

**DETERMINANTS OF STREET CHILDREN PREVALENCE IN BUNDA TOWN,  
MARA REGION, TANZANIA**

**BY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
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**2008****ABSTRACT**

This study aimed at finding strategies and the way forward for alleviating the street children problem in Tanzania. The study was conducted in Bunda town, Mara Region. The study has been prompted by the fact that there has been persistency of children running from their homes onto the urban streets. This will have negative impact on economic development if not taken care of. However it should also be noted that children are the future owners of any country. Therefore ignoring the problem would mean impoverishing the country instead of developing it. The main objective of the study was to examine the major factors that lead to prevalence of street children in Bunda town. Specifically the study aimed to examine the characteristics of street children in the study area, examine the activities undertaken by the street children in the streets and determine economic, social and cultural factors that lead to street children. A cross-sectional study design which employs a survey method and most common design in survey research to compare variables were used. Data were collected at a single point in time and methods involved structured interview guides, documentation and structured questionnaires which were administered to a sample of 100 respondents. Data processing and analysis was done using SPSS computer software. Research findings showed that a number of factors have contributed to the street children prevalence in the study area. These include the peer and parent pressure, abuse and neglecting, orphanage, family conflict, food shortage at household level and low family income earning. The study recommends that the government should address well the controversy issue on who is a child and set the child

development policy mainly focusing on how to protect, safeguard and improve the welfare of children.

**DECLARATION**

I Masolwa Jeremia Musa do hereby declare to the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture that this dissertation is my own original work and has neither been submitted nor concurrently being submitted for a higher degree award in any other University.

.....

Masolwa Jeremia Musa  
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.....

Date

The above declaration confirmed

.....

Prof Mwageni, E.A.  
(Supervisor)

.....

Date

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my beloved father Musa Masolwa Mbulanghulu (late) and my mother Agnes Budodi Wandiji who laid a valuable foundation of my education. May the Almighty God rest my father's Soul in peace, Amen.

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**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

A I C (T)	Africa Inland Church Tanzania
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DNRO	District Natural Resources Officer
FINCA	Foundation for Initiatives and Community Assistance
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HUYAM	Primary Health Care
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MCDGC	Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
NSGRP	National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty
PRIDE	Promotion of Rural Initiatives and Development Enterprise
S&C	Seeds and Cotton
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
STDS	Sexual Transmission Diseases
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
UDSM	University of Dar-es-Salaam
UNCRC	United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Children
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Street children are homeless children who live on the street, particularly those who are not taken care of by parents or other adults. Millions of these children live and work on the streets in towns and cities worldwide (Scanlon *et al.*, 1998). On the streets they survive through informal activities like begging, stealing, and scavenging and working in low paying jobs. Some survive by exchanging sex for money, thus exposing them to the risks of HIV/AIDS and other STDS infection (Raffael *et al.*, 1993). Many of these children are denied access to the human basic rights such as education, health, and protection from responsible adults.

The problem of street children in developing countries is growing rapidly due to increase in number of AIDS orphans. To date the exact number of street children is not yet quantified but the figure almost certainly runs into tens or hundreds of millions across global world population found in towns and cities (UNICEF, 2006). For instance in Mexico there are 11 172 children living and working on the street, in Moscow street children is estimated to the total of 25 000 and up to 30 000 (UNICEF, 2006). In Brazil, Bulgaria, and Sudan the racial ethnic or religion identification of street children plays a significant role in their treatment. In India, Guatemala, and Kenya the police violence against street children is pervasive and impurity normal (Human Right Watch Report, 2003).

In Sub-Saharan Africa including Tanzania, the numbers of street children have been increasing (UNICEF, 2004). Kopoka (2000) reports that there are more than 34 million street children in Sub-Saharan Africa region today.

UNICEF (2003) reports that between 1990 and 2001 the proportion of Tanzanian orphans whose parents died from HIV/AIDS increased from 3.5% to 32%. If one walks through most of the towns and cities in developing countries particularly in Southern America, Asia, and Africa he/she can not fail to see these children roaming around the streets.

The Human Development Study Report (2002) done in Bunda District noted that the problem of street children was existing in the district. Report from Community Development Department (2006) in the district shows that Mara Region has about 9000 vulnerable children; out of whom 163 are street children found in Bunda town alone doing petty businesses such as car washing, shoe shining, selling sweets, cigarettes and begging. This study was thus intended to dwell on investigating factors that drive children to live onto the streets in Bunda town.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Street children in urban Tanzania are estimated at a population of 1.2 million and there is a rapid increase of them who run from their households and live in urban streets (UNICEF, 2000). While in Kenya Apteker (2001) observes the increase of street children being caused by poverty among individuals, UNICEF (2000) indicates that in Tanzania the increase is due to lack of parental care, low income earning, disease like HIV/AIDS and others. The government policy (URT, 1996) in place is not sufficient in solving this problem. Sometimes it enforces the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the rights of children (Lugalla, 2003). The magnitude of the problem in Bunda District is not yet known because no study about the problem has been done. There are some undocumented though reported cases of street children in the area of study which provide little information on how to explore the association of street children and the community development process in all aspects but no studies have been done to gauge it.

Various measures have been taken to alleviate the problem of street children in Tanzania. These include the policy on the children development prepared on how to protect and defend children's rights (URT, 1996). Some NGOs such as Kuleana in Mwanza, Faraja in Morogoro, Amani in Moshi, Dogodogo in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Children Rescue Centre in Mwanza, Faraja Orphans Rescue Ministry in Musoma and others have engaged in establishing children centers.

Some children have been collected from the streets and they are living in these centers. Others have started schooling under the assistance and supervision of these centers. According to Kuleana report (2002) 12 different street children centers have been introduced and managed to organize 385 children in the Lake Zone. Despite these measures the flow of street children onto the streets is increasing. For instance in Arusha street children are increasing from 41% in 2001 to 54% in 2006 and in Moshi the number is increasing from 48% to 66% (Mkombozi, 2006).

### **1.3 Problem Justification**

Tanzania has experienced a precipitous rise in the number of street children since the early 90s. This problem which has shown a direct link with people's failure in socio-economic livelihood has created a lot of negative effects in the societies. The tailored children policy by the government is only favorable for enhancing children rights because it is neither identifying street children nor does it explain well on how they can be assisted. There is little likelihood of finding a permanent solution to the problem of street children without having exactly known reasons which make them flee onto the streets.

The findings from this study are reflected in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) (Number 1) and National Strategic for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) (Number 2). There are useful to communities and other development partners who shall incorporate some interventions to their integrated community-based programs. Again this study results can be used by policy makers and planners at local government levels as it will enable them understand critically the need for stabilizing their plans in relation to street children problem during preparation of the District Strategic and Integrated Work plans. Recommendation can be made on how these children become useful in there communities and utilize their own efforts to be freed from poverty and as adults to support themselves and other development stakeholders like Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, Ministry of Home Affairs and others.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

##### **1.4.1 General objective**

To examine the major factors that lead to prevalence of street children in Bunda town.

##### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

- (a) Examine the characteristics of street children in the study area
- (b) Examine the activities undertaken by street children in the streets
- (c) Determine economic, social and cultural factors that lead to street children

## **1.5 Hypotheses**

### **1.5.1 Null Hypotheses**

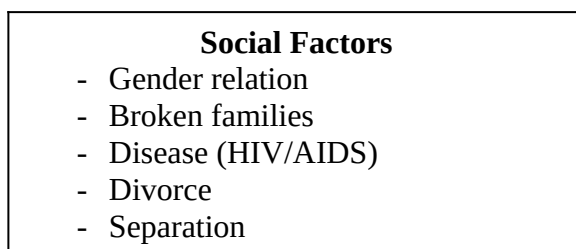
- a) Economic, social and cultural factors have no contribution to the prevalence of street children

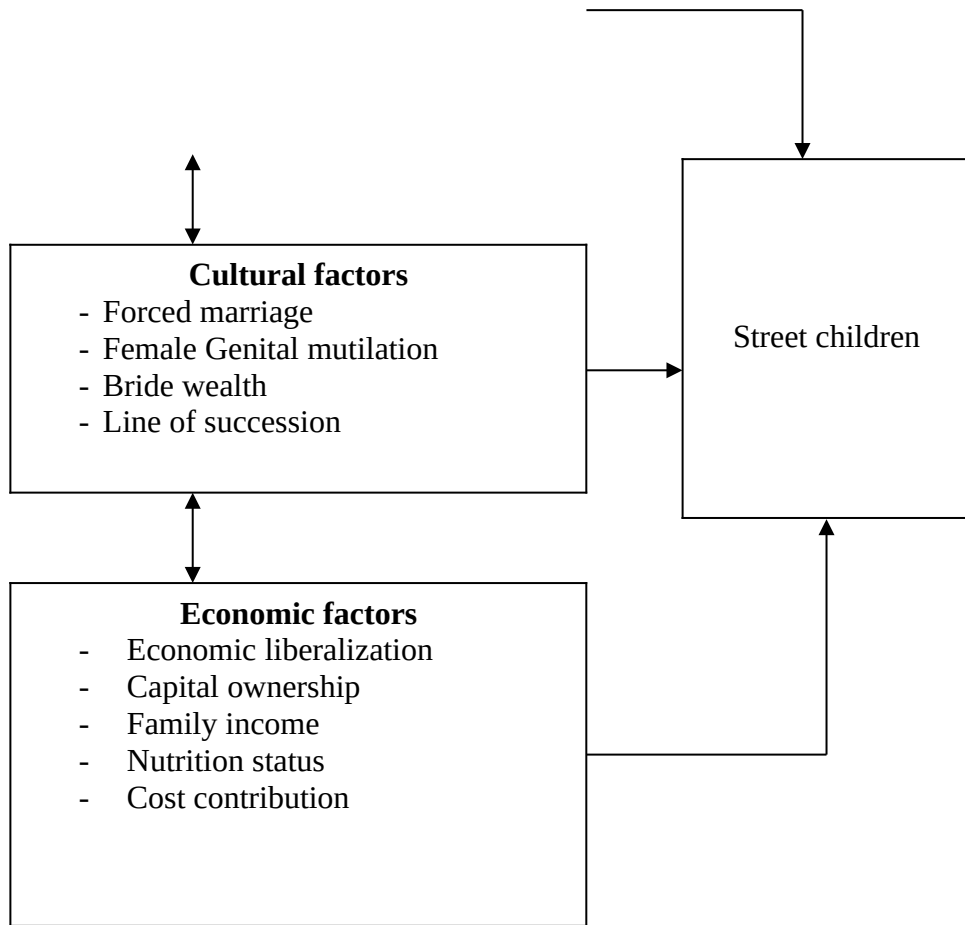
### **1.5.2 Alternative hypotheses**

- a) Economic, social and cultural factors contribute to the prevalence of street children

## **1.6 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework is a narrative outline presentation of variables to be studied and hypothetical relationships between and among variables. A frame work binds facts together and provided guidance towards realistic collection of data. The types of variables shown in the conceptual framework for the researches are Independent Variables that include social, cultural and economical factors. These variables influence the dependent variable which is flee of children from their homes onto the streets in the study area. The conceptual framework is showing association of social, cultural and economic factors to the flee of children onto the streets as indicated in Figure 1.





**Figure 1: Conceptual framework**

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Overview**

Street children are homeless children who live on the streets, in particular those that are not taken care of by parents or other adults. Street children live in abandoned buildings, containers, or on the street itself. Various literatures have defined the words street children. The problem is that there are no precise categories but rather a continuum ranging from children who spend some time in the streets but basically live at home to those who live entirely in the streets and have no adult supervision or care.

#### **2.2 Definition of Street Children**

A widely accepted set of definitions, commonly attributed to UNICEF, (2007) define street children into two main categories: Firstly, children on the street are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging to vending. Most go home at the end of the day and contribute their earnings to their families. They may be attending school and retain a sense of belonging to a family. Because of the economic fragility of the family, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets. The second categories are children who actually live on the street (or outside of a normal family environment). Family ties may exist but are tenuous and are maintained only casually or occasionally. From these definitions the study engaged in children for whom the streets more than their family has become their real home. They might not necessarily be homeless or without families, but live in situations where there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults.

### **2.3 Overview about Street Children in Developing Countries**

Children working in the streets of metropolitan areas represent one of the largest and the most visible groups of children laborers. They are part of the bustling urban informal economy that exists in many countries around the world (ILO/IPEC, 2001). They polish shoes, beg, work as porters, clean cars and scavenge recyclables or other resalable items from garbage cans or dumpsites. However the works that street children perform vary significantly from one country to another. The Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS) that was undertaken by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) estimate that, 250 million children between the ages of five and fourteen were working in developing countries at least 120 million full time (ILO/IPEC, 2001). 61% of these were in Asia, 32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America. Most working children in rural areas were found in agriculture, urban children worked in trade and services, with fewer in manufacturing, construction and domestic service (ILO/IPEC, 2001). United Nations (2000), assert that 60% of the street children in developing countries work on the streets to support their families.

ILO/IPEC (2001) reports that in Nepal there were an estimated 4,000 rag pickers whose average age is 12 years. About 88% of these children are boys. Over half of them live on the streets, in junkyards or shelters provided by NGOs. Most of rag pickers are poor migrants from the hill and mountain regions whose families are principally landless and involved in lowly paid non-agricultural activities. In Romania, most street children alternated between different types of street works, but begging was the predominant activity (44%), followed by car washing (17%) and peddling (15%). The prevalence of begging means that younger children and more girls are involved in urban informal works

that is the case in many other countries. In Turkey the majority of street children interviewed lived with their families, who are generally among the poorest of the poor (ILO/IPEC, 2002).

## **2.4 Street Children Determinants**

### **2.4.1 Economical determinants**

Poverty has increased in many countries and the majority of people are poor (Bourdillon, 2002). In Africa these people have very limited access to income, education, health care and nutrition. Therefore, poverty in Africa is affecting the majority who are the women and children. In Tanzania poverty is widespread in the rural areas and in the informal sectors among the urban population. The most affected within the rural areas are small scale farmers, especially women and children. Reinforcing factors include lack of productive resources to generate material wealth, illiteracy and prevalence of disease, discriminative socio-economic and political systems and natural calamities such as drought, floods, HIV/AIDS and wars (URT, 2003).

Lugalla (2002) asserts that the poverty impacts to majority of women and children include poor sanitation, hunger and malnutrition. Poverty at family level has forced children to run away from their homes onto the urban streets because on the street they can be sure of getting their meals from money they get by begging, selling sweets, and cigarettes. Within the context of increasing level of poverty, cost sharing in health and education sectors and AIDS epidemic become difficult to poor families in Tanzania. (UNICEF, 2004) Mkombozi (2005) argued that Arusha and Moshi towns have significant numbers of street children (565 and 480 respectively) who spend time on the streets in the course of normal

and legitimate activities. In Dar es Salaam, the streets are home to about 2,000 abandoned children. While the problem of these children is alarming some of them are employed in various informal sectors and others are loitering in the streets committing juvenile crimes, stealing, smoking marijuana as well as drinking and begging.

The ILO (2001) estimated that 3.4 million out of 12.1 million children in Tanzania who are under age of 18 work on a regular basis; and one out of every three children in rural areas is economically active compared with one out of ten in urban areas. Research undertaken by the Tanzania Federation of Trade Union (TFTU) in 1999 showed that of the 9 million Tanzanian children under the age of 15 only 5% is involved in one form or another of child labor. Children below the age of 18 years were involved in different activities related to mining sector; the largest group being children aged between 14-17 years, who account for 59% of the total number of children interviewed.

For example in Mererani near Arusha 150 children between 12-15 years are working as snake boys in Tanzanite mines (ILO/IPEC, 2002). At Vingunguti garbage site in Dar es Salaam there are estimated 40 to 80 children scavenging daily (ILO/IPEC, 2002). In Iringa district an estimated 1200 to 1500 boys and girls between the age of 10 and 15 are seasonally employed in Tobacco estates to work under hazardous condition with little pay. The average number of hours children work in Iringa was about 8 hours compared to about 12 hours worked in Urambo. Some children in Urambo work for between 15 to 17 hours and some reported to have worked for over 17 hours (ILO/IPEC, 2001). The study done in four key location of coffee plantation namely Nitin, Shah, Tinga Tinga and Kiran in Kilimanjaro Region shows around 1200 children are employed during the picking season.

The majority of the children who work on the plantations were aged 10 to 12 years. Also it is estimated that about 1000 children work in hazardous conditions in the commercial agriculture tea sector in both Lushoto and Rungwe districts (ILO/IPEC, 2002).

The economic policy changes introduced in Tanzania have resulted into the removal of subsidies on education budget hence shift a great burden to the poor communities. Cost sharing system which has been introduced by the government in secondary education and other economic difficulties faced by the community from economic liberalization might have caused families unable to support their lives including children education. Other children terminate schools due to lack of essential school exercise books, uniforms and other costs contribution. The results also agreed with Lubuva (1999) that economic liberalization has raised the community level of poverty and due to introduction of cost sharing many parents did not afford to pay school fees for their children compared to some years back when education was in the hand of the central government. Mkombozi (2000) survey shows that 22% of the children migrating to streets were the result of school exclusion linked with inability to pay school fees by their parents or guardians.

#### **2.4.2 Social determinants**

In Tanzania children in the streets perform different activities to earn a living. Over 60% of the children interviewed in Arusha and Dar-es-Salaam reported that they work every day of the week, some for more than eight hours daily. But the majority of these children who work on the streets live with their parents or other family members (ILO/IPEC, 2001). While in the streets, these street children suffer from hunger, diseases and emotional scars, and are at risk of falling to sexual exploitation, they beg, steal, and expose themselves for a hot meal, shower and clean bed (UNICEF, 2000).

Kopoka (2000), reports that if you stroll through the market or past a hotel or at the roadside of any major streets in the centre of African urban areas you couldn't fail to see street children. They are stopping cars and people for begging or to ask for jobs. You will see others shining shoes, selling sundries or hurrying to wash the windscreens of cars stopped at traffic signals. Yet others would be roaming around or gathered in small groups waiting for something to do. ILO/IPEC (2001) contended that children coming onto the streets and going back home in the evening generally work to support their families or earn pocket money while those living onto the streets permanently work to survive. Kanyoka (1999) in his study about risks of child labor in Tanzania argued that there is a clear correlation between family size and child labor. He says about 49% of working Tanzanian children come from families ranging between 5 and 8 children, while only 10% come from families with one to two children.

In conflict situations experienced especially in Africa, children are the frequent targets of brutal and indiscriminate acts of violence. The main cause of this situation is political and social instability among African governments. The number of street children has increased in places experiencing armed conflicts. In places such as Free Town in Sierra Leone and Monrovia, Liberia, where the parents or caretakers have been killed, street children are found roaming in the streets (Kopoka, 2000). Although other countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Sudan suffer the same problem very little literatures have been discussed and documented about them. Refugee children were among the most vulnerable children among others in the world. Not only that they suffered from war or other forms of persecution in their countries of origin, many of them remained vulnerable to hazardous labor exploitation, physical abuse, denial of

education, sexual violence and exploitation, cross-border attacks, militarization of refugee camps, and recruitment as child soldiers. Girls were subjected to sexual abuse and taken as wives by armed groups in Angola, Sierra Leone, and Uganda (ILO/IPEC, 2001).

Even though the Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child grants special protection to children refugees, yet separation and unaccompanied children become vulnerable. In 2003, Human Rights Watch conducted an in-depth investigation into the protection of Sierra Leonean refugee children in Guinea, where children made up 65 percent of the 300 000 Sierra Leonean refugees there. Most of the children interviewed had been in refugee camps in Guinea for over a year, with little hope of returning home in the near future. Although UNHCR had used the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the basis for extensive policies and guidelines designed to protect the rights of refugee children these policies were not implemented (ILO/IPEC, 2002). For Sierra Leonean children in Guinea the international community failed to identify them to monitor for abuse and labor exploitation, protecting girls from sexual abuse, and prevent refugee children from serving as children soldiers. The study done in Tanzania on abuse and neglect shows that neglected children do not thrive. Unfortunately many children suffer from active abuse and violence. Many children report that they are abused by adults including teachers. Discipline at home's frequently meted out with physical chastisement, and this practice is socialized by street children.

Street children report being bullied by order children at school or traveling to or from school. Sokoni *et al.* (2006) in a survey about travel to school of over 200 school children in Magu and Ilemela Districts in Mwanza Region argued that the most commonly reported

bad experience by school children show that 70% of them were harassment, fighting among other students and young people. Reports of abuse done by bus conductors to school children in Dar-es-Salaam are clearly not only the results of the lower fare to which school children are entitled. There are more general social attitudes towards children which are at play, and they are reflected also in the higher level of gender violence. The issue most commonly cited as important by Tanzanian children in a poll for presentation to the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Children in 2002 was education and the neglect and abuse (Hambati *et al.*, 2006).

### **2.4.3 Cultural determinants**

Societies in developing nations placed more importance on male offspring with the hope of having numerous male children who would ensure male line of succession. Other groups placed more importance on female children as a source of bride wealth. Therefore parents with large families may find difficult to adequately feed, cloth, house and educate their children. Sometimes children are given corporal punishments including being bitterly beaten, given difficult works to do, not given time to play and so on. These results into many children suffering physically and mentally to cause some of them run away from their homes (Mkombozi, 2000). These results into children poor health condition, malnutrition and some of them die.

### **2.5 Research Gaps**

In Mara Region and particularly in Bunda District nothing of any kind of study about street children has been done. This study is aiming at provide facts as to why street children are adequately increasing in Bunda town and suggesting for the way forward.

## **2.6 Street Children in Tanzania**

Experience in Tanzania shows that increase in family members at household level create poor gender division of labor especially in rural areas, where women and children do most of the activities while men rest more time, resulting into low production. Those families which experience unmerciful living among couples are the ones who become affected. The main cause is poverty at household level. Children from these houses run away to streets because of the stepmother's harassments.

Mkombozi (2005) reported that while there in streets, these children are viewed as poor and deprived, lacking the care of the parents, desperately in need of somebody to help them. By living in this way of life, they spare bad socialization process that may lead them into vagrancy and criminal activities. Traditionally the extended families in African culture were used to provide assurance and moral support to children of this kind, but nowadays these links are often weak or absent. In such circumstances children found from broken marriages were left alone. By so doing they produce very little or sometimes nothing at all. This brings low family peace and for those who are able they run onto the streets to look for other life alternatives.

Kopoka (2000) also asserted that much of the public perceives street children as lazy, dirty, dangerous and good for nothing. Within a day others use drugs, sniff mixture of glue and petrol which is put in small empty water containers and they hide them under their shirts or just openly. They are treated badly in many of their interactions with society. Shopkeepers push them away, and restaurants refuse them. At schools, health centers, and other public institutions the children are rudely dismissed or forced to become the subjects of

paternalistic curiosity and responsible for various street crimes. Studies done by Bourdillon (2002) in Zimbabwe about street children discrimination commented that virtually street children identify violence as their greatest fear. They face violence from security forces and order street children. Beating from members of public cause enormous cumulative damage to them.

Either the physical and social needs of the street children in terms of shelter, food, clothing, medicine, education, reasonable working conditions and protective laws are visible but their emotional needs are harder to observe. Kuleana Report (1998) asserted that it is like many of the street children have psychological breakdowns, tremendous pains and confusion. Where children need love and belonging, violence and loss have marked their lives at homes, in schools and other public institutions, in the hand of authorities and on the streets. Family tensions and alcoholism of parents have contributed to regular physical abuse of children. Instead of care and concern, children have experienced adult institutions as place of violence and disregard. In stead of protection and assurances, life on the streets is a long ordeal of uncertainty: of where to sleep for the night, of where to get food and of how to avoid being beaten. Bernard (1994) says despite the children's remarkable resiliency, these circumstances have crushed their spirits and leave them with diminished hope for the future. However the cumulative effect of these experiences is tremendously painful and heavy to the children such that it has systematically eroded their esteem and sense of self worth.

Disease in Sub Sahara Africa is another main factor enforcing children out of their homes. HIV/AIDS epidemic has now become a major phenomenon of street children. UNICEF (2000) estimates that, eight out of every ten children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS live in Sub Sahara Africa. Rajani *et al.* (2003), assert that street children are at high risk

of HIV/AIDS infection worldwide. In Tanzania the AIDS epidemic has led to an increase in the number of orphans and street children (UNICEF, 2004).

There are about 800,000 children under 15 years in Tanzania who have lost one or both parents to AIDS (UNICEF 2000). As parents die from HIV/AIDS, many families fail to take care of orphans as a result many children take responsibilities of parents and guardians. This includes involving themselves in income generating activities as street vendors. Also AIDS undermine the future of the people as families and communities at large concentrate much to the sick people instead of production (Mkombozi, 2000). Low production caused by AIDS epidemic has increased the households' poverty level particularly in rural communities. Briefly, orphans are subjected to discrimination, and other extended families refuse to adopt them, as a result they decide to drift to the streets (UNICEF, 2000).

The study conducted in Zimbabwe concerning gender dimension of vulnerability to disease shows that street girls are more vulnerable than boys. They are at high risk of getting unplanned pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and STDs (Shell, 2000). More street girl experience sexual abuse than street boys. Study done by Amury (2004) in Mbeya Municipality in Tanzania shows that also young street boys are vulnerable to sexual exploitation as street girls. A focus group discussion with street children elicited that young boys were engaged in sex at early age of 10 years without protection while other younger street boys were raped by other men or older street boys.

In South Africa younger street children claimed to have more sexual partners than home-based adolescents of the same age. Street girls were more raped or forced into sexual relationship by older street boys (Kruger and Ritcher, 2003).

This predispose them to the risk of HIV/AIDS and other STDs infections since they are not using condoms consistently. Street children normally get inadequate information about reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and STDs due to illiteracy and non attendance to school. Akwara *et al.* (2003) argues that exposure to AIDS information lead to awareness which would in turn influence self prevention and protection of risk. This reduces their vulnerability to infection with HIV/AIDS and STDs infections.

## **2.7 Government Policy on Children Development**

The Policy on Children Development in Tanzania was in use since 1996. The policy that was coined by The Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children (MCDWC) gave directions on how to protect and defend children's rights and give directions to various institutions on how to implement effectively the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. The main objectives of this policy are as follows:

- (i) To define a child in the Tanzanian context
- (ii) To induce the community on the basic rights of a child
- (iii) To provide direction and guidance on child survival, protection and development
- (iv) To provide direction on the upbringing of children in difficult circumstances
- (v) To enable the community to understand the source of problems facing children
- (vi) To give a proper direction to children so that they may become good citizens
- (vii) To clarify the role and responsibilities of children, parents, guardians, community, institutions and the government in planning, coordinating and implementing plan for children
- (viii) To emphasize the joint responsibilities of parents in caring for and bringing up their children
- (ix) To educate the community in order to ensure that children inherit good traditions and customs
- (x) To ensure that there are laws which can be used to deal with child abuse

From the period of its operation Tanzania has experienced a lot of development changes. The rapid increase of HIV/AIDS has increased the number of orphans, the issue which was not considered when the policy was prepared. Another issue includes rapid rising of poverty level among Tanzanians in both rural and urban areas and unexpected impacts of structural economical adjustment policies. These social processes have definitely contributed to the collapsing of families, extended family networks and community at large.

These problems have generated children who live in helplessness and hopelessness. Lugalla (2002) contends that, the rapid increase of street children in urban Tanzania during the last 15 years is the result of this process. The major intention of the government policy on children development was to ensure that children have access to all basic rights including life, security and development. Despite this policy, little has been implemented and achieved so far. It has focused more on how to protect the welfare of children and forgot the marginalized group of children living onto the streets. It has failed to identify and explain explicitly about how these children will be assisted.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

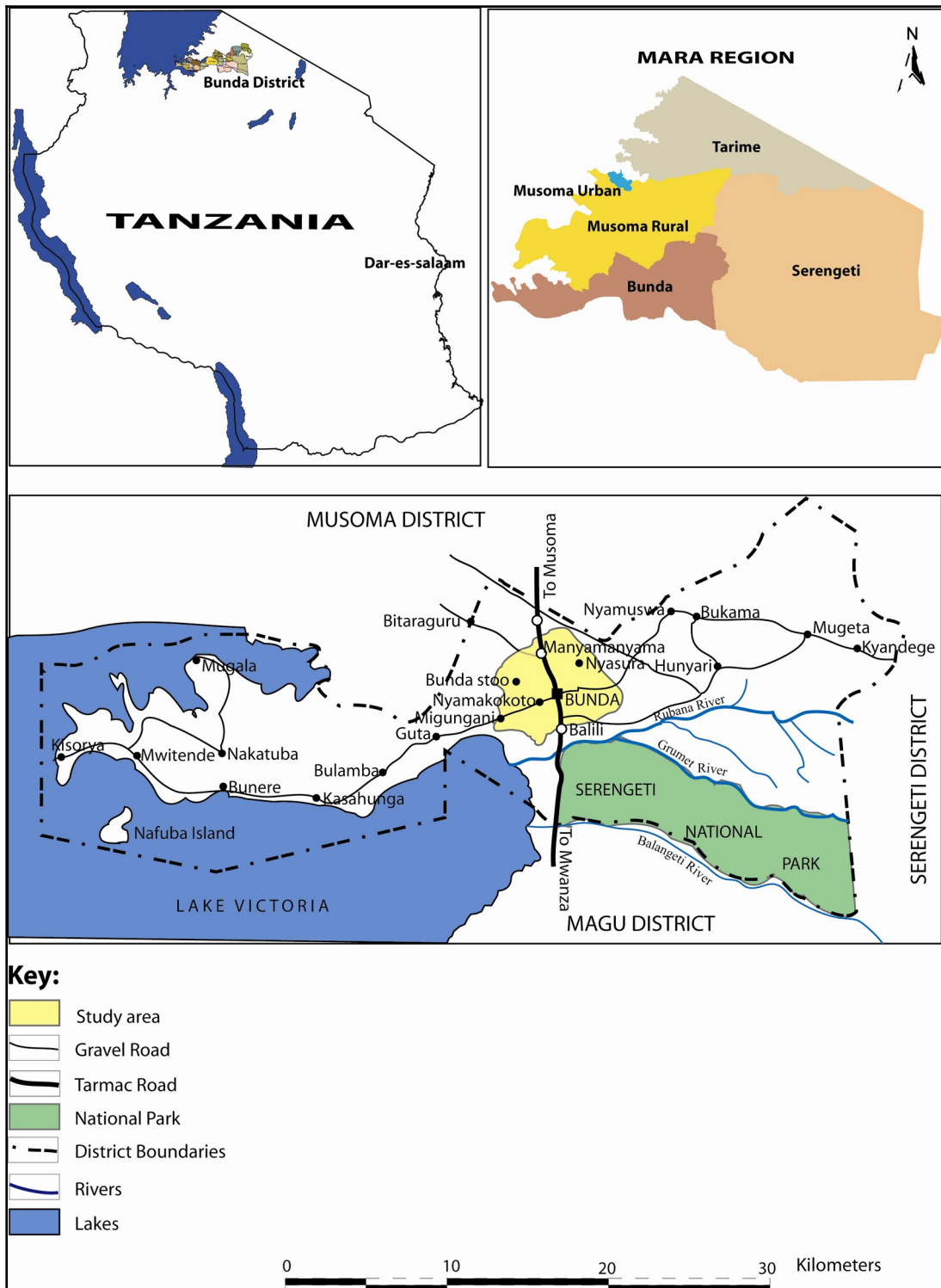
### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Overview**

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the methodology used in collecting and analyzing data for this study. The chapter starts by outlining Bunda District as a research area and its administrative set up. Also it talks on the population and major economic activities of the district. This is followed by the geographical location of the study area and its administrative units, demographic features, economic activities and culture. The chapter also describes the study design, sampling procedures where population, sample size and sampling method are discussed. The last but not least discussed are data collection procedures which explain how primary and secondary data were collected. Lastly, the data management procedures and analysis are described to lead up into outputs for discussion.

#### **3.2 Geographical set up of Bunda District**

Bunda District is located in Mara Region along the national trunk road between Mwanza, Musoma and Sirari at the Kenyan border. The district lies between latitude 1°30' and 2°45' south of equator and between longitudes 33°30' and 34°30' east of the Greenwich. Bunda District is bordered by Musoma District in the north, Ukerewe District in the west, Magu District in the south and Serengeti District in the east. The district, which covers an area of 3088 Km<sup>2</sup> is situated along the shores of Lake Victoria and also accommodates the Eastern Corridor of Serengeti National Park. Out of the district total area, 2888 Km<sup>2</sup> is land and 200 Km<sup>2</sup> is covered with water. The district has a total of 2408 Km<sup>2</sup> of arable land, and the remaining 480 Km<sup>2</sup> is covered by Serengeti National Park and hills as indicated in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: Location-map of the Bunda District**

**Source: District Executive Director's Office 2007**

### **3.2.1 Administrative set up**

Bunda District is one of the five districts of Mara Region, others being Serengeti, Tarime, Musoma and Rorya. The district is divided into three divisions namely Serengeti, Kenkombyo and Nansimo. It has 20 wards and 86 registered villages. There is 470 Sub-villages (Hamlets) and are about 32 436 households. Bunda town is made of seven streets namely Bunda, Nyasura, Nyamakokoto, Balili, Migungani, Bunda Stoo and Manyamanyama. Bunda town is situated about 15 km from Lake Victoria, and is the Headquarter of Bunda District.

### **3.2.2 Population**

According to 2002 National Population Census, Bunda District had a population of 258 930 people with an annual growth rate of about 2.9 percent and an average household size of 6.8 (URT, 2003). The female population is the larger group and comprises 52%. The highest population density is found along the shores of Lake Victoria with estimated 104 persons per square kilometer.

## **3.3 Major economic activities of Bunda District**

### **3.3.1 Agriculture**

About 80 percent of the total population is engaged in subsistence agriculture. The main food crops grown in the district are cassava, maize, sorghum, bulrush, millet, finger millet, paddy, sweet potatoes, and groundnuts. The dominant cash crop grown is cotton. Coffee is been experimented in the high altitudes areas bordering Serengeti District. Crop production is declining due to poor agricultural practices e.g. non-utilization of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds varieties, etc, unreliable rainfall, pest and diseases, removal of subsidies on

inputs leading to high costs of inputs, and inadequate supply of inputs. Data in Table 1 show crop production for the year 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 for the district.

**Table 1: Bunda District crop production for year 2005/2006 and 2006/2007(Tones).**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>	<b>2006/2007</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cassava	19 918.0	20 054.0	39 972.0
Sorghum	10 058.0	8 726.0	18 784.0
Paddy	15 725.0	13 851.0	29 576.0
Beans	4 044.0	4 000.0	8 044.0
Finger millet	714.0	976.0	1 690.0
Cotton	23 545.0	25 782.0	49 327.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74 004.0</b>	<b>73 389.0</b>	<b>147 393.0</b>

**Source: District Agriculture Report, 2007.**

### **3.3.2 Livestock keeping**

Livestock keeping is the second major economic activity in the district. In some parts of the district the wealth of an individual is measured by the number of livestock owned and the number of wives a person has. According to the 2006 livestock census, Bunda district has 350 000 cattle, 105 500 goats 45 805 sheep and 15 000 donkeys. There were also 98 improved cattle mostly kept in Bunda town. The average cattle ownership per household was 9.2. Livestock stocking rate is 125.7 animals per sq.km. There are 7 livestock markets in the district located in Mwitende, Namhula, Bulamba, Kisangwa, Bitaraguru Kenkombyo and Mugeta villages. Price for livestock fluctuate with season and are being influenced by availability of food for human population. Food shortages lower the livestock prices. There are a number of problems associated with livestock production. These problems include shortage of water particularly in areas far away from Lake Victoria, tick-borne diseases,

helminthiasis, and trypanosomiasis, new castle disease, foot and mouth disease and black quarter disease. Overstocking is a serious problem in some wards like Guta, Mihingo, Mugeta, Bulamba, Namhula, Salama and Hunyari. Inadequate veterinary services/infrastructures are another problem. These include inadequate cattle dips, crush, slaughter slabs, hide and skins shades. With improved livestock facilities, the livestock population is likely to increase and this will call for better marketing arrangements. Currently a lot of animals are sold across the border in the neighboring country (Denying the local government an important source of revenue). Division of labor among livestock keepers is inevitable. Boys and adult men are responsible for taking care of cattle keeping. Farming and harvesting is done by family members. In other ethnic group like Kurya and Sukuma children take care of cattle and some of them do cultivation in the fields the same as adults.

### **3.3.3 Fishing**

Fishing is another important economic activity in the district. However, the fishing potentials in the district are not fully exploited. None of the existing programmes/projects in the district address the fishing sector. According to the district report of 2006 on fishing, there about 3500 fishermen operating along the Lake Victoria shore of Bunda district. Other source of fish includes few rivers.

**Table 2: Fish catch in Bunda District, 2005-2007 (Tonnes)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of catch</b>
2005	4 896.0
2006	6 120.0
2007	5 875.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 891.0</b>

**Source: District Natural Resources Office, 2007.**

Fishing gear commonly used include vessels, gillnets, long lines and dagaa seines (DNRO-Bunda, 2007). Methods used in fish processing are smoking, salting and sun drying. The fishing industry in Bunda district is constrained by inadequate capital of fishermen, low and unstable fish prices, poor fishing technology, and poor security of fishing gears due to theft, illegal fishing and poor fishing preservation method.

### **3.3.4 Trade and Industry**

People in the district are engaged in small-business like shops, restaurants, food processing like grinding machines, timber and furniture marts and hawker business. Also the district enjoys having three cotton ginning factories namely Bulamba S&C, Virian Tanzania Ltd, and Mara Lint Ltd. These ginneries use natural cotton produced in the district to produce fine cotton-fibres which is sold to textile mills of Mwanza Textile Mill Factory (MWATEX), Musoma Textile Mill Factory (MUTEX) and others. Seeds, oil seeds and soaps are sold to businessmen in Bunda town and outside Bunda district. These factories have created employment to about 4000 people annually, and have attracted business expansion in Bunda town.

### **3.3.5 Transportation**

The district has a road network of 728 Km<sup>2</sup> out of which 39 Km<sup>2</sup> is National roads with tarmac, 152 Km<sup>2</sup> being Regional roads with gravel and 537Km<sup>2</sup> being feeder roads. Most of the rural roads are impassable during rainy season. The district has ferry carrying passengers and luggage at Kisorya connecting Bunda District and Ukerewe District in Mwanza Region. The district had an air strip which was used by flying doctors who were attending patients at Bunda District Designated Hospital. This strip was in use since 1980 until when it went out of use in 1989 due to inadequate plane controlling equipments. The district has a plan of constructing an airport at Tairo village which will cater for different airplanes for carrying tourists visiting Serengeti National Park and passengers destined to Musoma, Ukerewe and Mwanza.

### **3.4 Location of the Study Area**

The study was conducted in Bunda Town. Bunda Town lies between latitudes 01<sup>0</sup> 58' and 2<sup>0</sup> 02' south and longitudes 33<sup>0</sup> 50' and 33<sup>0</sup> 52' east with an altitude ranging from 1168-1282 m above sea level. It is among four district administrative headquarters in Mara Region. The town is selected due to following reasons. Firstly, it is an attractive business center and creation of job opportunities. Secondly, it is a transit town on the main road from Mwanza to Musoma, Tarime, and neighboring country of Kenya Republic. Also it is connected by the roads from Nansio, Ukerewe District to Mugumu, Serengeti District. This makes the town be visited by many people including street children from different areas within and outside the district as shown in Figure 2. Another reason includes high poverty level of the population in communities.

### 3.4.1 Demographic features

According to 2002 National Population Census, Bunda town had a population of 50 796 whereby 26 521 are female and 24 275 male. By then the population was distributed in seven streets with a total of 8221 households. The population among streets was; Manyamanyama (4426), Nyasura (3620), Balili (10 516), Nyamakokoto (10 286), Migungani (1414), Bunda Mjini (17 108), and Bunda Stoo (3426) people with the annual growth rate estimated at 3% per annum (URT, 2002) as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Population distribution in Bunda Town**

<b>Street</b>	<b>Male Population</b>	<b>Female Population</b>	<b>Total</b>
Migungani	709.0	705.0	1 414.0
Bunda stoo	1 520.0	1 906.0	3 426.0
Nyasura	1 312.0	2 308.0	3 620.0
Manyamanyama	2 132.0	2 294.0	4 426.0
Nyamakokoto	5 102.0	5 184.0	10 286.0
Balili	4 815.0	5 701.0	10 516.0
Bunda Mjini	7 525.0	9 483.0	16908.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 275.0</b>	<b>26 521.0</b>	<b>50 796.0</b>

**Source: District Director's Office, 2006**

### 3.4.2 Economic activities

The primary economic activities of the population are agriculture, fishing and livestock keeping. Crops grown include maize, sorghum, cassava, sweet potatoes, cotton, and paddy. There are two cotton-ginning factories in the town namely Virian (T) Ltd, and Mara Lint (T) Ltd that along with the local government are the largest employers. However many people are self-employed in micro enterprises such as small shops, market stalls, and women fry fishes, and sell charcoal.

### **3.4.3 Culture**

Bunda town is made of different ethnic groups. The major ethnic group is Jita, followed by Sukuma, Kurya, Ikizu, Sizaki, Taturu, Kerewe, and other small ones. This shows that there is heterogeneity of culture in the study area. The livelihood of these people depend on fishing as main source of food and cash especially those living along the lake, agriculture, and livestock keeping. Their behavioral patterns differ according to what they always do. Although majority share the same Bantu norms and values in some aspects, they differ in other special practices that are not done by other people. For instance Kurya people who are livestock keepers' and farmers practice "inyumba ntobu"<sup>1</sup>, female genital mutilation and polygamy. Jita and Kerewe values most fishing activity than even keeping animals and agriculture. This is due to high population and small degraded land they have which can not suit for economic activities. The remaining ethnic groups share the same cultural traits with Kuryas except Sukuma people who practice agricultural behaviors without polygamy.

### **3.5 Study Design**

A cross-sectional study design which employs a survey method as outlined by Bernard (1994) was used for the study. Data were collected at a single point in time. This type of study design has been selected because it is the most common design in survey research to compare the extent to which at least two or more group of variables differ on the dependent variable.

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<sup>1</sup> Inyumba Ntobu- means a woman to marry another woman

### **3.6 Sampling Procedures**

#### **3.6.1 Study population**

The sample of the population was drawn from street children and parents of Bunda town. These street children and parents are preferred as the ultimate sampling units since it is the most appropriate units of sampling frame and measure when assessing the prevalence of street children in Bunda town.

#### **3.6.2 Sample size**

The selected respondents for this study were 100 children on the streets who were not living permanently and those who live on the street permanently. These children work in informal sectors such as selling sundry articles, washing cars, shoe shining, scavenging and so on. The sampled children were of age not below seven and eighteen years simultaneously. They were randomly selected according to sex. Also 50 parents were included to give their experiences on why children left their homes and went onto the streets.

#### **3.6.3 Sampling techniques**

Snow ball sampling method was used as a tool for data collection. It was used because it suit for organizing these mobile people. In order to make a study simple a purposive sampling technique was used to interview street children some questions for who met the criteria of years and time of staying on the streets i.e., 7 and below 18 years and three month's minimum of staying on the streets. Parents were equally randomly selected based on their sex and been interviewed accordingly. The focused group discussions were done through meetings conducted where participants were divided into groups according to their age and sex.

### **3.7 Data collection Procedures**

#### **3.7.1 Preliminary survey**

Before data collection, a pilot study was conducted to pre-test the validity and efficiency of the selected research tools and techniques. The study was aiming at giving orientation to the research team about the preliminary survey areas and revealing the response from the selected samples. Again the study helped the research team to know exactly when to prepare, how and what materials to be prepared for the field work and suggesting for solution in case of difficulties. Piloting also helped to refine the target age group of the street children to be interviewed. During the study it was observed that street children below 10 years were unable to give response to other questions which were seen difficult to them.

#### **3.7.2 Administering the questionnaires**

Quantitative method was used to gather the structured information. It provided the demographic data of the streets children. Structured data collection was done through face to face interviews. The researchers administered the questionnaires in Swahili and interviews were conducted on the streets pavements after the street children had been given information about the study. While there was a structured question guide for the interview based on the focus of the research, the interviewer probed for information from the interviewees by following up their responses. The interviewer also had a chance to clarify and explore detailed responses from the interviewees in the course of the discussion.

### **3.7.3 Secondary data**

Secondary data were collected from local government offices, libraries including SUA, UDSM, internets and street children activists' organizations such as Kuleana Children Center, and the others. These data were collected in order to supplement and support literature and other studies done about problem of streets children.

### **3.8 Data Management Procedures**

The collected primary data were coded and entered into a computer for analysis. A computer software 11.5 SPSS programme was used to analyze the data. A descriptive statistics analysis was used where by the frequency, percentages and mean were determined. These statistical computations show how many times a factor has contributed to the problem and give linkage between independent and dependent variables.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Overview**

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the study. The chapter is divided into four sections besides the overview. Section two describes the demographic characteristics of respondents called ages, education level, place of birth and religion. Section three discusses the adults who were living with children before they went onto the streets and children working and staying onto the streets permanently. Section four discusses the activities that are implemented by the street children. In addition it describes the problems facing children while they are in streets and the occupations implemented by their parents/guardians. Section five discusses factors leading to street children. The last section describes the suggested solutions for street children problems.

#### **4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

##### **4.2.1 Age**

Age is an important demographic variable and is the primary basis of demographic classification in vital statistics, census, and survey (URT, 2005). The study results showed that the age of respondents ranged from 10 years to 18 years. Majority (18%) are of age of 12 years. The minority which carries 6% have age of 17 and 18 years. The mean age of respondents is 12.70 years and the range is 8 years derived from 10 years minimum and 18 years maximum. The parent's age as reported by street children showed that 82% of fathers were old, 10% very old and 2% young while mother's age was 82% old, 8% very old and 2% being young (Table 4). The parents' age have great influence to productivity and decision making.

**Table 4: Demographic characteristics of respondents (street children)**

<b>Variable (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>	
10	8.0
11	9.0
12	18.0
13	16.0
14	16.0
15	10.0
16	10.0
17	6.0
18	6.0
<b>Education</b>	
Not attended any school	10.0
Primary level	90.0
<b>Place of birth</b>	
Tarime	2.0
Serengeti	2.0
Outside Tanzania	4.0
Musoma rural	8.0
Other region	20.0
Bunda	64.0
<b>Religion</b>	
Others	6.0
Moslem	28.0
Christian	66.0

#### **4.2.2 Educational level**

The most and frightening single risk children face when they are on the streets is the loss or undermining of the basic education necessary to equip them with fundamental skills necessary for success in life. Lack of education is especially damaging, for children without education are marginalized for life and the future of the country is impoverished as well. A person with higher education is expected to have more knowledge than one not educated. Through formal education one gets more knowledge that can enhance due ability to effectively production and get higher returns. Findings showed that 90% of the street

children have been to primary school. About 10% of them did not attend any school. They reported that the school routine to them was too rigid and stifling. Teachers were sometimes unfair, arbitrary and vindictive in their punishments. The responsibilities of school life such as showering every morning, washing uniforms, doing homework and others, became difficult to maintain. The education of children's parents/guardians indicated that 76% of fathers and 86% of mothers were primary school leavers while 4% and 6% respectively are secondary school leavers. About 20% of fathers and 8% of mothers have never been to schools.

Despite failure to complete primary school education, many of these street children have remarkable articulation orally and visually. For instance they could count, read and write. The toys cars they made from scraps display tremendous ingenuity and skill. Their spontaneous role plays, story-telling and discussions about surviving violence showed an acute understanding of their situation and clear sense of practical justice. One respondent, Nkuba Malonja,<sup>2</sup> a street child from Lamadi Village, Magu District, Mwanza Region asserted that:

*“My father died 2 years ago, and my mother also died after a long time of illness. I was living with my grandmother's family. My grandmother is nice but too old. My uncle doesn't like me and when he was angry he told me to go away from home forever. So I just walked on foot 16 kilometers to Bunda town where I spend my time on the streets. I get food from washing pots and plates at the restaurants and cafes. By seeing other children in uniforms it makes me wish to be in school. In the*

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<sup>2</sup> Not representing real name of the respondent. NB: All names of the respondents in the study are not representing real names.

*afternoon, if somebody gives me money I just go to a video show or buy small sundries for selling in order to get more money”(8/12/2007, Bunda bus stands).*

#### **4.2.3 Place of birth**

Many street children found in Bunda Town came from different places. Data in Table 4 show that street children from Tarime and Serengeti districts hold 2% respectively. Outside Tanzania (Kenya) has 4%, Musoma rural 8%, and other regions including Kagera and Shinyanga hold 20%. Street children from the Bunda district itself hold 64%. Research findings revealed that most of these children came from poor rural families where they were even not getting enough food and that when available; it was neither regular nor sufficiently nutritious. About 42% of the children interviewed mention low income earning to buy food as one of the reasons forcing them to leave their home for the streets. Several of the older children from 15 years and above said they were pulled out of school by parents or guardians who could not afford school contribution, or they needed the children’s labor to supplement family income for home use. Most children described that their homes are crowded, lacking social services facilities such as clean and safe water, good environments like permanent toilets and electricity.

#### **4.2.4 Religion**

Religion has been defined as a system of thought, feeling and action shared by a group that gives members of the society an object of devotion code of ethics governing personal and social conduct and a frame of reference relating individuals to their group and the universe. Religion is concerned with what is known, the natural or expected it is an acknowledgement of the extraordinary, the mysterious and the supernatural (Buting, 2007).

Religion is a major social institution in any society. It deals with the people's matter of faith which is expressed through various rituals that promotes social cohesion and conformity by conferring meaning and purpose on life. It unites people through shared symbols, values; norms and is the vital human dimension of love. Therefore religious life underscores both moral and emotional ties to others. Religion is the critical factor in civil society support for development priorities and is a model of life for which people can organize their activities. It is observed that political and social movement and advocacy campaigns have often drawn upon religious motivations. For example the church mobilization in support of anti-apartheid and political movement gets influence from religion.

In Bunda town the dominating religions are Christian and Moslem and research results revealed that 66% of respondents are Christian while 28% are Moslem. Remaining 6% stands for pagans. In Bunda town, the church has a role to play in order to fulfill and implement the priorities that satisfy the needs of the society. Apart from dealing with spiritual issues, religion should as well be responsible for other diverse socio-economic priorities. One among these socio-economic diverse is the issue of street children. Religion in Bunda town has done very little campaign to combat street children problems. It might be discussed without being officially reported about what religion has done so far, but since there is no minimal actions seen still religion has contributed very little to social control obligations of marriage and reproduction among society members. For example, religion denies divorce of couples. The story from a street child called Ntemi Ntale from Balili proved the injuries he suffered after his parents decided to separate. He said that:

*“My parents were every day quarreling because my father was a drunker, and when he came in the evening he started beating my mother. My mother left home and left us with the father. Instead of religion reshaping my father’s human dimension of love he became a symbol of troubles and harassments to us. He commented that my life started to become difficult as I did not get true love from my mother. Sometimes food was not sufficiently available since my father left earlier in the morning without leaving any food inside or money to purchase food from the market. This caused me to run into the streets to look for alternative life” (10/12/2007, Bunda bus stands).*

Sometimes breakage of cultural values and norms bring about difficult livings to people in the normal life settings. Traditionally people were living in large family groups, usually consisting of a man and his wife and their grown-up sons with their wives and children. Grown-up daughters were married off into other families. The practices of “<sup>3</sup>kigwibanza” life model done by especially Ikizu and Sizaki female teenagers portray a life break down of religion values. It was reported in these ethnic group that if female girls are delayed in getting married they can decide to leave away from home whereby in case they produces children out of marriage they send them back to their old parents. Due to poor housing, shortage of food, water and other life complications in rural areas, the grown children by the way flee out of their grandparents’ households onto the town streets to look for other alternative living.

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“Kigwibanza” The practice done by unmarried lady who after getting birth she sent children back to her old parents for care

### 4.3 Adults Living with Children Before Going to Streets

Children were highly valued as they ensured the continuity of the family and brought social prestige as well as material help. Therefore the status of parents being alive or dead has great significant to the upbringing of children. Research results show that out of interviewed children, 92% of them were living with either both or single parents and 8% both parents were reported dead as illustrated in Table 5.

**Table 5: Parents of respondents who are alive/dead**

Category (N=100)	Percentage (%)
Not alive	8.0
Alive	92.0

This shows that other respondents have lost their parents and they are orphans. This means that orphanage has something to do with children running onto the streets.

### 4.4 Children Working and Staying on to the Streets Permanently

Like in other urban centers in Tanzania, the number of unaccompanied children on the streets of Bunda town is growing very fast. They reported that street life is hazardous and since they regard streets to be their homes they face a lot of problems. They argued that they are harassed and sometimes beaten by night guards. At present 25 to 55 of them with the age 10 to 15 years sleep at the old bus stand and nearby shop pavements within the town. These places are usually dirty and cold, thus offer little security and privacy to the children. They said sometimes they create reciprocal arrangements with adult friends, night guards who let them sleep in sheltered spaces in exchange for money or cigarettes, and women caterers let them sleep in food stalls in exchange for guarding and water fetching in the next morning.

They added that moving around the streets barefooted, doing tough activities for food, fighting with each other, eating often cold leftover food at street side stalls, which may be left uncovered and exposed to flies, dirty plates with dirty hands lead to diarrheas, dysentery and worms. Children who lack places to shower and wash clothes get dirty very quickly. This encourages infections of the skins and slowdown healing of wounds. They commented that one street child died from tuberculosis infection due to poor living condition, complained of being treated badly in clinics and hospitals, longtime waiting or come back the next day, asked awkward questions, spoken too rudely by hospital staff and denied medicines.

**Table 6: Children living permanently in the streets**

<b>Category (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Yes	60.0
No	40.0

Street children who live permanently onto the street carry 60% of the sample. Street children who return home account for 40% of the respondents. The main characteristic in common to these people is that they spend most of their day time on the streets and largely survive from there, but still live in their households. They said most of them come onto the streets sometimes by our will, pressures from peer groups or due to life difficulties at home. Most of interviewees argued that life at their households is hard for them to stay waiting for the parents to bring food to eat or clothes to wear. They decided to come onto the streets to supplement their parents' efforts of looking for essential needs for home use and consumption.

#### 4.5 Activities Done by Street Children

Research findings show that majority of the street children are involving in different activities ranging from legal to illegal. The majority who are begging (54%) and doing petty business (24%) were aged between 11 to 15 years. When asked why they prefer these activities they reported that, walking around the streets doing the activities is not a problem. The problem is to get what they are doing. If you meet with a good Samaritans you get money or food. But they also explained difficulties they face. Sometimes it becomes difficult for them to get money or food from people because people beat them. They push them away and they get abusive language. Others tell them to go back home to help their parents in agriculture and livestock keeping.

Those who are informally employed do activities such as carrying luggage of people at bus stand, markets, and shops. They said at restaurants and hotels they wash pots and plates. Some of them are doing business of selling plastic bags, water and other sundries articles while scavengers collect metal scraps and other items which they sell for money as shown on Table 7.

**Table 7: Street children's activities**

<b>Activities (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Scavenging	2.0
Small business and begging	2.0
Employment	18.0
Small business	24.0
Begging	54.0

Actually these children do not stick to one particular occupation for a long time, but shift between activities or do several works within a short time. Through in-depth probing they

said that their workloads ranged from 1 hour to 12 hours a day for street vendors and restaurant workers. What they earn range from five hundred to two thousand shillings.

#### **4.6 Problems Facing Children While in Streets**

Many street children talked about the risks of making a living on the streets and low rates of returns they get to be their difficulties. For example street vendors complained that their articles and money were either taken by force or stolen by older children and adults. Those who worked for others, talked about working long hours with irregular pay in return and without rest. Children who worked in restaurants and hotels reported having to wait until late hours to eat cold leftover scraped from the bottom of the pots. Actually the works they are doing are considered of very low returns. Livings in streets impoverish them in every aspect because in streets they can not get basic needs such as food and safe place to stay. In the streets they lack formal education opportunities, particularly life skills that are essential to life. UNICEF (2000) reported that due to lack of clean policy on street children, local security guards and police harass instead of protecting them. In the long run they learn to be cruel as sort of defensive mechanism. These result into development of unskilled and jobless society often resorting to crime and become unable to escape the poverty trap which drives them onto the streets.

#### **4.7 Parents/Guardians Occupations**

The age is the leading factor towards somebody becoming productive in any sector. The field results show that most parents/guardians were at old age; 66% out of reported fathers and 82% out of reported mothers were at old age. These people are at productive age. Both very old fathers and mothers hold 10% and 8%, while young only carry 2% and 8%

respectively. In relating family incomes with the causes for street children, the type of occupation parents/guardians practice determines the incomes earned whether below, medium or high. This means that the production holds the fate of children as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Occupations of respondent's parents/guardians**

Occupations (N=100)	Percentage (%)
Farming and business	2.0
Civil servant	4.0
Petty business	8.0
Farming	86.0

Research findings show that many street children come from rural based peasants where farming is the main economic activity (86%). This is followed by petty business which is most likely to be seen in trading centers. Civil servant is another reported activity implemented by parents, and those who practice both farming and business only carry the 2%. Old women normally implement small businesses of selling fruits and vegetables, small and dried fish and burns along roadsides and house verandas. Crops grown at family level include maize, sorghum, finger millet, sweet potatoes, rice and cassava as food crops, and cotton being a commercial crop. Research results show that whatever occupation parents do is not limiting children leaving for streets from their homes. The following respondent reported that;

*because I was being beaten by my father and given tough works to do leaving away little*  
*“My name is Maganga Nkingwa and I am 16 years old. My father is employed as a*  
*food*  
*civil servant (police) in Biharamulo district, Kagera Region. I left my parents*  
*board*

*year before joining Bunda town streets in year 2006. I left Kuleana and joined Bunda because it is a motherland of my parents and many of my relatives are living here” (12/12/2007, Nyasura).*

#### **4.8 Factors Leading to Prevalence of Street Children**

The research findings revealed different reasons which cause children to run onto the streets in Bunda town as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Causes of street children**

<b>Causes (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Parent pressures	2.0
Abuse and neglect	4.0
Orphanage	4.0
Peer pressures	8.0
Family conflict	12.0
Food shortage	16.0
Low income earning	54.0

##### **4.8.1 Low income earning at household level**

Income earning status is the economic base for the family development. When a family is well-off it is able to build a good house, buy a car, bicycle, television, radio and other good items. A well-off family is able to produce own food or buy from the market. When there is no or during water shortage such family is able to build a water tank for collecting water, digging a water borehole or laying water tapes depending on water network system. Good family can protect environment by using electricity cookers instead of firewood that involve cutting of trees.

When talking to street children they argued that most of them come from poor families that can even not afford to get nutritious food or good place to stay due to poor and overcrowded houses, low food and cash production due to poor working implements, unfertile soil and other natural calamities that their parents can not afford. For example, 46% of the interviewed respondents come from family houses with three rooms made of earth and (52%) with no special sleeping room for parents/guardians. Almost 90% of respondents said their houses don't have tap water and 74% said they don't even have boreholes. This means they spend 10 hours (31.9%) especially during dry season looking for water. Electricity as a source of energy is only afforded by 2% of the respondents' families while 88% use firewood as source of energy for cooking food and boiling water. They cut firewood from bushes without replacement or planting woodlots for environmental protection or firewood purposes.

Low income earning also limit the family purchasing power of the rural and urban families. Research findings reveal that bicycles, radio/radiocassettes, car/motorcycles, refrigerators, television, clock watch and electric iron are luxury items to many people because they cannot afford buying them for their home use. Only 60% of the families possess wood chairs or sofa and 80% have wooden beds. This means that not all households' members sleep on the beds and sit on the chairs. This difficult life at family level enforce struggle for better survival especially to adults and leaving the children with low diet food which result into malnutrition.

families. Prices for agricultural produces have steadily fallen, and for those migrating into town looking for job opportunities have ended in vein due to low education status they

have. Male focus group discussant commented that, these days they are required to contribute a lot of money for building schools and buying desks. They argued that imagine, one family has to pay Tshs 20 000 as contribution for building the ward secondary school, leaving away other contributions.

The children need to wear uniforms and so on and so forth. These facts prove beyond doubt that low economic powers in the hands of the parents have something to do with children fleeing onto the streets to look for alternative living. Again low income earning is associated with migration from upcountry to the town. Mr. Nongu Lula who is a long time dweller of Bunda town asserted that in the past three decade the population of the town was less than fifth of today but now the population is drastically growing. Because it is usually the poorest that migrate, town newcomers can use few resources to make the transition to urban life. Very often, few can only secure makeshift housing without adequate water, sewage or electricity facilities. Living condition tend to be crowded especially when parents fail to rent enough residential rooms for their family members. Sometimes these families have large number of children and other extended family members. Thus the grown up children feel shame to share rooms with their parents as a result decide to go to the streets.

Mkombozi (2000) commented that migration increases threat to the survival of migrant's children as well as urban residents. It argued that some children found in the streets are from within the town or city, but many are from poor rural families. Most migrants in either towns or cities are more likely to settle and remain in slums and shantytown where basic facilities necessary for good life and survival are unavailable. Furthermore, the

physical process of moving and resettling in low-income areas typically exposes children in numerous hardships. The economic hardship at home level reinforces children to start looking for means of helping a struggling family. It has been reported by REPPER (2007) that millions of children and youths who face such strains at families are subjected to the risk of being street children. This implies that children who are in the streets will in future be poor parents and their children will experience the same problem. This is the life vicious circle of street children.

#### **4.8.2 Food shortage**

Agriculture is the most important sector for food production. Availability of enough food is essential in order to create sustainable family unity and integrity at household level. Research findings show that food supplies at family level is 42% referring to sometimes enough for consumption. This means that production of food is not frequently available and enough for family members consumption. There are various reasons for this to happen. For example there can be food crop pests, cassava meal burg and mosaic, low skills for food crops prevention, use of not sufficient and improved seeds varieties and prolonged natural calamities such as erratic rainfalls. Again subsistence farming and declining soil fertility due to poor soil management practices reduces food crop production at household level.

#### **4.8.3 Family conflict**

Wikipedia (2006) argues that the family is the most important of the agents of socialization. Family is responsible for, among other things, determining one's attitudes toward religion and establishing career goals. The family takes the appropriate measure to what good and bad things to take in or ignore in their culture.. The good future

development of a child is from the family. Hence the family is the fundamental agent of the child's growth in social welfare, moral values and self-identity. Good and respected family is that of father, mother and children living together. But due to tensions and frustrations of social change there is an increase in number of broken marriages. Traditionally, upon divorce in most ethnic group the children remain with the father, since they were considered to be the property of his family, though they were usually cared by the mother, with financial support from the father until they reached the age of seven.

It was observed during the study that conflict among couples at family level contributes to street children problem. When the marriage between couples breaks, children lose hope and become victims of their parents' bad action. Good things learnt by children from their parents diminish abruptly. Research findings show that some of the interviewed children said that they are in the streets because of family conflict which is brought by various reasons including remarriage and excessive drinking especially for the father.

*“Lukubanija Shija from Kiabakari village in Musoma District said that, when I was born my parents were peacefully living together. When I was 8 years my mother decided to leave home in fear of frequently being beaten by my father when he returned drunkard at night. During the first three weeks of mother depart; I did not realize any life difficult. After a month I started feeling the absence of my mother when my father started mistreating me and my two young sisters. After half a year later my father married again. The new mother started harassing us because we were not of her biological breeds. I decided to leave the home to my friend who was living in the next village. I didn't stay there for long before I left for Bunda town*

*where I am now living as a street child. Although life here is difficult, I am at least free compared to when I was living at home” (10/12/2007, Bunda bus stand).*

However these findings match with report by Raffael *et al.* (1999) who argued that the presence of children onto the streets comes from breakdowns in family processes. After the breaks of marriages, some children moved with their mothers, who later fail to give them essential needs. Those left with fathers lack proper upbringing or face stepmothers' harassment. In both cases children endure hardship in life and resort to life in the streets. Also Mkombozi (2000), in the study of juvenile delinquency contended that family life that is shattered by episodes of physical or emotional mistreatment may breed feeling of rejection among children and retard the youngest normal development. The disrupted family may encourage children to leave home in search of the place where they can live comfortably.

#### **4.8.4 Peer and parent pressures**

Harris (2000) defines peers as groups of people or children who are roughly in the same ages and who share the same social characteristics in the society. Peer groups are important, but parental influence is seen as primary because early experiences with parents supposedly influence later relationships with peers and the right sort of parenting can keep an adolescent from joining the wrong or good sort of peer groups. The family is not the only agent of socialization to the children but also that socialization results from assimilation to a group and contrast effects between groups. Non genetic differences in personality, on the other hand, are attributed primarily to differentiation within groups (Dennis, 2005).

When children habits are developed it will not easily be changed and that family values and behaviors are smoothly transmitted. Those values are dictated and patterned by the parents (Fred, 2006). Sometimes children adopt tough culture of the streets. When they are with their peers, they act and speak as if they enjoy what they are doing. Bourdillon (2002) argues that when you continually act and speak in a particular style, you get to think that way. If a child is constantly in a place where children watch horror, war, pornography videos, drug abuse, alcohol, violence and dishonest behaviors are exhibited then a child is accustomed to them. If they compare in a home where these behaviors are not accepted or exhibited then the children are much less likely to accept or exhibit these behaviors. Furthermore, if children are given good education at home, then home education becomes a far superior method for developing a mature, responsible, law abiding adult.

Research findings revealed that peer pressure is one of the significant social factors which leads children flee onto the streets. The study results indicate that 8% of the respondents fall under this group. For example street children who migrate from outside the town of Bunda some of them joined with peers who were already living on the streets and others joined the relative families in town. Others said that they came onto the streets due to existence of relative, brothers or sisters in town who act as a model for them to follow. Also other children were convinced to join life in the streets because of their friends who are working and getting money from there.

the streets by their impoverished parents to work or beg in order to look for subsistence in order to supplement family incomes. Also some of them were pulled out of school by parents or guardians who could not afford fees and other school contributions. When

homes are crowded, parents tell them to go to their friends to seek for sleeping places. By so doing adults loose their responsibilities of caring and supervising them. Family size especially in rural areas is too big to maintain. There is very little knowledge of family planning due to people's low level of education. For this case other children tend to loose love with their parents and decide to leave homes onto the streets. The same results were reported by UNICEF (2000), that families with large number of children/dependants might find it difficult to feed, cloth and house and educate their children.

#### **4.8.5 Orphanage**

Throughout Bunda District many children were kept in orphanages. Many were condemned to live a grim existence and subjected to shocking and at times deadly levels of abuse and neglect. Many children who ended up in orphanages had at least one living parent but have been abandoned because their families were poor, jobless, ill, or in trouble with the law. In this study it was observed that some children run onto the streets due to death of one or both of their parents. When parents died as reported by many respondents including Shibuta Samamba from Nkololo Village, Bariadi District, Shinyanga Region, children are sent to be cared by other family relatives. As Shibuta Samamba explained, life might become difficult if either stepmother; father or other adults can not accept you and decide to do anything upon you. This resulted to the running of children onto the streets.

AIDS is also becoming a factor enforcing children onto the streets. It is considered to be one of the most impoverishing forces facing Tanzanians mainly affecting individuals in the prime of their productive life and children bearing years with consequent repercussions for their family. UNICEF (1999) reported that most of the children whose parents died from

AIDS infections were taken to their very old grandparents. Most of them are lacking resources and overburdened by their own children. Probably this is because other relatives were reluctant to adopt orphans whose parents were feared to have died of AIDS. Aylward (1997) argued that the worst consequence of HIV/AIDS is fast growing of orphans population who due to lack of care from other adults decide to flee onto the town/city streets. Orphaned children are forced to move on to the streets when extended family social systems do not accept them or fail to provide adequate care after the dearth of parents.

#### **4.8.6 Children abuse and neglect**

Street children throughout are subjected to physical abuse by adults or sometimes they are murdered outright as government authorities treat them as a somebody to be eradicated rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. They are detained because they are homeless, or criminally charged with vague offenses such as loitering, vagrancy, or petty theft. Research findings revealed that virtually street children identify violence as their greatest fear. They face violence from order adults and other street children. Beating from family members cause enormous cumulative damage to them. One of the street children from Serengeti District reported that;

*“My name is Chongwe Magati and I am 15 years old. I decided to resort street life because I was frequently beaten by my father. My parents divorced two year ago when I was 13 years. My father married another woman. I was sent to school when I was nine years. The problem started after school hours when I was assigned other chores including herding cattle. Sometimes my stepmother gave me one meal or left me completely without food at all. I thus decided to terminate schooling in order to escape from such brutality/abuse. One day I boarded a bus early morning from*

*Mugumu to Bunda where I am living as street child” (17/12/2007, Bunda bus sand).*

Whenever there is attention given to street children more priorities are given on pressing economic and social rights such as shelter, denial of education, parental care, health care and other substance abuse. With exception of killings, little attention is paid to the police violence including holding street children for long time in poor conditions and some of them entered criminal justice systems and finally committed to prisons. Civil rights violations against street children were largely overlooked, symptomatic of the larger failure to take seriously the full scope of children’s rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the child. One of the respondents from Kisorya said:

*“My friend Madomo Chabona aged 15 years has been jailed at Nyasura prison without mentioning the days of his stay in prison. He said it is like laws that provide special privileges in juvenile justice procedures relating to arrest, remand, the court process and imprisonment are frequently and flagrantly violated because my friend Madomo Chabona is sharing facilities with adult offenders”(17.12.2007, Bunda bus stand).*

When the respondents were asked if they have heard anything about government institutions like Social Welfare or Community Development departments, 18% of them said yes while 42% said they haven’t even heard anything of the activities these departments perform. Those with information commented that they have never seen any of

the staff visiting them or showing any role to solve their problems. This resulted into public authorities such as police to go astray in solving problems related to street children. It means there is no involvement of probation officers during street children proceedings in order to safeguard the rights and interests of children custody.

#### **4.9 Suggested Solutions for Street Children Problem**

##### **4.9.1 Supporting street children initiatives**

The experiences of working with street children in various parts of Tanzania can be useful in thinking through the situation in Bunda town. Substantive relationships with street children need to be established on a mutual basis as possible before any program planning is undertaken. These relationships take time, but are necessary to learn about the histories and situations of street children and to ensure their participation in informing and implementing the kinds of response that make sense. This is important because the situations of street children are not monolithic.

Talking to me, Mr. Kilinga Bunonu a resident parent of Saranga area in the town argued that, if most street children maintain some links with community members, their interventions that are strong reintegration and support to the family should be encouraged. However, if a child avoids his home because he is abused there, the intervention will be needed to be considered more carefully. The situation of children who are homeless also requires special attention. Thus majority of the parents interviewed suggested the following measures to be taken by stakeholders in Bunda town in order to reduce street children problem.

**Table 10: Solutions to street children problem in Bunda town**

<b>Suggested measures by parents/guardians (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Supporting street children initiatives	8.0
Providing credits to parent farmers	10.0
Providing education to parents/guardians	18.0
Establishing street children centers	24.0
Improving agricultural production	40.0

Not all interventions ought to aim at removing children from the streets. Given what is possible people in the streets may provide the most viable form of livelihood for some children. In these sorts of cases, children may be assisted to enhance their street survival strategies. For instance, those running small businesses may want more reasonable hours, better profit margins and less security guards harassments. They may prefer better services /facilities such as showers and informal literacy classes arranged along a flexible schedule.

Sometimes the situation of children is complicated and made more urgent by the AIDS epidemic. Mr. Kanoni Janga, a HIV/AIDS chancellor working with HUYAM, A.I.C (T) church organization emphasizes the need to respond to children orphaned because of AIDS. He confirms the serious impact of the epidemic. He asserts that AIDS affects the basic livelihood needs such as food, shelter, clothing and the capacity to attend schools, forcing some children to engage in inappropriate survival strategies in the streets. While we can draw on some community resources to respond to the crisis, communities need to think more to learn how to provide adequate care.

#### **4.9.2 Providing credit to parent farmers**

The focused group of men commented that the problem facing many households is the low amount of production which does not suffice the whole year consumption at home level. This result into food insecurity, insufficient money to buy clothes, pay school fees and

other school contributions, money to buy building materials for constructing good house, items like bicycle, radio, refrigerator, sofa chairs, electricity installation and the others. Those doing small businesses claimed having small capital for their businesses. They mentioned that to secure loans from financial institutions like National Bank of Commerce (NBC), National Micro-finance Bank (NMB), Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) such as Savings and Credit Associations (SACAs), Savings and Credit Societies (SACCOs), and Informal Financial Institutions like FINCA, PRIDE, is very difficult because they lack guarantee/securities which meet the conditions given by banks and other financial providers.

Credit is needed by farmers not only for buying agriculture inputs but, also to bridge the time gap between expenditures on the maintenance of themselves and their families and the income from sale of crops. As a result they suffer from poverty at household level (URT, 2005). The same was also mentioned by women focused group who argued that they have been encouraged by the Community Development department staff to form business groups through which it becomes easier for them to apply for loans provided by the government. They asserted that they have done so, and have been applying for loans several times without getting anything. Such a situation have discouraged some of them because they only hear and see the same groups known to government staff getting loans especially those living in the town and business centers. Thus limited access to credit and micro-finance services is a constraint for many producers especially small-scale farmers and petty business women to increase production and escape from poverty.

### 4.9.3 Providing education to parents/guardians

Education always is valued as a means of liberation from ignorance, and enables one to perform non-traditional roles. It is a key determinant of the lifestyle and status an individual enjoys in the society. Since the majority of Tanzanian farmers are women they need to play a stronger role in agricultural decision-making. However, women are frequently disadvantaged in terms of education and cash-earning opportunities, which limits their potential contribution to leadership and decision-making. The research findings show that majority of the street children parents/guardians both male and female have only primary education which carries 76% as indicated in Table 11.

**Table 11: Education levels of parents/guardians**

<b>Education (N=100)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Secondary school	4.0
Not gone to school	20.0
Primary school	76.0

About 20% of respondents have never received formal education at all. This percent is big to reflect that respondents need special training curriculum to enable them become educated because such considerable rate of illiteracy is an important input that may not enable local people to be aware, understand and adopt new technology more easily hence creating necessary strategies for fighting and avoiding poverty in their localities. For example poorly educated farmers and business women are less likely to demand agricultural services and access technical and financial support. Recently the declines in the access to and quality of education are a source of concern to the agricultural sector and other business transactions. Those who secured secondary education carries just 4%. This is an insignificant figure to prove the education development of the community at large.

Studies have consistently shown that educational attainment has a strong effect on reproductive behaviors, attitudes and awareness related to family health and hygiene (UNICEF, 2000). It is confirmed that there is a gap in educational attainment between males and females. Males generally fare much better than females. A gender bias leading to women literacy rates being half that of male further marginalizes the skills and capacity of the majority of active farmers. Although the majority of the household population has some education, 25 percent of males have never attended school, compared with 33 percent of females. In addition, urban residents are more likely to have attended school and to have remained in school for a longer period than rural residents.

#### **4.9.4 Establishing street children centres**

During discussions with street children, their parents and focused groups the very important reaction that was aired include the establishment of street children centre in Bunda town. All of them argued that it is unfair for Bunda town to have no center because the number of street children is dramatically increasing compared to five years ago. Other street children talked of their previous experience they have observed from living in these street children centers.

For example, Maganga Nkingwa who stayed at Kuleana Street children centre in Mwanza said that sometimes living in the centers reduces the life difficulties of the street children because from there you can secure permanent shelters and food to eat which is provided by management of the center. He continued arguing that the problem with centers is where you are not sometimes given free time to move around the town/city to see what is happening there. This forces children to become cruel and naughty in which case they can

attempt to escape from the center into the town/city. Parents also supported the establishment of the street children centre in Bunda town because for them as parents they feel shame and sympathy to see their children sleeping at bus stand and at shop verandas, some of them living without sufficient food, water to clean their bodies and wash their clothes, etc.

They commented that many children are flowing from outside Bunda town to become street children. When they come here they just move around like that and nobody is getting trouble with their problems. They even mentioned about the government staffs that they have gone for a leave because they do not care or take any initiative to safeguard these people. Mr. Walwa Kahindi from Nyasura added that if there is no any measures taken right now the district and Tanzania at large will lose hope for generation of people who can not fight poverty through increasing production. Another parent, Mr. James Kitwala from Nyamakokoto, argued that other street children centers provide accommodation, medical services, food, clothes, counseling, training activities and recreation services that encourage children social cohesion and stimulate self confidence as they are trained to socialize together. He added children living in street children centers will escape from various discrimination, brutal punishments and other physical abuses they get from adults in the streets. It is thus good for Bunda to establish this centre through either the government or other development stakeholders in which case parents and community at large will give their support.

The majority of Bunda town dwellers are farmers and others do businesses. Some of them who talked to me said that, they produce to the low capacity of requirement because they use poor production tools because they lack funds to purchase improved agricultural

inputs. Again they lack ability to borrow from the banks and other micro-financial institutions because they fail to meet loans conditions. Most of them argued that the poverty life persist among themselves because their ability to bring development changes at household level is low. They also mentioned that most street children flee from rural tough lives into the towns or cities where they assume life is better off.

The latest Household Budget Survey in Tanzania shows the majority of the poor people are found in rural and urban periphery areas where agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood. Also agriculture contributes about 50 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 54 percent of the Nation's Foreign Exchange earnings (ASDP, 2003). Therefore if agriculture will not be promoted it will become uneasy to stop this migration of street children from rural to urban areas. They mentioned life in rural areas is unaffordable. People lack good housing; safe and clean water, no electricity, poor health and education services provision, no permanent roads for transporting their crops, unstable prices for their crops and many others. This is the challenge to the government which is entitled to safeguard their people towards good lives especially in the rural areas where most of the national cakes are coming from.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The previous chapter has shown the findings obtained from the study. This chapter presents a summary of the major findings and conclusions derived from them. Recommendations for policy development and future research are also given.

#### **5.2 Summary of Major Findings**

##### **5.2.1 Background characteristics of respondents**

###### **5.2.1.1 Socio-demographic characteristic**

The findings have shown that majority of the street children have been to primary school and their parents were primary school leavers. Despite the incompleteness of primary education many of these children were able to read and write. Many street children found in Bunda town came from outside the town. They did so because of life difficulties they face including being pulled out of school by parents in order to supplement family incomes. The parents being alive or dead have great influence to the upbringing of children. Results showed that 92.0% of respondents have parents and for the remaining percentage their parents have died. This shows that orphanage has something to do with children fleeing onto the streets.

###### **5.2.1.2 Activities done**

Normally street life is very bad as reported by respondents. They said that they don't get enough food and water to wash their bodies and clothes, being beaten by adults, places to sleep and sometimes health facilities. These street children are involved in legal and illegal

activities. Their activities include walking long distance with luggage on their heads or sometimes doing small businesses and washing pots in hotels with very little payments. They get abusive treatments and they are told to go back home to help their parents. While making living on the streets they get various risks including their money been taken by force by adults. Sometimes they work too long without rest and they have to wait late hours to eat leftover food. The majority of their parents are at productive age. The occupations practised by parents determine the family income earned per annum. As most respondents come from rural areas it means that many households depend on agriculture. Very few were civil servants.

### **5.2.1.3 Factors leading to street children**

The study results showed that there are various reasons which lead children to run onto the streets in Bunda town. These include low income earning and lack of enough food at family level, conflict at household level, peer pressures brought by parents or children themselves, orphanage and abuse and neglecting. Respondents argued that low production of food and cash crops lead to low food consumption and money to buy food. Therefore poor family has nothing to do with procurement of building materials in order to build good houses, tap water and electricity installation and buy farm inputs. This results into poor production of food and cash crops, poor housing and non-affordable to various contributions needed by family members. Respondents also argued that the family is the main agent of social change. This means that the child's growth in moral values and self-identity depend mostly on stability of the households. Research findings showed that there is an increase in numbers of broken families. This implies that conflicts which occur at family level have much to do with children flee onto the streets.

On the other hand AIDS has become a factor towards orphanage. It has caused death to productive forces and brought a lot of problems at households' level. Other relatives become reluctant to take care of orphans after death of their parents and thus stimulate children run onto the streets. On the other side, children joined the streets due to existence of relatives in town. Again they joined their street children friends who are already found in the streets doing petty business. Also respondents said that they are sent onto the streets by their parents to beg or work for subsistence earnings.

According to abuse and neglecting street children are subjected to adults' abuse and the government authorities treat them as a blight to be eradicated rather than protected. These children are detained just because they are homeless or charged with offences like loitering, vagrancy and so on. Respondents argued that when they are detained they stay in poor conditions and some of them entered into criminal justice systems and sentenced to prisons. Civil rights for street children were overlooked. The responsible government institutions are not active towards their responsibilities and many respondents said that they don't know the roles they play to safeguard their rights.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The result showed that no single factor alone has contributed to children running from their households. It has been a result of different reasons. This study further shows that children in Bunda town are in streets as a result of contribution of many factors as been mentioned.

The most important conclusion from the study is that the well-being of children is inextricably linked with a respect for the rights of children. Welfare and piecemeal

approaches outside the rubric of children's rights only go and ultimately fail. Project planning cannot afford to ignore the larger issues. We need to learn to listen to children and to build genuine partnerships based on trust and respect. The task is enormous. It will take no less than challenging and unlearning the debilitating relationship of hierarchy between adults and children.

For instance, it was revealed that services provided by street children centers (SCCs) to the street children are of great achievement and importance so far. These centers which stand for themselves are doing a good job taking into consideration that the government has been silent on the issue. It has been criticised that in other towns and cities like Moshi, Morogoro, Mwanza, Arusha, and Dar-es-Salaam where these experiences are prevailing, things are not very smooth as you can imagine. Observers have seen these centers to be source of children running from their homes. At the beginning children were to be collected from the streets to the centers. But afterward, some start to go for them, or they join those already in the centers in case they go to town. It is also true that existent of street children centers have rescued many children from damaging environments. Nevertheless, elder boys prefer life in the streets rather than living at centers because they earn some money through doing petty businesses. Street children centers provide basic needs for the children. They rehabilitate and re-unite some street children to their families through rural-urban migration. To others this is seen as a measure of treating the symptoms of street children prevalence instead of curing the problem. Being a researcher, I dare to agree with respondents' reactions and suggestion that since community of Bunda town has no such services, it is high time to introduce this temporary solution while thinking of the permanent alternatives to alleviate the problem.

The research also revealed that the government has no clear policy to deal with street children. This means that there is no policy for street children centers in terms of how to establish and operate. No guideline is provided by the authority on how these centers can be handled. This might be that the government has no clear definition of who is a child and lack programmes that can eradicate or improve the welfare of street children. Some government officials interviewed think the problem is for non-governmental organization (NGOs) and foreign donors. Others still think of the problem to be of parents who are to be responsible to these children as was the case when they were newborn babies.

Family or parents have the major role to play for the safe upbringing of their children. When separation between them is long, family re-integrations becomes low. Research results shows that when a child goes to streets parents do not take immediate actions to ensure that a child is back. Other parents think it is a relief for them or sometimes encourage going onto the streets in order to supplement the family effort to meet the essential needs. Nobody of the parents mentioned any troubles they have taken to these children except feeling shame and sympathy. I fear that if such a scenario is left to increase it may dismantle the family bonds.

Research results showed that no female samples were seen in the streets in Bunda town. Since women suffer heavy workload with their female children this can be one of the reason that they stay at homes. When I walked along the streets on Fridays where by so many old men and women beggars are easily seen, I found some of them been escorted by boys or girls. When I asked some of them of their whereabouts they said we are not street children. We are only helping our grandfathers and mothers, to come into town for begging

and asking for assistances from good Samaritans because they are too old to find money and food for their own, and some of them are blinds. The condition that doing activities in the streets is for male than female children is not holding water. Therefore, anybody is invited to conduct a research on why this is happening differently compared to other areas where female children are seen roaming around the streets.

Some cultural values of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and kigwibanza which are practiced by Kurya, Ikizu and Sizaki communities are shameful to hear. FGM involves cutting of the inner part of female children flesh, while kigwibanza practices encourage delayed married ladies to leave their homes for somewhere in the towns or rural areas where in case they bear children they send them back to their old parents or grandparents for being taken care. Some female discussants argued that it is fair and good to maintain the culture of our tribes. Look, we us here have practiced FGM and still we are surviving. We have been married and got children without any fear. Now, why should our daughters not maintain the same? But, others commented that by that time, life was not like now where there is an increase in communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS.

We have to agree ourselves to stop this way of life otherwise HIV/AIDS that is a great threat will kill our children and us too. They said kigwibanza practice should be stopped because it encourages girls to exercise prostitution which may result into getting AIDS and death. For sure, education about HIV/AIDS and other evil traditional practices have been given to rural and urban communities through various campaigns done at clinics and open assembly meetings. Again I recommend that more education about HIV/AIDS and poor practices should continue being given to the people in our communities.

Street children normally get inadequate information about reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and STDS due to illiteracy and non attendance to schools (Filgueiras *et al.*, 1993). Street girls are more vulnerable than boys. In addition to health risks, they experienced getting unplanned pregnancies, often at young age and with minimal if any, antenatal care and health risks associated with terminating pregnancies. Akwara *et al.* (2003) argues that street girls being exposures to AIDS information may lead them to higher level of awareness which would in turn influence self prevention and protection of risk. This reduces their vulnerability to infection with early pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other STDS infections.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

In order for the child to grow and develop as a full adult some basic needs have to be met. These include food, shelter, clothing, love, protection and identity. To meet these needs parental attention is called for joint responsibilities in the child's growth. Parental attention should start from the grass root level where policy makers and other developing partners should formulate and implement programmes which will curb and address the root causes. Children are expected to grow up in their society and particularly in the given family where they will feel sense of family belonging which gives children additional security. Therefore in the light of the above conclusions and findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to be useful to various developmental stakeholders in the study area and to the rest of the users.

#### **5.4.1 Policy and programme**

The government should address well the controversy issue on who is a child and set the child development policy mainly focusing on how to protect, safeguard and improve the welfare of children. The government should have clear, well interpreted and specific policy on street children problem eradication as well as policy which stipulate the establishment and operation of street children centers. The issue of poverty is the mainstream of many children fleeing onto the streets. My advice is that poverty alleviation must be practically mainstreamed by all ministerial programme activities and policies in order to meet with objectives and goals set in the NSGRP.

Study results reveal that large proportion of street children originate and come from rural areas. Either these children haven't completed basic primary education because of various difficulties, or they have great capabilities of doing good things if they were to be taken care of by adults. I suggest that primary education should be provided free of charge. Also responsible authority must prepare a good related training curriculum and manuals which can be used to shape and empower the skills and talents of street children. Some social workers consider the street children problem to be good source of employment to them comparing to services they deliver to street children centers which is not adequate. It is like established centers are there for giving somebody's daily breads. It is my appeal that the government should make close follow up and supervision on what is done by these centers. The activities established must be monitored, evaluated and where possible audited for the sake of public interests. The government shall not separate from establishing street children centers so that other developing partners should copy some administrative and management strategies and skills applied to these street children centers

they introduce. In other places harassment and physical abuse from the police and traditional security guards continue to be the major problem. Therefore sensitization and training people in key sectors, including the police, local security guards like sungusungu, courts, prisons and social welfare to protect and promote children's rights within their institutions and the community is inevitable. Writing of practical working guidelines to promote the rights of children within each key institution should be encouraged and promoted. In addition building of pro-children coalitions and networks among these sectors must be promoted.

#### **5.4.2 Community**

In order for street children problem to be eradicated, individuals, development partners and the community at large should become committed. At the moment this spirit is lacking. Thus a need is required for the development stakeholders to create awareness on street children problem to the community at large. Teaching materials, leaflets, cards and Swahili translated researches should be made available for the universal benefits, be publicly broadcasted in local radio stations and television channels like how they do for malaria, HIV/AIDS, safe motherhood, etc. Street children issue must become a cross cutting agenda for discussion.

#### **5.4.3 Family**

The extended family networks should be revived by the community particularly to the orphan children. A liaison need must be set between relatives of the clan and kinship to identify who among them should take care of the left behind children. The long-term solution for rehabilitation of street children must not base on isolation of family and

community. It must be in mind that the sense of belongingness to children with other family members starts from the grassroots. I propose that children taking care of should go hand in hand with the family and community at large.

#### **5.4.4 Street children**

One of the results discussed deeply in this study is about time used by street children working for their needs in Bunda town. I suggest that time used in various children working can be studied, advocacy on children seeking reasonable employment and organizing small scale income generating activities on a business basis can be promoted as stipulated in ILO Convention

#### **5.5 Areas for Future Research**

There are various issues which have not been reached by this study which can be done by other researchers. I suggest therefore that these people must come with challenges through other related subject like why there are no visible girls in the streets and others. I also appeal for the research to be done on the ways in which girls and boys' children are physically, sexually and emotionally abused within their home, in schools, in custody and on the streets. Particular attention to the nature of relationships between children and adults can also be studied.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Respondent's structured interview guide

Name of Research Assistant .....Date.....

Region.....District.....Ward.....Village.....Street.....

#### Background information

1 How old are you? 2 Sex of respondent.....M/F

3 What is the highest level of education?

(i) Primary school ..... (ii) Secondary school.....

(iii) Not attended any school at all..... (iv) Others.....

4 What is your religion? (i) Christian (ii) Moslem (iii) Others

5 Where is your place of birth? (i) In the town (ii) rural area

6 When do you leave home? (i) Year ago (ii) Two years ago (iii) Many years ago

#### Now I would like to ask you about your parents

7 Are parents alive? Yes [ ] No [ ]

8 If no who is taking care of you before you left home?

9 How old is your father? Very old [ ]. Old [ ] Young [ ]

10 How old is your mother? Very old [ ] Old [ ] Young [ ]

11 How old is your guardian? Very old [ ] Old [ ] Young [ ]

12 What is the occupation of your father? Farmer [ ] business [ ] civil servant [ ]

others [ ]

13 What is the occupation of your mother? Farmer [ ].business [ ] civil servant [ ]

others [ ]

14 What is the occupation of your guardian? Farmer [ ] business [ ] civil servant [ ]  
others [ ]

15 What is the highest level of education of your father? Primary school [ ] Secondary  
school [ ] University [ ]

16 What is the highest level of education of your mother? Primary school [ ] Secondary  
school [ ] University [ ]

17 What is the highest level of education of your guardian? Primary school [ ]  
Secondary school [ ] University [ ]

**Now I would like to ask you questions about the household in which you usually live**

**Household assets**

1 Is this your father's house? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) No [ ]

2 How many rooms are here in?.....

3 What is the floor of this house made of?

(i) Earth (ii) Cement (iii) Tiles (iv) Wood (v) Others

4 What is the wall of this house made of?

(i) Stone, cement blocks, burnt bricks

(ii) Mud bricks (plastered or unplastered)

(iii) Mud withy wood/trees

(iv) Grass, cardboard

(v) Others (specify)

5 What is the roof of this house made of?

(i) Corrugated iron sheets (ii) Tree, mud, thatching grass

(iii) Others (specify).....



(iii) Radio/radio cassette	yes [ ] no [ ]
(iv) Refrigerator/freezer	yes [ ] no [ ]
(v) Television	yes [ ] no [ ]
(vi) Clock watch	yes [ ] no [ ]
(vii) Wooden chairs/sofa	yes [ ] no [ ]
(viii) Wooden bed	yes [ ] no [ ]
(ix) Electric iron	yes [ ] no [ ]
(x) Mattress	yes [ ] no [ ]
(xi) Mosquito nets	yes [ ] no [ ]
(xii) Poultry	yes [ ] no [ ]
(xiii) Livestock	yes [ ] no [ ]
(xiv) Own land	yes [ ] no [ ]

**Now I would like to ask you questions about your street children affairs**

- 1 Are you street children? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 2 Are you living in the streets or returning home at the evening? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 3 What leads you to run onto the streets?
- 4 How long have you been in the streets?
- 5 Do you still have contact with your family (i) very often [ ] (ii) very rarely [ ]
- 6 What activities are you doing onto the streets?
- 7 Do you sent remittance at home? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 8 If life is worse what is your opinions?
- 9 Where do you get food?
- 10 Where do you sleep at night?

- 11 What other activities do you do at night?
- 12 Have you rounded by the police and taken to remand? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 13 If yes what was the reasons?
- 14 Have you ever head of Community Development Department? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 15 Have they visited you? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 16 If yes what was the reasons for there visit
- 17 Do you have any information about street children centre? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 18 If yes where did you get information? (i) From peers (ii) from street children center's officials
- 19 Have you ever stayed at street children centers? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 20 If no what were the reasons for your drop out?
- 21 How do you compare life in the street children centers and that of the streets?
- 22 Give any reason for the above.....
- 23 What problems do you get in overcoming the plight of street life?
- 24 Are you willing to go back home? (i) Yes [ ] (ii) no [ ]
- 25 If no why?

## **Appendix 2: Checklist for focused group discussion**

Name of Research Assistant .....Date.....

Region.....District.....Ward.....Village.....Street.....

### **Semi-structured interview guide to Parents.**

1 What is the size of your family?

2 What activities are you doing?

3 What is the level of your production?

4 What tools of production do you use?

5 What do you think are the reasons for low productivity?

6 Who owns production at family level?

7 Are children involved in decision making process?

8 Have you ever heard of the street children problem in your area?

9 If yes how big the problem is?

10 Have you experienced such a problem from you children to run away into the streets?

11 If yes how many of them have fled onto the streets (If possible mention the numbers)?

12 What do you think are the reasons which make these children to run from their homes?

13 Suggest for the solutions that you think could stop children from running away onto the streets?