-being of a child and that corrections should be justifiable on the ground that it is according to age, physical or mental condition and a child understand the purpose of the correction	Children will be well protected against any form of torture and degrading treatment which dehumanizes or cause them injuries and hence reduces the number of children running away from their families following unbearable abuses from parents and other adults.

4.4 Street Children Reintegration Model: A Path towards Effective Reintegration Process

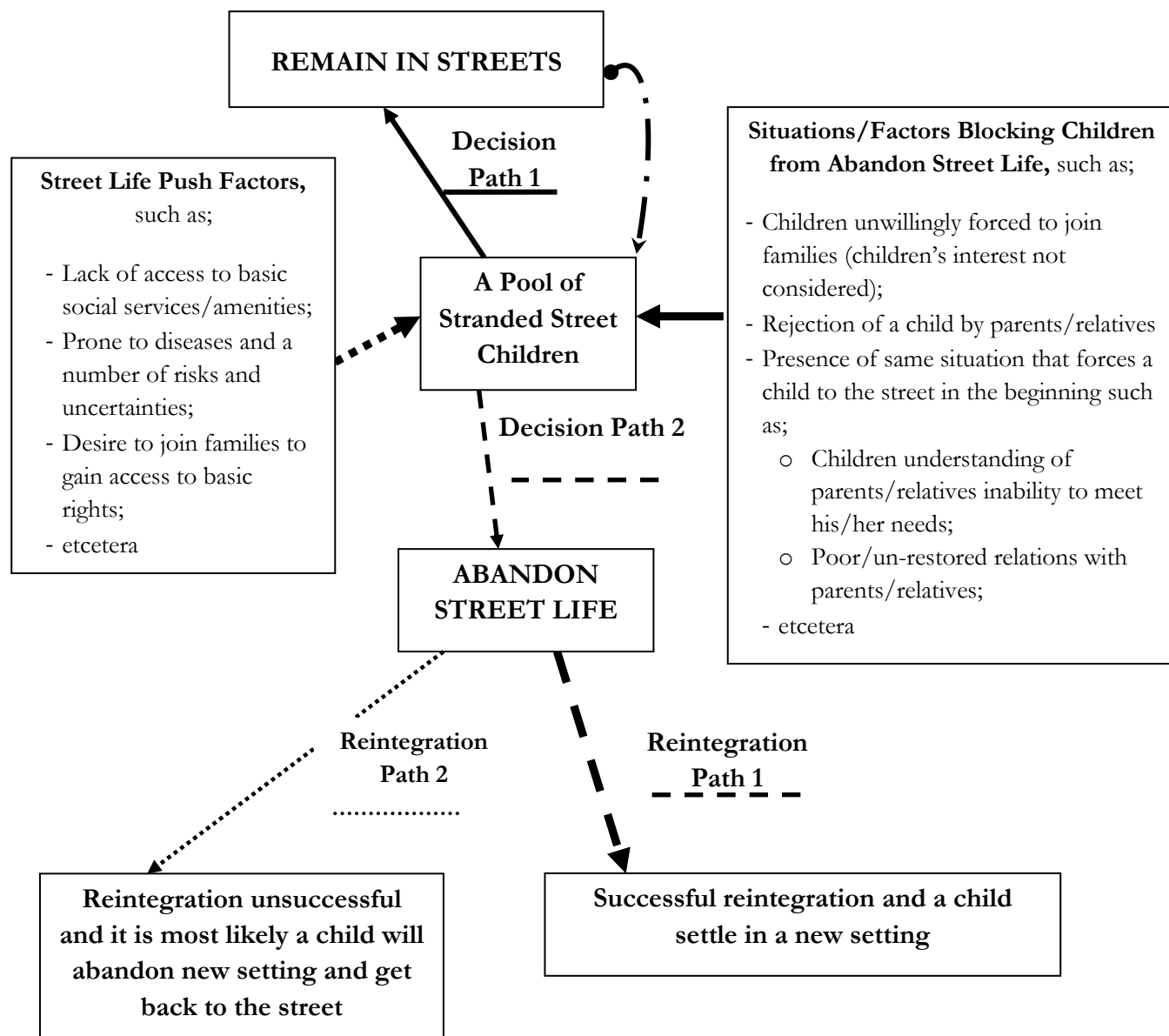
Basing on findings from this study which shows that in many cases street children reach a point of being exhausted with street life and desire to join back their families or any other settings such as rehabilitation centers or boarding schools, we found it important to go a step ahead in trial to develop a model that will provide a framework to different actors who wish to join the effort to support street children and ensure that they gain access to their basic rights. This model calls into attention the necessity of taking into consideration factors causing children's vulnerability and that also demand concerted efforts be directed in working out with those factors likely to affect the reintegration process and yield unplanned results, whether they are reintegrated with residential homes, first working opportunity, apprenticeship and vocational training institutions or with education programs.

This model also has its background on our personal success and failures on reintegrating children when working with the project Mwema Children Karatu and lessons from other organization working with street children. There is a group of street children reintegrated with first working opportunity and proved failure while others proved success; there are children reintegrated with their families and proved failure but there are other children reintegrated with their families and proved success. There are children reintegrated with apprenticeship trainings and proved failure and others proved success; there are children reintegrated with education programs and proved success while others proved failure.

During this study, our quick evaluation on these reintegration processes we came to the conclusion that there are key elements that were taken into consideration by the project before the reintegration process and after the reintegration process and for those which proved failure these key elements were ignored before and after reintegration of a child with the new settings. It is in this experience and findings from this study that took the investigators to a point of start thinking on developing a model that will give a guide the processes of reintegrating street children in different setting when planning for the intervention on the phenomenon of children of the street.

Figure below present this model:-

Figure 1: Reintegration Model for Effective Reintegration Process of Street Children



Descriptions of Key Elements of the Model

1. Underlying Assumptions of this Model

This model base on the following assumptions:-

- There are moments when a child in the street get fed of the street life and desire to abandon it and join with their families or member of extended families or any alternative setting for their better future and ensured access to basic rights, care and services.
- There must be available commitment and concerted efforts among different actors in supporting

and helping street children finding their future outside of street so as to prepare them become potent and productive citizens.

- iii. All parties and actors are aware that the process of disengaging a child with street life, like it is the case with beginning street life, is not and should not be an abrupt and haphazard process but is and must be gradual process that need to consider factors (including psychological issues) that led children to abandon their families and engage with street life.

2. Decision Paths

Depending on the force exerted from the two pressures explained earlier, a child is likely to find himself in two paths of decision. The first decision path is to continue living in streets and the second path is a child's decision to abandon street life. It is important to note here that this is the preliminary stage when a child or a young person in street start to contemplate about his decision to disengage with street life or not and does not reflect the *actual* decision of a child to abandon street life or not.

Decision Path 1 (A Decision to continue living in street)

A child will take this decision if the pressure exerted from the street for him to disengage with street life is minimum compared to forces exerted from their homes or any alternative setting that a child is thinking to move to after abandoning street life. If no external assistance to a child, be it material or psychological support, then a child will definitely reach a resolution to continue living in streets as there are no guaranteed supports to ensure his decision to abandon street life will prove success. For example, if a child want to abandon street life and join his family and find that still his parents has the same attitude towards him or he find any situation to deter his decision, then it is likely that a child will turn back to the streets. This is the case observed in this study with those children who claimed that they had earlier made trials to join families but found themselves in a situation of being chased away and called all kinds of belittling names such as "*street dogs*" from their parents and relatives.

If a child takes this decision then literally he is back to the pool of children of the street and in the near future, under the same or different circumstances to which made him start to think abandoning street life, a child will start thinking again to break his bond with street life.

Decision Path 2 (Decision to Abandon Street Life)

A child will take this decision path if and only if he finds himself in a point that pressures exerted for him to abandon street life are maximum compared to those which forces him, be real or perceived, away from homes or any other setting. Also will take this decision if he finds promising and receptive

environment back home or from any alternative setting, even if the pressure for him leaving street life is minimum at all. For example, if a child is planning to join with education program and find himself in point that these programs are available and he is guaranteed of obtaining basic support such as uniforms, learning and other scholastic materials and access to food, then it is likely that a child will abandon street life and decide to join with the program as he will find them receptive and reduce the burden of fending for their own living.

However, it is worth to note here that, even if a child reaches such a point, still he will need further assistance to solidify his decision. That is to say, if no one will be available to help a child at this stage, there is also a probability that the reintegration process will not effectuate and it is likely that a child will finally decide to remain in streets. This is the reason as to why this model primarily advocate on the availability of concerted efforts and availability of resource persons who will be regularly available working with these children and young person from their own settings (streets and meeting areas) who will befriend these children, give them a chance to feel free and express their concerns and who will be in a position to be able to read and understand children's confusing moments and situations and plan with them on the way out. Availability of these resourceful persons will help street children solidify their decisions to abandon street life by offering them encouragement, psychological and moral support which are all needed more at this stage for them to have a solid ground to abandon street life and a concentrated focus in a new care plan.

3. Reintegration Paths

After a child decided to take decision path 2 (to abandon street life) then this is another stage towards preparing for an effective reintegration process. This is actually a real reintegration stage whereby availability or non availability of assistance to a child will either result to effective reintegration or ineffective reintegration respectively.

Reintegration Path 1 (Successful Reintegration)

This represent a situation whereby a child decision to abandon street life and join setting is well backed up with support to help him settle in these new settings. This is a point where by a successful reintegration is guaranteed as all the factors necessary to ensure that a child needs (psychological, social, economic, cultural and spiritual needs) are met are all considered and it is well brought into child's attention that there is such a guarantee. This includes psychosocial support to a child to prepare him settle in a new setting, ensuring a child that his needs will be met and what are the arrangement of meetings these needs and also offering family counseling (if needed) to his family or members of

extended family which will be staying with a child, so as to ensure that the family accept the responsibility and are well prepared to support him settle. At this point, set of principles must be well observed including the principle of “child’s best interest” which advocates to take into consideration that children’s needs must be met but also the reintegration must consider the interest of a child before reinforcing the reintegration process – in this case is to ensure a child himself accept the reintegration into a new setting than forcing him. For example, if a child is not interested to join normal school curricular but is interested to join for apprenticeship training, it is important to take into consideration the interest of a child as different endeavor out of children’s interest may cause a child to abandon a new setting as he or she is not well psychologically prepared and it is likely that the reintegration will not prove success.

This model agree with the fact that, there are circumstances when a street child is in a situation not to single out what is best for him and developing interests in what does not suit him such as unrealistic expectations. Under such circumstances, it is the duty of social workers and other responsible officials to gradually and cautiously help a specific child with psychosocial assistance so that they can reach a point of realization and understanding that the proposed plan is the best for him/her so that she/he accept it willingly and make him/her hold the new proposal as theirs and not outside from some professional people who think they have the right to think for others on how they can lead and decide on their lives.

Reintegration Path 2 (Unsuccessful Reintegration)

This represent a situation when a child have absolutely decide to abandon street life and join any of the setting either prepared for his reintegration or he himself plan to go after abandoning street life. It is a situation when a decision is not backed and buffed with support to help him settle in new settings, be it education programs, rehabilitation centre or any other settings. It will happen only if no guarantee to a child that his needs will be met in a new setting and there is no consideration of key principles to help them settle in these new settings. But also it is likely to happen if the interest of a child is not taken as key principle and if a child is forced instead of helped to realize that the proposed plan against his interest is the best for him and his future.

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