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**To Examine the Underpinning Factors Responsible for Child Streetism in Dar Es Salaam
and Dodoma Cities, Tanzania**

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper examines the underpinning factors responsible for child streetism in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma cities, Tanzania.

Methodology: The study employed a qualitative method. Instruments for data collection included participants' interviews, key informant interviews, and document review. The adopted research paradigm was the interpretivism research paradigm. This paradigm was chosen on the basis that the study wanted to have in-depth information on the influence of income poverty and family development on child streetism adopting the qualitative nature of the research. The adopted research approach was the inductive research approach because of the qualitative nature of the study. The population consisted of street children living on the streets of Dodoma and Dar es Salaam cities in Tanzania while the study sample size included 38 street children and 18 key informants.

Findings: The findings revealed that income, poverty, and Lack of family capacity to meet children's basic needs such as food, shelter, clothes, education, and health needs were the main causes of child streetism. The study findings are also supported by the vulnerability theory. The theory shows how vulnerable environments including poverty may lead to certain social consequences. According to this theory, children's vulnerability is explained in different ways including being victims of hunger and homelessness, which is considered an identity of a vulnerable population.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Vulnerability theory recognizes that the human experience of constant vulnerability varies as a result of stages in the life course, social institutions, and law, which often trace intersecting forms of oppression on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, disability, and class. Vulnerability thus provides a heuristic device for exposing the structural privilege and disadvantage enveloped in these relationships and suggests ways to readjust them in order to advance social justice and lessen inequality. It is recommended that the Regional Administrations and Local Government Authorities in collaboration with other stakeholders establish a special campaign to enroll street children into the education system and facilitate family reunification

Keywords: *Underpinning Factors, Responsible for Child Streetism*

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INTRODUCTION

The study was carried out to examine the Underpinning Factors Responsible for Child Streetism in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma. The term Child streetism is used to describe children who live and work on the streets due to a lack of family ties or worse still, stuck in manipulative relationships, where their guardians (or in certain cases parents) use them to support the household financially, through various activities on the streets.

In Global view poverty is one of the underpinning factors responsible for Child Streetism. Poverty being defined as the number of people worldwide who live on less than \$2.15 a day. A person surviving on less than \$2.15 a day lives in extreme poverty, as defined by the World Bank. More than 736 million people or one out of every ten people on the planet currently live below this poverty threshold, World bank, (2015) and children, a highly vulnerable segment of society, account for more than half of the world's poorest citizens UNICEF, (2015). Thirty-three of the 47 countries on the United Nations' list of Least Developed Countries are in Africa, and over 400 million of the global poor live in low- and middle-income countries on the continent, with the vast majority living in Sub-Saharan Africa World Bank, (2018).

In addition, African countries especially the Sub-Saharan countries are faced with extreme poverty (Ward and Seager, 2010; Le Roux, 2016). The rampant poverty in Sub-Saharan Countries has contributed to the problem of street children who do not have access to education, nutrition, food, shelter, water, sanitation and good health services Kopoka, (2000). In addition, the consequence of poverty, with reference to income poverty, is argued to be the main cause of street children, (Bhukuth and Ballet, 2015; Chowdhury *et al*, 2017; Adrioni, 2018; Mandoyu, Gameda & Genemo, 2018; Mandoyu, Gameda & Genemo, 2018; World Bank, 2019).

In Tanzania, alike, poverty is considered to be the main driver for street children. World Bank, (2019) reports that in the period of two years 10,000 children went to the street which indicates a rapid increase in the number of street children in Tanzania. The challenge of street children in Tanzania is more historical since then. Saramba, (2002) attests that 30,000 children are in Tanzania while Dar es Salaam was leading with 10,000 street children. Mwinyiani (2004) reveals that the population of street children increased to about 40,000. Statistics from research conducted in 2017/2018 in about six regions of Tanzania show that Dar es Salaam has about 2984 street children. Mwanza has 978 children, Arusha 544, Iringa 954, Dodoma 347 and Mbeya 586.

Statement of the Problem

Tanzania as one of the developing countries in Africa greatly faces the challenge of increasing street children despite implementing various initiatives to deal with the challenge (World Bank, 2019). Prior empirical studies on street children (De Benitez, 2011; Lemoyan, 2015; Kopoka, 2002; Corsaro, 2011) associate the challenge of street children to many factors including factors such as poverty and lack of family support among others. Based on the reviewed literature, there is scanty information on what exactly is driving more children on the streets. Hence, motivated by earlier studies, this study explored factors responsible for the increasing challenge of street Children on the streets and the mechanisms that can be employed to curb the situation. In exploring this subject matter, the study uses Dar es Salaam and Dodoma Cities found in Tanzania. The researcher will be interested in finding answers to three specific questions relating to what are the underpinning factors responsible for Child streetism in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma cities;

Theoretical Review

The study was anchored by the vulnerability theory. The theory shows how vulnerable environments including poverty may lead to certain social consequences. According to this theory, children's vulnerability is explained in different ways including being victims of hunger and homelessness, which is considered an identity of a vulnerable population.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a qualitative method. Instruments for data collection included participants' interviews, key informant interviews, and document review. The adopted research paradigm was the interpretivism research paradigm. This paradigm was chosen on the basis that the study wanted to have in-depth information on the influence of income poverty and family development on child streetism adopting the qualitative nature of the research. The adopted research approach was the inductive research approach because of the qualitative nature of the study. The population consisted of street children living on the streets of Dodoma and Dar es Salaam cities in Tanzania while the study sample size included 38 street children and 18 key informants.

FINDINGS

Underpinning Factors Responsible for Child Streetism in Dar Es Salaam and Dodoma

Poverty

The main cause of the growing population of young people living and working on the street is poverty. This is the major cause and acts as the driving force and reason for many children who spend their days and nights living and working on the streets, living in absolute squalor and degrading circumstances. The girls who forced into sexual relationships for protection and food are prone to disease and malnutrition; often trafficked; no education and schooling or medical healthcare; living a life of trauma, held captive to their constant cycle of poverty with no hope of a better future and only despair. The case narrative below illustrates the situation of child streetism as a result of poverty in the study areas as shown in Case II below.

Case I: Poverty and Child Streetism

Hassan Fredrick Keng'ete (Not a real name) is a 15-year-old boy coming from Dodoma. He ran away from home and lives and works on the street. He also comes from a poor family which consists of his mother and three (3) brothers when their father left home three years ago. He started to live on the streets of Dodoma and met his friends who told him to migrate to Dar es Salaam because life is not so hard. However, the reality is completely different. He further said that he failed to accomplish his primary education because his mother could not afford to pay for his school uniforms and other needs.

In this case, Hassan has been in the street since 2019 and engaging in picking and collecting iron steels, washing cars in the queue and sometimes stealing and begging. He also sleeps under bridges such as under Ubungo Flyover; unfinished buildings as well as at the bus stand. He also smokes cigarettes and glue sniffing. Regarding the sanitary conveniences, whenever he has money, he pays Tshs 200 for public toilets but in most cases, he looks for private places to comfort himself. Over the last century, there have been a growing number of children who live on the streets. Although very little is still known about them, they are often regarded in a negative light. This non-empirical paper explains some of their characteristics with the support of existing literature. It offers possible definitions and shows the complexity in trying to quantify it. It examines the difference between children "on" and "of" the streets and talks

about street culture. It is the firm view that, if people are more informed about the lifestyle of these children, they may be more sensitive to their needs.

Reza and Henly, (2018) believe that the street environment is often filled with illness, violence and poverty, these children rely on each other for survival. Consortium for Street Children (CSC) notes that many people use the terms “street children” and “homeless children” interchangeably but there are some differences. For example, not all street children are homeless. A review of the literature clearly indicates that street children are often described in a negative manner. Atwar and Engkus, (2020) state that: “Street children are always associated with acts of violence, crime, and social disturbances”. They become socially susceptible and vulnerable to their environment, both as causes and victims.

Dabir, (2014), notes that unsupervised minors who constantly dwell on the streets and make it a source of livelihood could be considered as street children. Irawati et al. (2021) thinks that street children work on the streets and unsuitable places such as under bridges and vacant land. They also hold no support from family and are unsupervised. Embleton et al. (2016) suggest that street children are people aged 12 to 24, for whom the street is their chief source of livelihood, and they also spend a significant time on the streets. Mulekya et al, (2021) define them as individuals who literally dwell on the streets. From this case, it indicates that income poverty is more severe to children who depend on single parents or guardians. Most households led by single parents or guardians, either due to family separation or death, experienced more severe income poverty and whose children usually go to the streets. One informant argued that “*Children living and working on the streets are led by different factors including family separation, (income) poverty and abuse but (income) poverty is the main cause and more experienced in a single parent/guardian household*” (Social Worker, Female).

Other informant contended that “*They (single parent’s households) are very poor families that cannot afford taking them to school and provide other basic needs....*”. It is also supported by the following case of street children in Dar es Salaam who comes from Mbeya region. Further studies reveal that there are more than 5,000 street children living and working on the streets in Dar es Salaam. Most of these children come from rural village’s upcountry, about 72% of the street children comes from outside the Dar es Salaam, whereby 28% hail from Dar es Salaam.

This study found that children are driven to the streets by “push” and “pull” factors. “push” factors include, poverty, domestic violence and abuse, lack of parental guidance and support, urban migration and orphan hood. “pull” factors are income on the streets, substance abuse, peer group influence, independence and street culture. The study recommends that government should make effective legislation and ensure strict implementation of the laws concerning child rights, education system and awareness. All institutions from top to bottom should be activated to save children from uncertainty and vulnerability. The government should establish rehabilitation centers where children addicted by drugs can stay until fully cured. Besides, awareness campaign should be launched as soon as possible to help people to realize the gravity of the situation of children who work and live on streets as illustrated in Case III.

Case II: Income Poverty and Child Streetism

Hassan Fredrick Keng’ete (Not a real name) is a 15-year-old boy coming from Dodoma. He ran away from home and lives and works on the street. He also comes from a poor family which consists of his mother and three brothers when their father left home three years ago. He started to live on the streets of Dodoma and met his friends who told him to migrate to Dar es Salaam

because life is not so hard. However, the reality is completely different. He further said that he failed to accomplish his primary education because his mother could not afford to pay for his school uniforms and other needs.

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Other informant contended that *“They (single parent’s households) are very poor families that cannot afford taking them to school and provide other basic needs....”*. It is also supported by the following case of street children in Dar es Salaam who came from Mbeya region. Further studies reveal that there are more than 5,000 street children living and working on the streets in Dar es Salaam. Most of these children come from rural village’s upcountry, about 72% of the street children come from outside the Dar es Salaam, whereby 28% hail from Dar es Salaam. This study found that children are driven to the streets by “push” and “pull” factors. “push” factors include, poverty, domestic violence and abuse, lack of parental guidance and

support, urban migration and orphan hood. “pull” factors are income on the streets, substance abuse, peer group influence, independence and street culture. The study recommends that government should make effective legislation and ensure strict implementation of the laws concerning child rights, education system and awareness. All institutions, from top to bottom, should be activated to save children from uncertainty and vulnerability. The government should establish rehabilitation centers where children addicted by drugs can stay until fully cured Besides, awareness campaign should be launched as soon as possible to help people to realize the gravity of the situation of children who work and live on streets.

Dumayoz Kilwagikinaz2 (Not a real name) is 16 years old and did not complete his primary school education because of family’s income poverty. He had been living with his grandmother ever since he was 10 years old and experienced extreme poverty. The house is not habitable especially during rainy seasons with no doors and windows. He normally had a single meal in the entire day with no money to access health services when he fell sick. He never met his parents since he was 10 years old and his biggest fear being in the street is to be arrested by the Police because they sometimes steal and being raped by other older street children because they normally do that to others.

The study also assessed the combined influence of income poverty and family development on child streetism in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions. The results revealed that the majority of street children got into that situation after experiencing income poverty which resulted in inaccessibility to education, health services, shelter, food and habitable accommodation. In the situation whereby societies have negative perceptions towards street children, income poverty and limited family support to carter for children’s needs and associated by low development level at the family level turn out to be the main drivers. The results indicate that the main factors behind pushing children onto the street are poverty, unemployment, orphanage, and disability, which leads these children towards terrorism and many other social evils. Such children are viewed negatively by the people and are considered a social burden. This research revealed that most of the children on the street face harassment, but females face more than males. Children on the street are abused physically by police as well. It also focused that the behavior of society towards street children is not positive. The street is the most dangerous and threatening place for physical and sexual abuse.

Equal access to basic education is the fundamental right of all children. An educated workforce is required to boost the economy in a sustained manner. Children from poor households, particularly girls and minorities are denied basic education. Therefore, access to education should be improved by building public schools and improving public health resources to make education common for all (Jabari et al., 2005).

The study found out that despite the program of rehabilitation of street children in shelter homes being a noble idea, the children are facing myriad challenges in their homes. Some of the challenges faced by the children in the homes include; lack of sufficient housing, child abuse and molestation in the children’s homes, and lack of adequate and quality food and clothing.

The main challenge facing rehabilitation is the sustainability of the process since after the completion of the education period by the children; the children are released from the homes to pave the way for the admitted cohorts of children being admitted to the homes. The other challenge was the lack of adequate funding by the government and civil society since the population of children to be admitted to the homes is quite huge. The study further revealed that the shelter homes were not actually offering conducive environment for the children since

majority of them opt out to the streets due to oppressions or abuse by the management or fellow street children.

The study findings are also supported by the vulnerability theory. The theory shows how vulnerable environments including poverty may lead to certain social consequences. According to this theory, children's vulnerability is explained in different ways including being victims of hunger and homelessness, which is considered an identity of a vulnerable population. In this case, the findings of this study also show how vulnerable environments, i.e., poor families lead to child streetism. It shows lack of food, shelter, clothes, education, and health services leads to child streetism. It further showed that children who were born into a homeless family were also likely to become street children. In this regard, the findings of this study show how a vulnerable environment for a child may lead to a certain social consequence (child streetism).

While acknowledging that income poverty is the main cause of street children, there are children whose households are living below the poverty line but still do not go to the street. This situation is attributed to the existence of social and family support especially from relatives and community members. Meanwhile, this study acknowledges that income poverty contributes to the challenge of street children in the communities but there are other factors to consider such as the family and community support systems.

Generally, the findings are in line with the findings of this study. It is also supported by several prior empirical studies. For instance, World Bank, (2019) supports that income poverty is the main cause of street children while Ward and Seager, (2010) argue that street children are an indicator of poverty. Other studies including Chenga & Chamwi, (2014); Lemoyan, (2015); Mandoyu, *et al.*, (2018) also link poverty and street children. However, the findings of this study revealed that children who are cared for by single parents experienced severe income poverty which forced them to go to the street.

Low Education

Equal access to basic education is the fundamental right of all children. An educated workforce is required to boost the economy in a sustained manner. Children from poor households particularly girls and minorities are denied basic education. Therefore, the access of education should be improved by building public schools and improving the public health resources to make education common for all, Jabari *et al.*, (2005). This was supported by one of the informants who argued that "*Low education among parents on how to handle their children leads to many children on the streets*". Despite the fact that the statement shows inadequate participation of the communities in re-integrating a street child into the society, it also indicates the unique family role in protecting children to enter into the streets. It is also supported by a street child who said, "*I did not go to school because it is about 30 km from where we live in our rural village and my parents could not afford to buy me a bicycle*" (Child, male).

Limited Family Support

The findings of this study revealed that economic status of the family may not guarantee access to basic needs and services for a child. Parents/guardians may have adequate income to sustain their families with good jobs but still their children may be deprived, neglected and excluded from satisfying their basic needs and services.

One of the informants attested that he had no access to basic needs including health services and further added that it was better to go to the street rather than waiting to die at home (Street Child, 14 years ago). The social welfare officer added that "*in societies that have free access*

to health and educational services, the magnitude of child streetism is relatively low despite the fact that the family is extremely poor” (Social Welfare Officer, Female)”. This implies that in areas that public services which are necessary for the survival of human beings are available, the challenge of street children is minimal, but it was determined by the parents’/guardian’s willingness to support their children in accessing education services.

Street children face unique barriers to accessing education that many other children don’t have. Street children are often unable to enroll in formal education due to a lack of legal identification, permanent address or guardian, whilst others who have spent years on the streets are not permitted back in with younger students and struggle to catch up with those their own age. Those who are able to enroll are often faced with marginalization, stigmatization and discrimination by their teachers and peers, affecting their wellbeing and performance in class; “at school. The stigmatization and lack of support within classrooms can cause further harm to already psychologically vulnerable street children who often suffer physical and sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect, sometimes at the hands of those in positions to best protect them such as law enforcement officers.

Abuse, trauma and neglect can have serious, lasting effects on children’s psychological development and health with street children at a disproportionately higher risk of suffering from psychiatric diseases, infectious illnesses and reproductive health issues. These health challenges can negatively implicate street children’s attainment and attendance in schools, indicating the need for an education approach specialized in supporting the psychosocial and health needs of street children.

In this regard, most of street children in Dar es Salaam streets have not only originated from poor families but come from poor regions. For instance, street children simply migrated from other regions in Tanzania especially from Southern Highlands, Southern part of Tanzania and West Zone where there is limited awareness of parents and guardians on the need for their children to go to schools. Similar experience was evidenced in the Coastal region which is closer to Dar es Salaam but street children from the Coastal region could hardly be found. Few of them were coming from the Northern Parts of Tanzania which are more advanced in terms of an availability of public services but also parents and guardians are more exposed to importance of education for the better future of their children. This shows that the family support level in the specific family in terms of accessing public educational, social and health services determined the extent of child streetism.

Case III: Family Support and Child Streetism

*Eunicea is a girl aged 15 years old and coming from the rural areas of the Southern part of Tanzania. She is now residing in Dar es Salaam as a street child since 2018. Limited access to education, health services and electricity drove her decision to migrate from a rural area to the urban area of Dar es Salaam as a street child. She contended that life is so hard in the rural areas and sometimes you have to walk more than 20 km to access health services. Schools are still far from where they live in their rural village. It even took her 60 km (go and return) every day to go to school. For instance, Le Roux (2016) reveals that family violence is one of the factors that contribute to child streetism. Mandoyu, *et al* (2018) attest that parental disintegration leads to child streetism. On the other hand, Sofya, *et al* (2019) argues that abusive parental punishment, hate of stepparents and parents’ alcoholic behavior are the contributors of child streetism.*

Street children are the most vulnerable group in any society and their problem is a global one

and exists in both the developed as well as developing countries though differing in size and magnitude. Street children are a growing phenomenon of modern times, especially in the urban areas in developing countries which are faced with the process of rapid and unplanned urbanization. So, the issue of street children is considered to be an urban problem. Children can be found in railway stations, near temples, in markets, under bridges, near bus depots and stops and other crowded places. Hence the definition of street is not in the literal sense, but refers to those children without a stable home or shelter. There are three major categories of street children defined by UNICEF (1988).

Drug Use

Substance use contributed to the problem of street children in Tanzania. The findings revealed that some of the street children went to the street after the failure of their Parents and Guardians to take care of them. Substance abuse and use for mood-altering purposes included the use of drugs and excessive alcohol. For instance, one of the informants said that *“my parents did not have time for usthey came home very late and did not know whether we had eaten or not. I had to go to the street for help”* (Male informant, 14 years of age, street child).

The findings revealed that street children like others are engaged in drugs abuse for numerous reasons, peer influence, group recognition, lack of parental supervision, curiosity, residing adult abusers, lack of stable home environment, to work hard and for long hours, to relieve stress, ignorance, easy accessibility, for seeking pleasure and relaxation, easy affordability, etc. as unearthed by street children use psychoactive substance for coping and fitting into street life circumstances, boldness to withstand violence, survival sex, pleasure, to curb hunger, to induce sleep, to numb emotions and for entertainment (Kudrati, M. et al., 2008; Nada, K.H. et al., 2010; Morakinyo, J. et al., 2003) as in Cumber, S. M., et al., (2015). The most common reasons for substance abuse were due to peer pressure, experimentation or to boost self-confidence, Abhay, M. et al. (2007). Factors influencing adolescent drug abuse includes, poor self-image, low religiosity, poor school performance, parental rejection, family dysfunction, abuse, under or over-controlling by parents, and divorce (Block, B.J. et al., (1988); Brown, K.S.G. et al., (1983) as in Shinitzky, H.M.E. et al., (1998).

The findings indicate participant's strong awareness of the negative impacts of street children's engagement in drug abuse. For instance, mental illness, aggressive behavior, frequent problems and beating by others, endless problems with peers, frequent stealing and fighting, hatred towards school, endless family problems, diseases (e.g., HIV/AIDS, TB, STIs, etc.), road accidents, stroke, etc. These revelations support street children are exposed to an assortment of risks to resilience that characterize their lives such as drug abuse, violence, gangs, HIV infection, illiteracy, incomplete schooling, delinquency, neglect, poor health and nutrition Montane, (2006) as in Molahlehi, L. A, (2014). Substance abuse leads to road crashes, conduct problems, attentional problems, suicide, homicide, a range of injuries, poisoning; and spread of infectious diseases (Fergusson, D.M. 2007; Toumbourou, J.W. et al., 2007) as in Lucchetti, G. et al, (2014).

Single Parenting Families

Children in single parenting families characterized by low-income levels were prone to child streetism. Single parenting families resulted by the death of one parent or guardian, divorce, family separation and spouse failure to perform their roles. It was evident that spouses may live together but the family qualified to become a single parenting family. For instance, one of the informants argued that *“most families that street children are coming from were headed by a*

single parent despite the fact that both parents are living together.”

Today single parent families have become even more common than the so-called “nuclear family” consisting of a mother, father, and children. Today we see all sorts of single parent families: headed by mothers, fathers, and even by a grandparent raising their grandchildren. Life in a single parent household though common can be quite stressful for the adult and the children. The single parent may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of juggling caring for the children, maintaining a job, and keeping up with the bills and household chores. And typically, the family’s finances and resources are drastically reduced following the parents’ breakup. Single parent families deal with many other pressures and potential problem areas that other families may not face. The single parent can help family members face these difficulties by talking with each other about their feelings and working together to tackle their problems. Support from friends, other family members, and places of worship can help too. But if family members are still overwhelmed and having problems, it may be time to consult an expert or a licensed mental health professional.

Moreover, it was found that, due to family collapse, some street children were sent to their grandparents with limited sources of income and ability to guide their grandchildren. Grandparents were considered as the backup plan when the family is disintegrated and, in most cases, they were widows with relatively huge parenting burden. Excessive single parenting burden of window grandparents pushed children to go the street to fetch their needs. It was justified by one informant who stated that *“I have to join my colleagues in the street when my parents sent me to my village grandmother who had no means of survival”* (Female informant, street child, 12 years of age).

Nevertheless, there were also circumstances in which orphans who were taken care of by grandparents joined in the street life. This implied that, these were a close connection between a grandparent headed household and street children. A family that was led by a grandparent with inadequate income to carter for the needs of his/her grandchildren was likely to be pushed to the street. A social worker argued that *“the challenge was so rampant in the rural areas, which forced children to go to urban areas to look for the means of survival”* (Male informant 35 years of age)

Family Violence

Family violence has influenced children streetism especially when a family is characterized by family violence, will likely push their children to the street. Different types of family violence in this study particularly gender-based violence, were identified. Many respondents reported to have experienced violence sometimes in their lives. Majority of respondents agreed that many women experienced gender-based violence includes psychological, sexual and physical violence. Since majority of respondents agreed with that. many women experienced physical and sexual violence. This indicates the prevalence of this problem, and many women have been victims of gender-based violence.

More importantly, the majority of informants argued that women experience physical and sexual violence more than the psychological violence. With regard to physical violence, one informant stated that: *“Some people believe that women have to be disciplined by their husbands if they do wrong. If they are not beaten, they will not respect them”* (Male informant, social worker, 40 years of age).

Moreover, majority of informants revealed that, women especially the married ones and those ones who are in the intimate relationship cannot demarcate sexual violence from non-sexual

violence. They perceive themselves as being responsible to make sure that they sexually satisfy their partners. In this case, they tend to accommodate sexual violence without taking any tangible action to address them.

This was supported by one informant who said that *“I will report my husband to the police station when he beats me. But I cannot report my husband because of sexual violence, after all it is for ourselves not for others”* (Female informant, 42 years of age, housewife). The findings are in agreement with Chowdhury, (2017) who also revealed that street children play games and roam around to watch video and cinema for leisure. Likewise, children are commonly associated with acts of violence and crimes as a means of survival (Stephen and Udisi, 2016; Rexa & Bromfield, 2019; Atwar & Engkus, 2020; Nega et al 2021). In support of study findings, street children experience violence and perform dirty jobs, dangerous and demanding (Darragh, 2019; Rexa and Bromfield, 2019). On the other hand, Scheper Hughes and Hoffman, (2016) argue that street children work extraordinarily hard and under difficult conditions to maintain themselves and their families.

With regard to psychological violence, the majority of informants did not agree that women suffer from psychological violence. It was revealed that most men suffer from psychological violence compared to women despite the fact that there is inadequate focus on such kind of violence in the women groups. One informant said that *“most men are psychologically abused than women”* (Female informant, Gender Desk Official, 36 years of age). Furthermore, few incidences of psychological violence were reported to lead into physical and sexual violence to women. In most cases, physical and sexual violence to women lead to psychological violence to men as part of revenge by abused women.

Economic violence emerged during data collection which results to the so-called women economic abuse. Women are deprived from the ownership of the means of production especially financial resources. Informants revealed that some men grab money from their spouses despite the fact that some of the financial resources were borrowed from either micro financial institutions or self-financing women groups. For example, one informant argued that *“my husband forcibly took all the money that I borrowed from VICOBA, how can the family survive meanwhile he is not participating in addressing the family need?”* (Women informant, 29 years of age). Some of the informants also combined economic violence and physical violence whenever woman shows resistance to economic violence. The findings also revealed that most women had an understanding on the economic rights and economic violence unlike in the case of sexual violence.

Family Violence hence reduced ability of the parents to support their children by addressing their needs. Physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence resulted in the frequent family conflicts which led to either family disintegration or insecurity. Family disintegration or insecurity associated with low income pushed some of the observed street children to go to the street. One street child argued that *“I had to become a street child after failing to prevent the psychological and physical abuse that his mother was passing through.”*

The findings also revealed that structural and functional social support networks adopted different approaches towards addressing GBV and its consequences. Structural social support networks such as family members and relatives usually adopted voluntary measures in order to achieve reconciliation within the families. However, sexual violence incidences in most cases were not reported to the structural social support networks.

However, physical violence incidences were reported and were addressed by the structural social support networks. Structural social support networks were sometimes used to address physical violence cases that were withdrawn from the legal enforcement institutions or considered to be the initial mechanism to address physical violence. But mostly, it was used after withdrawing physical violence cases from the legal enforcement institutions. One informant argued that *“when I was beaten by my husband, I reported him to the police station in order to get a form (i.e., PF3) which would enable me to access health services. But later on, I decided to withdraw the case because our relatives wanted to reconcile us”* (Women informant, 38 years of age, businesswoman).

The findings revealed that structural social support networks organize family meetings, individual meetings with the victim and perpetrators before involving the larger group of relatives, religious leaders and respected elders within the community. Religious leaders and respected elders were only involved when family members and relatives failed to reconcile spouses.

Functional social support networks such as police gender desks, NGOs, faith-based organizations, government social welfare officers and alike, voluntary and legal mechanisms were used to address GBV. In most cases, legal enforcement was used in addressing physical violence especially the ones that led to the severe injury or death to the victims. The findings also revealed that, in some circumstances, functional social support networks reconciled couples particularly when the physical violence resulted in ‘minor’ injuries to the victims. Generally, structural social support networks were mostly used than the functional social support networks. However, functional social support services were in the better position of providing counseling services to the GBV victims unlike the structural social support networks.

Low adoption of functional social support networks was viewed by informants that, gender-based violence incidences were not reported to the functional social support networks by women due to the fear of losing their marriages, the low expectations that the experienced violence would be resolved through special network. Further informants viewed that aspect of social stigma and cultural instincts among women led them from reporting the matters to the designated authorities. This implies that, there is no single factor that can stand on its own and explain why women fail to report gender-based violence issues.

Moreover, structural and functional social support networks had different factors that influence the performance in addressing GBV. With regard to functional social support networks, unrealistic budget for the network operation since they depend on donors and engagement gap among the local government authorities and civil society, politicization of gender control and protection process challenged the functional social support networks. The informants further identified the inadequate skills, human resources and physical resources such as inadequate office space and transport facilities were the additional challenges.

In the case of physical resources, inadequate physical space resulted in inadequate compliance with ethical and professional principles particularly confidentiality during an interview process and provision of guidance and counseling services. From the victim’s perspective, inadequate information sharing on functional social support networks resulted in the underutilization of services offered by the said category of the social support networks. In the case of structural social support networks, inadequate skills on handling physical and psychological consequences of GBV to the victims, conflict of interests and lack of objectivity and, cultural beliefs against women rights were the mentioned challenges.

Coping strategies for addressing GBV consequences outside the structural and functional social support networks emerged particularly in case of sexual and economic violence. Some of the informants mentioned separation of bedrooms, hiding information from their husbands with regard to economic doings or abstain GBV incidences especially when the recommended action would endanger children's welfare. For instance, one informant argued that *"my husband initially took all the money that I borrowed from VICOBA without my consent. I decided not to tell him again..."* (Female informant, 42 years of age, businesswoman).

Due to overreliance on structural social support networks, women who were not adequately assisted or not at all by the families, neighbors or relatives decided to shift the bedroom in order to get separated from their husbands. This coping strategy was mainly used when addressing sexual violence from their partners meanwhile protecting children's welfare. However, women who could carter for the economic needs for their children were likely and willing to quit from their homes. One informant said *"I quitted from him together with my children because I can take care of my children..."* (Female informant, 47 years of age, formally employed).

In summary, the findings revealed that, lack of family support to children in accessing the basic needs and services abusive parenting and family disintegration contributed to children streetism. Specifically, it was revealed that family economic status did not guarantee access to basic needs and services for a child. Some of street children came from relatively financially capable families but their parents/guardians were not willing to support them which made them become street children.

Under parenting, the substance uses and abusive parenting; family violence, single parenting, child headed household with limited parenting skills and economic opportunities and child neglect shown by absence of care and love led to child streetism. Under substance use and abusive parenting, drug abuse and excessive use of alcohol reduced ability of parents or guardians to take care of their children, which even led to family separation. Likewise, it was revealed that children whose parents or guardians had engaged in substance abuse and use were more likely to do the same when they were in the street.

In the case of family violence, the findings revealed that family violence was one of the push factors that contributed to child streetism. Family violence, particularly GBV cases, led to family disintegration and hence child streetism. Physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence made children perceive that they were in an unsafe family environment, hence, decided to go to the street. Single parenting also contributed to child streetism due to the excessive parenting burden with limited financial capacity and time to care and look after the children.

Likewise, child headed household resulted from the parents' or guardians' deaths, family disintegration and sickness of a single parent or guardians contributed to child streetism. It is most associated with the confiscation of family properties by relatives, which left the family under extreme poverty. Child neglect was another contributor to child streetism. Considering absence of love and care by parents and guardians to their children, it was further revealed that, a wealthy family that neglected and abuse their children made the children to go to the street because they considered their family environment to be unsafe and felt in secured.

The findings are supported by several prior empirical studies. For instance, Edris and Sitota, (2019) argue that abusive parental punishment, hate of stepparents and parental alcoholic behavior contribute to child streetism. With focus on family support, Alem and Laha, (2021) revealed that educational level of child influences child streetism. Adrion, (2018) attests that

unsafe family environment, child neglect and abuse contribute to child streetism. Diriba, (2015) finds that unstable families, family breakdown, abuses of stepparents and family conflicts are the contributing factors. Other prior empirical studies (Rahman, et al 2015; Kabede, 2015; Osmani and Hossain, 2020) reveal that family disharmony, orphaned poor families and alcoholic parents lead children to join the street life.

The findings revealed that unsafe family environment and actions of parents, guardians and relatives contributed to child streetism. Moreover, family violence mainly GBV contributed to child streetism. For instance, substance abuse and use for parents and guardians, single parenting families, abusive parental punishments and child neglect made children feel secure and subjected to unsafe environment. In this case, they decided to join the street life that was supported by the Rational Choice Theory and Ecological System Theory.

Child-Headed Household and Child Streetism

The findings also revealed that most children who led families and lived in child-headed households were likely to be in the street. Child-headed households were characterized by income poverty, inadequate care and accessibility to social and educational services and child protection, which pushed children to be in the street. One informant argued that *"I had to become a street child in order to serve for my siblings who depend on me... we don't have parents"* (A boy, 16 years of age).

The fact that the majority of the street children are either of school going age who have never been enrolled in school or school dropouts, I am inclined to believe that school is a factor in whatever is behind the street children phenomenon. In fact, Munene, Kasente, Carasco, Epeju, Obwoya, Omona, and Kinyera (1997) indicated a 34 percent dropout rate in Kenya While Stone, Firme and Boyden (1994) marvel at the low completion rate in the primary cycle 15-22 percent) experienced in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Furthermore, the term urban-out of school used to describe street children in Thika District, suggests that school dropouts are closely associated with the street children phenomenon. I am particularly intrigued by the large number of school dropouts found among the street children.

The fact that the majority of the street children are either of school going age who have never been enrolled in school or school dropouts, I am inclined to believe that school is a factor in whatever is behind the street children phenomenon. In fact, Munene, Kasente, Carasco, Epeju, Obwoya, Omona, and Kinyera (1997) indicated a 34 percent dropout rate in Kenya While Stone, Firme and Boyden (1994) marvel at the low completion rate in the primary cycle 15-22 percent) experienced in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Furthermore, the term urban-out of school used to describe street children in Thika District, suggests that school dropouts are closely associated with the street children phenomenon. I am particularly intrigued by the large number of school dropouts found among the street children.

No doubt, dropping out of school is common feature in the Third World countries. According to a UNICEF REPORT " half of the children enrolled in schools fail to complete the primary cycle"(Ayot & Briggs, 1992). However, we wish to critically learn, in the case of Kenya, the antecedents and repercussions of the school dropout process. We need to know the type, level location and typical characteristics of such schools. On needs to know the circumstances and conditions obtaining in the schools. The information concerning children's experiences in such schools, particularly that relating to dropping out of school and taking to the streets, as well as children's attitudes towards school is neither available nor known.

A child-headed household was caused by several factors including death of parents, family disintegration, and sickness of a single parent or guardian. The most common contributor was death of parents associated with the confiscation of family properties by parent's relatives. One informant argued that *"children are left with nothing after the burial of their parents especially male parents... family properties are taken by relatives and become completely poor"* (Female Informant, Social Worker).

This subject becomes significant for this study because of the alleged high incidence of school dropouts amount street children and elevated levels of street children. A study by Zziwa (1996) indicates that 60% of those who enter primary one dropout of school before completing P7. And even those who manage to sit for PLE, 90% of them do not proceed further. Nobody knows where such a large number of children finally end up. There are typical factors that determine whether one drops out of school or not and (Stope et al., 1994) mention a number of those pertaining to accessing schools and the distance between home and school. This implies competition for the difficulty in reaching the schools. Perhaps, the case of Kenya, the concern is the quality of school (first World/Third World) instead of competition for and accessibility to schools. (Zziwa, 1996) (Stone et al, 1994) talk of the type of community (that is, rural/urban) as a factor that can also influence dropping out of school.

He indicates that schooling is a less popular activity in the rural sector (at least it is, in certain aspects, incompatible with a village lifestyle) whereas it is popular in the urban sector. In this case, it may not be surprising for children to drop out of school in rural based schools as opposed to urban ones.

On the other hand, children are normally interested in school life. According to Mirembe (1997) children are usually looking forward with excitement to joining school and many cannot wait to join their friends in singing, playing and enjoying all the other fund associated with school. It is the eventual experience in school which, according to Mirembe, "makes school hell on earth!" He (Mirembe) blames this bad experience on teachers, fellow children and other circumstances that affect children's attitudes towards school, to the extent of "saying I won't go to school anymore. 8 There is a black teacher at the door who pulls my ears and nose". - a situation also reported by Munene et al. (1997). Canning is also part of the school factors.

Children Neglect and Children Streetism

The findings revealed that parenting style influenced children's decisions to either live in the street or not. It was evident in the collected data that when children are shown care and love are less likely to become street children. On the contrary, when a child is abused in any form i.e., whether psychological, physical or sexual abuse s/he may decide to run away from their homes and become street children. The findings showed that it is not necessarily that income level of the family may influence child streetism. A wealthy family which is characterized by abusive parenting and child neglect may push a child to go to the street, which in most cases they were considered as the safe place to run to.

The Uniform Civil Court Rules 2020 commenced on 18 May 2020 for civil legal proceedings in the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts of South Australia. The new Rules govern the procedure for personal injury claims, including negligence. A child is generally responsible (liable) for the consequences of his or her wrongful acts. However, the degree of reasonable care required of a child depends on the age of the child and the standard of care normally expected of a child of that age. To some extent the rules applying to children are different from those for adults who commit wrongful acts, especially where a person's state of mind is an

essential consideration. A young child may be aware of what they are doing, and even know that the action is wrong, but still be incapable of foreseeing its consequences and will therefore not have acted negligently. For example, in *McHale v Watson* (1966) 115 CLR 199, a 12-year-old boy threw a metal dart at a post, but the dart glanced off the post and hit a nine-year-old girl in the eye. The boy was found not to be negligent because a boy of 12 years could not be expected to foresee that the dart might not stick into the post and could go off at a tangent and hit someone.

The capacity of a child must be considered and decided in each case. Obviously, the closer a child is to adulthood, the more the standard of care will resemble that required of an adult. A child who engages in an adult activity such as driving a car or handling a gun may be expected to meet the standard of care applicable to an adult.

Abusive parenting associated with inadequate social support network services was one of the factors that pushed children to be on the street. One informant stated that “*some of the admitted street children in the children’s home were abused and neglected by either their parents, guardians or relatives*”. Abusive acts that were mentioned included severe punishments, psychological abuse and sexual abuse. Moreover, absence of care and love for children were among the factors mentioned to influence child streetism.

For instance, one informant argued “*the reason that made me run away from home and live and work on the street, is the behavior of my aunt. She never loved me and always beat and burnt me with hot water.*” The parenting style in most cases was connected with child abuse at the family level as supported by Social Workers who said, “*Parenting style is one of the main contributors of child streetism*” (Social Worker, Female). Similarly, the findings of this study are also in line with prior empirical studies. For instance, Arikewuyo and Babatunde (2020) prove that parenting determines the future of a child in terms of his/her development and behavior. Jesse (2021) likewise attests that women are the ones who entrusted for child protection and care but in most cases fail due to multiple responsibilities which leads to child streetism. As regard to love and care, Lamont (2010) reveals that child abuse and neglect lead to child streetism. Case VI provides more details on the link between parenting style, child abuse and child streetism:

Case IV: Parenting Style, Children Abuse and Children Streetism:

Monkay Vinta5 is a street child aged 16 years old in Dar es Salaam and his parents live in Mwanza Region. He had no an opportunity to meet his biological mother apart from seeing her in a picture. His father married another woman (his stepmother) who treated him like nobody and when he found no food at all when he returned from school. She normally gave him the leftovers while his father was always busy with his work and had no chance to talk to his child. Due to the prevailing situation, he quit primary school education and began to engage in begging and collecting iron steel. The concept of parenting styles was first introduced by Diane Baumrind to explain differences in the way parents attempt to control and socialize with their children. Do parents show lots of affection, or remain aloof? Do they expect blind obedience, or encourage children to ask questions? Do they enforce limits, or let kids do as they please? Here you will find information about the four basic parenting styles:

- Authoritative parenting, who encourage kids to be responsible, to think for themselves, and to consider the reasons for rules
- Authoritarian parenting, who expect their orders to be obeyed without question and who rely on punishment or the threat of punishment—to control their kids

- Permissive parenting, who are responsive and warm (a good thing) but also reluctant to enforce rules (a bad thing)
- Uninvolved parenting, who offer their children little emotional support and fail to enforce standards of conduct

The practice of begging is complex and fluid, largely depending on the changing nature of children's livelihood pathways, economic capacity, and relations with both the public and their families. Many children view begging as a shameful activity that they would prefer to avoid if they had alternatives. However, a large majority also consider it as a central part of their lives as 'work' through which they can fulfill the expectations of their parents and share responsibilities as members of their household. The conclusion is that interventions to improve the livelihoods of these children need to take more seriously the structural constraints of poverty and exclusion, as well as children's mobility, transient experiences, and social skills.

“For the begging children living with their parents in the slums, we ask them to stop begging by instead offering support through CCT’s programs. Parents need to send their children to engage with our programs as part of this. We will help support them with things like food and study supplies.” Once a child is enrolled in CCT’s services, they will continue to access social, health and education support through our community youth centers and preschool, while our social workers also continue to work with the wider family. This means the family can escape the intergenerational cycle of poverty together – a holistic approach offers a long-term solution to a complex problem.

The results revealed that single parental care and poverty contributed to the involvement of youths in criminal activities including mob violence. The results revealed that 30% of the arrested children were living with a single mother while 5% were living with a father only. In addition, 25% of the arrested children were under the guidance of other family members. Surprisingly 20% of the arrested children were living with both parents while youths who were under children’s homes and informal guardians were only 10% each. Moreover, Sarwar (2016) argues that an authoritarian parenting style leads children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior.

The author further argues that parents who spend most of their time reduce the probability of developing delinquent behavior among their children. Banovcinova, Mydlikova and Vodickova (2018) expounded that parenting influences child development, but it is determined by the family poverty level. Child-rearing attitudes are cognitions that predispose an individual to act either positively or negatively toward a child. Attitudes most frequently considered involve the degree of warmth and acceptance or coldness and rejection that exists in the parent-child relationship, as well as the extent to which parents are permissive or restrictive in the limits they set for their offspring. Researchers have also studied more situation-specific thoughts or schemas – filters through which parents interpret and react to events, particularly ambiguous ones. These include cognitions such as beliefs about parenting abilities; expectations about what children are capable of or should be expected to do, and reasons why children have behaved in a particular way.

The relatively high percentage of arrested youths who were living with single mothers was attributed to a lack of women's economic engagement due to gender inequality. In this case, when a father dies, the mother does not have the ability to accommodate the basic needs of her family. Secondly, the accelerated poverty due to adverse cultural beliefs on property ownership by women contributed to an increase in the rate of mob violence. It was revealed that when the

husband dies, the relatives inherit all property, and the family is left with nothing. For instance, one of the informants explained the following: -

“My late husband and I had a very good life, and the family members were so happy. We had three wholesale shops, one hardware, a house, two cars and many more. Furthermore, our children were enrolled in private secondary school. I was the housewife because my husband did everything for the family. he did not want me to struggle or face any sort of difficulty. But the life changed when my beloved husband died. [With full of tears in her eyes] when my husband died, his relatives came and took everything and left us to the extreme poverty. We cannot even afford a single meal, and pay for the school fee. With this situation, my son and daughter dropped out of school and my son engaged into the mob violence. For the sake of sustaining the family. I am not happy with it, but he keeps on saying that he cannot stay home watching her young sister and me dying because of poverty.....”

It was revealed that any vacuum created by the parents, guardians or communities in terms of children, resulted in making children fall into unsuitable mentors or focus groups. Inappropriate mentors or focus groups persuaded children to take decisions that had an adverse effect to their future. Moreover, it was found that there was no proper family guidance from the family members for the children who went onto the streets, which forced them to look for guidance from their peers who lived in the surrounding environment. This issue is compounded by the breakdown of the traditional social extended family structure, where each member of the extended family had an obligation to care for the young and disabled ones. For many years, this has always been part of the rural community social fabric, which is currently undergoing socio-economic restructuring with an exodus of young and juveniles leaving the rural areas in-mass towards the urban areas with no guaranteed future. Furthermore, the rise in single parent families in both rural and urban areas has contributed tremendously to the rise of unhoused street children in major cities like Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Income Poverty and Child Streetism

The study intended to explain the influence of income poverty on child streetism. It revealed that, income poverty was the main cause of child streetism in Tanzania. Inability of the family i.e., parents and guardians to accommodate children's basic needs and services pushed children to join the street life. Basic needs and services that includes food, shelter, clothes, educational and health services. However, lack of food and shelter were the primary income poverty indicators contributing to child streetism.

Lack of Shelter and Child Streetism

Lack of shelter for the children who born in the homeless family were the main poverty indicator that led the homeless child to end his/her life to the street. Moreover, inadequate financial capacity of families to access education and health services contributed much to child streetism. However, the findings of this study revealed that inaccessibility to basic needs and services by children which made them to end up in the street also contributed by lack of family support and not income poverty alone.

Family Support and Child Streetism

The study concludes that lack of family support to children contributes to child streetism. Lack of family support to a child to access basic needs and service regardless of the employment and income status of the household pushed children to join the street life. Likewise, substance abuse and use by the parents and guardians, family violence, single parenting with limited economic opportunities, presence of child headed household under poverty, child neglect and abuse also pushed children to join the street life.

In this case, family disintegration and separation resulted from irresponsible behaviors and practices of parents and guardians promoted child streetism. Hence, family as a system which has a responsibility to ensure children's welfare is well protected and managed, may contribute to child streetism if it is disintegrated and no proper mechanisms to unity such family. Likewise, poor orphaned families are also likely to end up on the street due to the lack of parental guidance and counseling. Moreover, family relatives thirsty for family property left children with no choice apart from joining the street life because they are left poor with no other means of survival. Hence, irresponsible relatives as a social system contribute to child streetism.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

It has been noted that factors that cause street children to increase are characterized as Poverty in the community which limits the ability of parents and guardians to take care of their children. This can be established by looking at the failure of the parents to provide the basic needs for the children such as food, clothes, schooling and shelter. Street children are also triggered by dysfunctional families (parent quarrels) whereas, the children are the victims and the burden bearers of these quarrels, for this reason, they decide to move to what is perceived as the safe place (Urban).

Family breakdown caused by divorce leads to these children being raised by single parents who in many cases fail to manage and provide the necessary basic needs; consequently, causing the children to run away from their homes. The study also observed other factors such as orphans, peer groups, and seeking freedom. The street children are expected to be relegated by the support from the community, family, NGOs and religious institutions. The best strategies must be connected to the accessibility of food, clothes, shelter and schooling needs. The reality is that, street children sometimes receive minimum support in terms of food, medicine, and some protections. The street children reduction basically relies on support in terms of welfare.

Moreover, challenges facing street children are very evident, such as experiencing abuse in the street and health vulnerability (medical care accessibility), shortage of quality food, engagement in early sexual activities and physical and mental harassment from peers and from the community due to the fact that, people consider them as criminals, hence stigmatizing them and lose confidence with them. Street children are also the victims of drugs in both aspects using and selling; and this is proved by themselves as many of them have ever smoked marijuana and some are the suppliers of these drugs. Some of them inhale shoe glue which also gives them the same pleasure.

The findings of this study are supported by Vulnerability Theory. Vulnerability Theory was used to explain the lived experiences of street children and the influence of income poverty on child streetism. The findings revealed that street children experienced social and economic hardship in their street life, which negatively affected their development as humans. They were prone to all sorts of abuses including psychological, sexual and physical abuse associated with the vulnerable environment they lived in. This is in line with the vulnerability theory which explains how vulnerable environment leads to a certain social consequence to an individual.

The findings of this study revealed that lack of family support contributed to child streetism. The study revealed that family plays an important role in protecting children from joining street life. However, if the family environment is no longer safe and secure then a child may likely end up joining the street life. Hence, these findings are in line with the Ecological System Theory which recognizes a family as one of the systems that has a role to play in child development. However, the ecological system theory may not be enough to explain the influence of family support on child streetism due to other factors such as inadequate family support system and social institutions focusing on streetism and homelessness.

The findings also revealed that family violence, particularly GBV, contributed to child streetism. Child streetism is a result of physical, sexual and psychological abuse experienced in a family where women are victims resulting in family disintegration and separation. In this case, the Feminist perspective can best explain such relationship between family violence and child streetism. Thus, this study raises the need for exploring the influences of family support on child perspective using both ecological system and feminist perspectives.

Recommendation

Although many of the characteristics of street children are different from those of the urban poor, they have one thing in common, which is benefiting from the places where they live. Despite the harsh conditions both groups live in, they make good use of the surrounding environment to survive. In other words, slums are the source of livelihood, social networks, and shelter for their dwellers. Similarly, street children do benefit from the streets as a source of generating income as a large number of street children who still have ties with their families contribute to the income of their families. Thus, it would be recommended to consider the advantages of slums and streets for their residents, besides the disadvantages, in future research in order to gather a holistic image that would help to address these phenomena in the appropriate way.

There is a need for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to establish specific and holistic programs for the vulnerability of street children. This includes the provision of psychosocial care and support services and accessibility to health and educational services.

It is important for NGOs and CBOs to strengthen their capacity in the provision of parenting skills among parents and guardians. Parenting plays a key role in child development, but there is limited capacity by the main institutions to provide parenting skills;

Parents and guardians are recommended to provide love and care to their children including sharing values and norms that nurture child development. This includes avoidance of the use of excessive punishments and family disintegration.

It is recommended that the Regional Administrations and Local Government Authorities in collaboration with other stakeholders establish a special campaign to enroll street children into the education system and facilitate family reunification

There is a need for facilitating the formation of community-based income-generating groups among poor households and providing interest-free loans through SACCOS and other Microfinance Institutions to address income poverty. Additionally, the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) may strengthen its Economic Empowerment Fund to empower women who in most cases bear the family responsibilities when the family is disintegrated.

The government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children should basically pay attention to the increasing number of street children in the country, by formulating intervention programs that can reduce the number of children who live in the streets. This could be through supportive mechanisms such as the provision of clothing, schooling and medical care and also sustainable programs that will boost the economic status of families such as soft loans and training on entrepreneurship, small-scale agricultural activities, and fishing or animal keeping. All these activities should be intended to give economic strength to poor rural families so that they can be able to handle family responsibilities. When these are provided and children are sure of them, it will automatically help the number get reduced because children will be able to stay home with families.

The NGOs in Tanzania should be encouraged to participate in and support efforts towards reducing street children by fighting against abuse, child labor, and denial of human rights, such as the use of street children to sell drugs. The ability to deal with these problems which hinder the reduction of street children needs close attention from the NGOs.

Furthermore, the community should be educated in order to consider all children are equal and their demands and needs are the same; thus, seeing them on the streets is a disaster not only for the children themselves but for the whole community. Therefore, they should take every possible means to end this problem.

Religious leaders have to play their role accordingly by filling spirit to their followers so that they abide by the teachings of their holy books, in order for them to become good parents who will be responsible for their children and families; thus, reducing the 58 possibilities of children leaving their homes and moving to urban areas seeking to meet their basic needs.

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