



The Survivorship Mechanism of Street Children In Kigoma

107. Masanga

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Introduction:

It was observed that there is a high concentration of street children living in terrible environments of Kigoma Ujiji municipality. The main intention of this research is to seek to understand the needs and the problem of street children in Kigoma Ujiji Municipality. Kigoma is one of the least developed regions of Tanzania, with most of its population living below poverty line. Our study was centered in 4 wards; namely Gungu, Mwanga Kaskazini, Bangwe and Kibirizi.

The objectives of this study is to examine the ways in which street children get food, accommodation and health service provision mechanism and possibilities of street children to access education.

Method:

Street children are living in risky environments in the streets of towns and cities. According to KIVIDEA; an NGO dealing with children and youths in Kigoma, it is estimated that in every ward of Kigoma Ujiji municipality, there is 1200 street children. For the case of Municipal level, it was declared by the KUMC community development officer that there is nearly 500 street children in every street of Kigoma Ujiji municipality.

Under this study, questionnaire, interview and documents from both the government and NGOs offices, was be used in collecting data and Simple random sampling techniques will be used in selecting population of the study.

Results:

This section's coverage was the presentation of data collected from the field where both numerical data (quantitative data) and qualitative data were accurately presented. It is in this section also where data analysis were done.

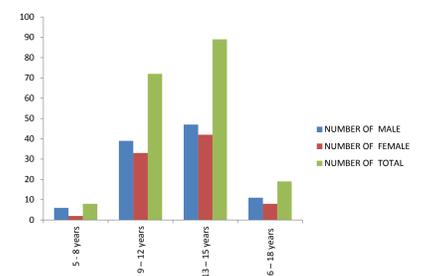
Age	Sample population studied			Health services		Education		Parents		Food	
	Male	Female	total	access	No access	access	No access	Present	Absent	Sure	Not sure
5 - 8	7	2	9	2	7	0	9	2	7	0	9
9 - 12	39	33	72	14	58	0	72	21	51	5	67
13 - 15	47	42	89	23	66	5	84	46	43	24	64
16 - 18	11	8	19	7	12	0	19	4	15	14	5

Despite of these numerical data, it was found that of 188 street children we interviewed 151 children (80.32%) of the sample population we studied were getting food either from dump or by begging. For the rest 37 children (19.68%) were getting food by working to both garages owners and scrap metal collectors, where they are given food as their wages.

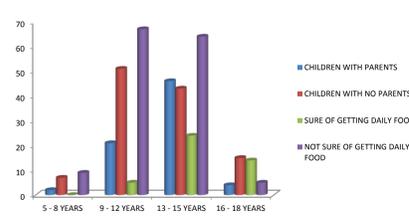
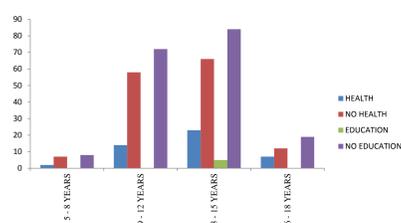
It was also observed that, most of these children were dwelling in the Lories parking areas, town bus stand, and veranda of some shops and in unused damaged houses.

Presence of street children in Kigoma Ujiji municipality

Description of sample population of street children we studied were tabulated in table aside



AGE	NUMBER OF		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
5 - 8	7	2	9
9 - 12	39	33	72
13 - 15	47	42	89
16 - 18	11	8	19



Conclusions

Our study revealed that most of street children are living with no parents where some of them have parents. It was also revealed that they have no access to both basic needs and social services. Their rights are being violated daily, their future is in dark, and no hope is available for them. Girls are raped with no one to take care of them, others were engaged themselves in prostitution, no place to sleep, others are working on low pay and no way they can prepare for bright future.

We would like to call upon the society to avoid child bearing out of marriage, to have compassion on orphans and help these children to acquire basic needs and social services. The government also may take charge of creating policies that favour this group of children to get basic needs and social services and to implement birth rate control more seriously.

References

XX

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