



# Making Life Better For Our Street Children

58. Kajumulo

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Street children are people in the society whose trend of life has changed from a family life to a street life. Their daily life chores are done on streets. They live, eat, drink, sleep, work, and learn to survive on streets.

In the world today there are more than one million children living as street children This information has been obtained from the [CONSORTIUM FOR STREET CHILDREN]. Thus with this information we can see that the number has increased two times today. There are more than 437,500 children in Tanzania living as street children from global giving organization], and there are more than 2000 children in the Kagera living as street children [according to the statistics of Tumaini children center]. With this statistics we can see that there are a lot of children in the world today whose trend of life has changed.

From fighting hard to obtain these they end up being robbers, drug abusers, thieves, rappers, street venders, cheap laborers, construction of various buildings, and beggars. And school is a talk they'd not like to entertain or hear about but money is what matters for survival. Added to all this they are posed to dangers such as being raped, prostitution, and various diseases due to drug abuse such as HIV/AIDS, not being paid for the labour they offer etc and at a very young age they become stressed and heavy minded with lots of thoughts on how they'd survive.



## Methods:

In order to experiment on our project we have used the interview method on streets and some orphanage and street children centres to obtain the information we needed. Conclusively life to these children is still in the dark part of happiness. They still live with dreams of which they are not even working at to make a reality. But as a society there is a way we can participate and bring about comfortability.

### INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

1. What is your?

NAME	AGE	SEX

2. Where do you come from?

3. What are you doing here and how did you end up here?

4. Do you think this situation you are living in is a problem?

5. Do you have any family? If yes where is it and if no what happened to your family

6. Do you have any thought of how the society and the government can help you get relief?

7. Do you wish to live with your fellows as a community? Why? {To children in streets}

### INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

1. What is your name? And what is your position in this organization?

2. How long have you been working for this institution?

3. What is this institution dealing with?

4. When did it start? What actually is the mission and the vision you have as an organization?

5. How far have you succeeded in attaining and realizing the mission and vision you have as an organization?

6. What are the problems or challenges that you are facing as you started and the ones which you are currently facing as you are operating?

7. What do you think are the solutions to your problems?

8. How has the society received your services as an organization?

9. Do you get any government support for as an organization you plough a role of improving children's welfare?

10. How and from where do you get these children?

11. What are your opinions on what is to be done so as to improve the welfare and the wellbeing of these people at a large scale?

Do you think the approach you are applying is solving the problem?

12. What is your feature plan with the children you are dealing with?

## Results:

1. **EDJSON PATRJO:** He was born in Ibula. One of the villages found in Bukoba municipal. He's 11 years old. He understands that he has a problem in his life. Trouble started just after his mother's death. His father is a day worker given a piece of work after which he is paid. After a period of time his father could not manage proving himself plus s Edison basic needs. Instead they were helped by the father's friend who mistreated them, thus he chose to run away and live in streets. Edison by now is being educated under Tumaini children center. He says that his life is better than the previous one. He wishes that someone could provide him with school uniforms. He suggests that the society should be responsible in taking care of these children.

2. **ASJA OMARJ:** She is seventeen years old. She comes fro Nshamba-Muleba. Her father married three wives and thus this became a bother to her. Her step-mother used to mistreat her. Her mother is dead and she three siblings by both her father and late mother late. Her step sister came in the village and took her claiming she was going to provide her education and all the basic needs. After she had been taken, she completed three years without being taken to school. This made her find life unfair because the promise given was not fulfilled; instead she stayed at home doing some chores. After sometime she escaped and ran to the street that is where Tumaini children center got her from. She is now in form one at Mugeza Secondary school. She will be happy if someone helps her pay the school fees. She suggests that the government should enforce laws which prohibit polygamy.

3. **JUMA SALEH:** He is eighteen years old he comes from Ishozi. He has a family though his mother has passed away already. He left home because his step mother was mistreating him. He was collecting used iron tools which he used to sell a sack for 2500 TSH. Before he used to spend the night in old empty buildings with friends. The Tumaini organization got him from the streets and they provided him with shelter.

### **B) From streets:**

1. **AUJTH:** He is from Izimbya. A village in Bukoba rural areas. He has completed grade seven. His parents are alive but unable to support him to continue with school. His elder brother took him from the village and brought to town claiming that he was going to help him. But after being in town, he got employed as a cosmetics road seller so as to earn both living, his and his brothers'. He wishes to be in school, in case there is an opportunity for him to go school he would not hesitate. He finds life hard and difficult; he sometimes eats a single meal per day. He says he is not sure if he will be able to escape from his sad life. He insists that the government should at least have centers where street children may go and attend their basic needs especially education. He would be happy to live in the community.

2. **KAMIGTSHA MUKOKOZ:** He is sixteen years old, he is a road seller. His parents had separated and he lived with his drunkard father. He decided to leave school at grade seven and came for money search in town. He lives with friends in town. He says that life is extremely hard since the little he gets always fade away. He has witnessed other street boys and girls being sexually humiliated in streets. At times he would starve day long.



**Conclusions:** The results showed that many children are in streets due to family problems such as divorce polygamy and death. Children claimed to have experienced mistreatment at their homes and thus they decided to run away. 85% of them suggested that the government should look upon their affliction by eliminating school fees in secondary schools and also by providing them with necessities as they live on streets. With all the above collected details we've noticed that the United Republic Government of Tanzania does not fully involve itself with matters concerning street children. Instead it only gives aid such as food and material support to NGO'S dealing with this matter. But also the less involvement of the government in this matter is shown by the absence of street children centers under the supervision of the government in the Bukoba municipal. With this analysis we came to conclude our project by giving the following suggestion;

Therefore we suggest that the government should hold the responsibility of building recovery centers in each district under a specific committee. The main aim being to comfort the life of children living in street by providing basic needs especially shelter, education, trainings and involving the children in social-economic activities so as to improve their talents and the country economy. And after four to five years the organization will be responsible of running its own expense through the sales they get from selling various products which they have been producing at least by 50% so as to reduce the burden to the government.

The government should also enforce a law which will aim at punishing heavily the divorced families due to lack of sustainable love among themselves which leads to increased rates of dependency. This is proved by the increased number of street children and beggars in towns. This becomes a burden to the citizen and the government itself.

Ultimately not all children wish to live as street children but lack of luck and fate has led them to this dreadful life. As a society there is a way we can eradicate this problem and that's if we live by the rule we are one.

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## Further information:

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