STREET CHILDREN PROBLEMS IN TANZANIA

A CASE STUDY OF MOSHI MUNICIPALITY KILIMANJARO REGION

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BY

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at finding strategies for alleviating the street children (SC) problem in Tanzania. The study was carried out in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region. This study has been prompted by the fact that there has been persistent problem of children running from their households and living in urban streets. This will have a negative impact on economic development if not taken care of. If this problem is not taken care of, in few years coming; there will be unmanageable number of street children in this country. It should also be noted that children are the future owner of this country. Ignoring this problem would mean impoverishing this country instead of developing it, since human labour is one of the most decisive element of any kind of development. The general objective of this study was to identify the social, cultural and economic factors influencing the increase of street children problem and specifically to: (i) Investigate the role of gender relations in households to street children problem. (ii) Investigate strategies used in alleviating street children problem in Tanzania with particular reference to Moshi Municipality (iii) Examine how street children centres function. (iv) Investigate the reasons why children are more willing to live in streets rather than in street children centres. The result shows that various factors have contributed to the problem of street children which include poverty; inefficiency of street children centres (SCC) established to combat this problem, ineffective National policies; too much dependence on foreign donor support to alleviate this problem etc. Basing on the study results some recommendations/ suggestion shows that the success in eradication of SC problem requires committed community and individuals the elements which are presently lacking. Second the Government should have clear, specific policy on eradication of street children

problem. And there should be specific uniform policy guiding establishment and operation of centres for street children. This would be possible only after clearly defining as 'who is a child'. Parents and the whole community should also be involved in child development. Thus get knowledge on why children are running from their households and on the danger of letting children in streets.

DECLARATION

I, Ntahilaja Ester Mbatian, do hereby declare to the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture that this dissertation is my own original work and has not been submitted to any other university.

Signature.....

Date.....

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my father the late Mr. **Nzakaha Mahwaya** who laid down the foundation of my education and passed away when I was pursing this course and to my beloved son, **Gervas Ntahilaja** born when I was pursuing this course. Remember God has not promised us skies always blue and never forget family that prays together stays together.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT ii

DECLARATION iv

COPYRIGHT v

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT vi

DEDICATION viii

TABLE OF CONTENTS ix

LIST OF TABLES xiv

LIST OF FIGURES xv

LIST OF APPENDICES xvi

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS xvii

CHAPTER ONE 1

INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background to the study 1

1.2 Organization of the study 3

1.3 Problem statement 3

1.4 Objectives of the study 5

1.4.1 General objective 5

1.4.2 Specific objectives 5

1.5 Hypothesis 5

1.5.1 Null hypothesis 5

1.5.2 Alternative hypothesis 6

1.6 Justification 6

CHAPTER TWO 7

LITERATURE REVIEW 7

2.1 Introduction 7

2.2 Overview on street children 7

2.3 Fighting against street children problem 13

CHAPTER THREE 14

METHODOLOGY 14

3.1 Introduction 14

3.2 Description of study area, location and population 14

3.2.1 Study area and location 14

3.2.2 Population of Kilimanjaro region 15

3.3 Study design 16

3.3.1 Data requirements and source 16

3.3.2 Questionnaire and questionnaire design 17

3.3.3 Instruments for data collection 17

3.4 Sampling and sample size 18

3.4.1 The sampling procedure 18

3.4.2 Sample size 18

3.5 Data collection 19

3.5.1 Preliminary survey 19

3.5.2 Field work 19

3.6 Data analysis and tools 19

3.6.1 Descriptive statistics 20

3.7 Limitation of the research methodology 20

CHAPTER FOUR 22

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION....22

4.1 Introduction....22

4.1.1 Gender....22

4.1.2 Place of origin....23

4.1.3 Average age of sampled children in streets....26

4.1.4 Level of education of the sampled children....27

4.1.5 Parents'/guardians' occupation....29

4.1.6 Persons who were living with children before going to streets....31

4.1.7 Reasons for not returning home....31

4.2 Factors driving children into Moshi Municipality streets....33

4.2.1 Economic, social and cultural factors, influencing the existence of street children....34

4.2.1.1 Economic factors....34

(i) Seeking for education sponsorship or employment....34

(ii) Influenced by ignorant poor parent....35

(iii) Poverty in the family....35

4.2.1.2 Social factors....37

(i) Father and step mother's harassment....37

(ii) Population pressure on land....37

(iii) Prostitution, alcoholism and drugs....38

(iv) Physical harassment....39

(v) Orphanage....40

(vi) Peer group and street centres workers....41

4.2.1.3 Cultural factors....41

(i) Parents negligence 41

(ii) Large families 42

4.2.2 Gender relation in household 44

(i) Single parents 44

(ii) Family conflicts and marriage breakdown 45

4.2.3 Organization and management of street children centres 45

(i) Why some children prefer life in streets rather than in street children centres 45

4.3 The life of children out of their households 47

4.3.1 Life of children in streets 47

4.3.2 Sources of livelihood of sampled children in streets 48

4.3.3 Life of children in street children centres 49

4.3.3.1 Number of children in street children centres 50

4.3.3.2 Social welfare services 51

4.3.3.3 Formal education 52

4.3.3.4 Social work and rehabilitation 52

4.3.3.5 Family re-unification 53

4.4 The impact of street life and street children centres on children behavior 53

4.5 Rehabilitated former street children to the community 54

4.6 Reasons for no visible girls in streets 54

CHAPTER FIVE 57

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 57

5.1 Findings and conclusion 57

5.2 Recommendations 60

5.3 Area for further research 63

REFERENCES 64

APPENDICIES 69

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Gender of the sampled children in MM 23

Table 2: Average age of the sampled children in streets 26

Table 3: Occupations of parents whose children were interviewed in study area 30

Table 4: Persons who were living with children before going to streets 31

Table 5: Factors Driving Children in streets in Moshi Municipality.....34

Table 6: Number of children/dependants per family of sampled children.....43

Table 7: Children interviewed in streets 47

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Place of origin 25

Figure 2: Education of the sampled children 28

Figure 3: Reasons for not returning home 32

Figure 4: Number of children in street children centres 51

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire for social welfare workers.....69

Appendix II: Questionnaire for workers in street children centres 71

Appendix III: Questionnaire for children in street centers.....74

Appendix IV Questionnaire for children in streets.....76

Appendix V: Questionnaire for parents whose children are in street/centres 78

Appendix VI: Questionnaire for parents whose children have been in centres.....80

Appendix VII: Questionnaire for village executive officers.....82

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DSI	Development Studies institute
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
KRSWO	Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare Office
MM	Moshi Municipality
NGO	Non-Government Organization
REPOA	Research on Poverty Alleviation
SC	Street Children.
SCC	Street Children Centres.
SPSS /PC	Statistical Package for Social Science Programme Computer
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women Association
TCL	Ten Cell Leaders.
TFTW	Training Fund For Tanzania women.
VEO	Village Executive Officer.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

The number of street children is worldwide hotly debated, with estimates ranging from several millions to over one hundreds million (UNICEF, 1989, 1993). The problem of street children is facing Tanzania Society nowadays as opposed to 10 – 20 years ago. Thus the word street children is still very new among our communities and not much has been documented. The concept street children can mean differently to different people and in different situations. Tanzania Laws define a child differently "The Age of Majority Ordinance Chapter 431" defines an adult as that one who is 18 years old. The interpretation of General Clauses Act, 1972, defines a child as that one who has not reached the age of 18 years. The "Adolescence Ordinance (Cap. 355) of the "Registration of Birth and Death Ordinance Cap. 108" and "Sexual Offences (Special Provisions) Act 1998" defines a child as that one who is below 21 years old. The Education Act of 1978 says that a child is any person who is between 7 and 18 years and the Employment Ordinance Act, Cap 336" considers a child that one who is below 15 years.

The constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1972 allows anyone who has reached the age of 18 years to seek for any leadership post. Since the Tanzania Laws define a child differently, for the purpose of this study therefore, a child should be regarded as that one aged between 0-17 years.

Street children are those children who, due to lack of parental love and family upbringing owing to different reasons, are forced to take care of themselves without defined habitats. There have been an increased number of young children on streets, some doing petty business such as car washing, shoe shining, sweet and cigarettes selling. However, it seems that a large part of the community do not care on what is happening, or concern as to where they sleep or eat (Kuleana, 1998).

In Moshi Municipality, the situation is now alarming, though not well documented. These children are visible for all those who pass near the Post Office, near Kahawa House, at bus stand and around central market, sleeping along roadside and ditches. This has resulted into erosion of social morals, increased pickpockets, use of drugs, prostitution and lead to development of poor, non-elite society. These children have lost ties to their families and community of origin, though a few numbers have sporadic contacts with their families. According to the Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare department report, the number of children in the street has been doubling each year since 1996. The estimate shows that there were about 35 – 40 street boys, while at the end of 1997 there were about 70 and an increase estimates to 250 in 1999.

Since they have abandoned or have been abandoned by their families they have little or no contact with relatives or their homes. Some NGOs built centres where they try to keep these children. Even though some children prefer life in the streets rather than in street children centres. However, it should be clear that for better child upbringing, children should be in their own families and communities. It is important to find more

appropriate way to handle the issue. Thus, there is a need to critically examine and identify the main causes of this ever-increasing number of street children so as to address the problem while it is still at manageable size. We can not afford to wait until the problem reaches the uncontrollable dimension.

1.2 Organization of the study

This study is organized into five chapters; Chapter one presents the background to the study, problem statement, objectives, justification of the study, hypotheses that guided this study and population of Kilimanjaro Region. Chapter two presents literature review related to and as a guideline to this study. It reviews problem of street children in Tanzania. Chapter three presents the methodology employed in this study. It summarizes data requirements and sources, questionnaire, sampling design, population, data collection and limitation of the study. Chapter four gives the major findings of the study. In this chapter sampled street children problem are investigated. The identified problems of selected sampled respondents are discussed. Chapter five provides a summary, conclusion and recommendations based on findings. This final chapter also highlights areas for further research.

1.3 Problem statement

There has been a persistent problem of children running from their households and living in urban streets. The report by UNICEF (2000) indicates that there has been a rapid increase of street children in Urban Tanzania. While in Kenya, Apteker (1991) observes the increase of street children being caused by poor single parents. These had encouraged their children to become independent at the far earlier ages than the

dominant society deems appropriate. There might be several reasons contributing to increasing number of street children in Tanzania. Contributing factors at household level may include gender relations, poverty, single parents, children born out of wedlock, divorce, remarriage, orphanage and other social, cultural and economic factors (UNICEF 2000). The report by UNICEF (2000), shows that there has been an increase of NGOs building centres to give alternative home for street children. However some of these children tend to run away from the centres in preference of street life. The aim of this research therefore was to investigate factors in Moshi municipality, which drive children in streets and examine why some prefer to live in streets rather than in centres. Further, the study investigated factors contributing to more boys than girls in streets. Also examines the family problems in households responsible for the problem.

Gender role is involved in this study to see the contribution of different sexes in the problem of street children. Also the research has tried to find out how children are differently affected depending on their sex.

The study further investigated the roles of street children centres, how they operate, and if they can be used as permanent solution or if they can themselves be other causes to increase street children. The society ought to remember that these neglected children are the makers of the future generation. There are many things in our life that can hinder our attention but children can not wait.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General objective

To identify the social, cultural and economic factors influencing the increase of street children.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

Specific objective of the study were as follows:-

i. To investigate the role of gender relations in households to street children problem.
ii. To examine how street children centres function.
iii. To investigate the reasons why children are more willing to live in streets rather than in street children centres.
iv. To investigate strategies used in alleviating street children problem in Tanzania with reference to Moshi Municipality

1.5 Hypothesis

1.5.1 Null hypothesis

i. Gender relations have nothing to do with street children
ii. Social, cultural and economic factors have no contribution to the street children Problem
iii. Functioning system of street children centres has no relation with the maintenance of children in streets.

1.5.2 Alternative hypothesis

i. Gender relations contribute to the problem of street children

ii. Social, cultural and economic factors contribute to the street children problem

iii. Functioning system of street children centres contribute to the maintenance of children in streets.

1.6 Justification

Very limited researchers opted for this research while there is an increase rate of street children. It is important to have a policy, which will enhance community-based programs for these children. This will be possible only after knowing the real causes of the problem instead of only treating symptoms which is just a temporary measure. This research intends to suggest ways to help street children learn how to function in a society and use their own efforts to be freed from poverty and as adults be able to support themselves. Data collected are therefore used to give advice to all development agencies, policy makers and planners in finding ways of alleviating the street children problem.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Chapter two reviews the literature on the very subject matter. Section one gives general introduction of the chapter. Section two explains overview on street children. It covers the general literature on SC its definition, and of a "child". Section three describes various ways that have been taken in fighting against street children problem.

2.2 Overview on street children

The number of street children is hotly debated, with estimate ranging from several million to over one hundred millions (UNICEF, 1989,1993). This lack of consensus results in part from lack of reliable data and in part from definitional confusion over who street children are (Hutz et al., 1997, cited by Raffaelli, 1999). In the Tanzanian context confusion is caused by lack of definite definition of "who is a child"as explained in chapter one of this work. For the purpose of this study therefore a child is that one aged between 0-17 years. And street children are those children who, due to lack of parental love and family upbringing, are forced to take care of themselves without defined habitats (The Guardian, December, 1999 pg.6). Street children is just a manifestation of societal problems often rooted in the prevailing social economic and political situation of our countries (URT 1997).

An estimated 540 million or one in four, children in the world live with the ever-present harm of violence that might erupt at anytime, or are displaced within their

countries or made refugees by conflicts that are already raging (UNICEF, 1998). This causes some children to abandon their homes for streets. In war persisted countries, 90% of war's victims are mainly children (UNICEF, 1998).

The risk of early unwanted pregnancy is also real problem and it manifests itself in an increased number of street children; girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy; abortions and the female single parents (Bauni et al, 1999).

Poverty has increased in many countries; the poor are the majority, nearly one of every five nations in the world. Todate more than one billion people live in abjective poverty (Ravnborg and Sano1994, Mtatifikolo and Mabele 1999,) .In Africa a large proportion of people (the majority of whom are women) have very limited access to income, resources, formal education, health care and nutrition. For this reason therefore, poverty in Africa is described as a "mass poverty" of the absolute kind (Mtatifikolo and Mabele, 1999). Majorities of the poor who are mainly women and children endure life of hunger, malnutrition and illness. These are also denied the right to formal education, to receive good health care, to have access to safe water and sanitation and to be protected from harm. Poverty in the family has forced children to run away from their homes. Due to poverty some children prefer to live in streets rather than in their homes. This is because at home they are not sure of their next meal while in urban areas these children can earn few coins by washing cars, carrying luggages or pick pocketing. With their little money, they can afford to buy food enough for a day. One of the "problems" of Kampala is that food is too "cheap". Even if you have no work, you can always find something to eat. The prices of

cooked food are simply unbelievable. A big plate heaped with several of the country's staple food goes for 200, Uganda shillings. (13 US cents), (The East Africa Jan 2000). The most of Kenyan street boys are taught by their impoverished head of household mothers to cope with a very limited economic environment by becoming independent at a far earlier ages than the dominant society deems appropriate (Apteker et al., 1991). Most of them have never been "children" in a normal sense. They were born "adults", rejected by the adult world, and forced to tend for themselves (Aylward et al, 1997).

Some societies 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. In either case, the sex preference usually led to large families, which lead to increased poverty (FAO, 1987). Parents with large families may find difficult to adequately feed, cloth, house and educate their children. As a result these children may suffer physically and mentally and some run away from their families. Young people are migrating from rural areas to urban centres at higher rates but very few find reliable employments, while living conditions are extremely difficult (FAO, 1987). Thus many opt to live in streets where they encounter many difficulties and cannot develop themselves in any way.

However, in Africa, where poverty and unrest were once the main factors enforcing children out of their homes, the AIDS epidemic has now become a key factor in phenomenon of street children (Rutayuga, 1992). AIDS is the leading cause of death

for the economically active segment of the population. In Mutare, Zimbabwe, a newspaper reported an eleven year-old head of household who had the melancholy and morbid task of burying his own parents on the premises (Shell, 1999). One of the consequences of AIDS is growing more rapidly in number of orphans, who due to lack of care run to urban streets (Aylward et al, 1997).

AIDS undermines the future too, as families and communities struggle with burdens of sick people and orphaned children, building up debts and frequently having to remove children from school because of lack of funds or because the labour of even the youngest is needed to help the family to survive (UNAIDS, 1999). These are about lost opportunities for academic achievements, an important gate -away to success in the modern society, for young children who are now orphans (The Courier, 1991) Orphans are subjected to discrimination, some extended family members are reluctant to adopt them, thereby forcing many of them to drift to the streets. ((Aylward et al, 1997).

Learning begins at birth, it occurs in the family in neighbourhoods, and communities during play. Basically quality education is a human right, yet more than 130 million primary school age children in developing countries are out of school (FAO, 1987). The belief is, close bond between mother and children contribute a lot to health development of the child and often remain strong even after the child has grown up. The children to grow together in the family strengthens and provides a sense of belonging, security and reinforce their well being. But today many children around the world have lost their rights as children (Kuleana, 1998). There are more than one

million children who live on prostitution in countries like Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Thailand. In Nicaragua more than 72,000 work in coffee plantation, tobacco and cotton farms where they are highly affected by insecticides (Kuleana, 1998).

In some other countries, girls are forced into marriages and/or circumcisions. These forces make the girls to run away from their families and live in streets where they face sexual abuse, drugs, physical harassment etc. Female children are the most affected by prematurely employment/child employment, because they are the ones forced to drop schooling so as to work as house- girls when the family is in need of cash. They work so long to an extent that they have no time to rest, leave alone to play. Some are forced into marriage (Kuleana, 1998). Thus some resort to live in streets. Genital multilation might be another cause of children running away from their homes. About 18% of Tanzanian women/girls have been circumcised of which 37% of them are from Kilimanjaro region (Kuleana, 1998).

Broken marriages contribute to street children. A ten years old, Salum ran from home in Rufiji heading to Bagamoyo due to stepmother's harassment. He was in search for his mother but he boarded in a bus to Mtwara region (RTD 1, May 2000). The government reported that there is an increase of below 14 years females, living in ghetto where they practice prostitution (Majira 8 Jan.2000 pg. 6). The presence of poor girls in the streets sterms from a breakdown in the family process, they would face developmental and physiological problems than street boys (Raffaelli et al., 1999) The cause of the increasing number of street children in our towns is the outcome of degrading social values emerging from rapid growth of these towns without

equivalent improvement of the social services (The Guardian Dec. 1999). Children in streets cannot develop their capabilities. When children fail to develop their capabilities, it is a loss to them, their community and the nation (Mkombozi Annual Report, 1998). No way a society may disengage from poverty while her children (future working force) are in streets. In the long run, children who live in streets become drug addicted and practice prostitution, thus persistence for vicious cycle of poverty (Mkombozi Annual Report, 1998). The effects of economic reform have also contributed to street children. In Songea rural district, a fall in coffee producer prices has led to a fall in secondary school enrolment as parents did not afford to pay school fees for their children who were selected to join form one at Mpitimbi, Namabengo and Namtumbo secondary schools. Affected students have left for town to seek for employments (RTD, 30 May 1998, Kapinga 1998). The increasing situation of poverty in rural and urban areas and the negative impact of structural adjustment policies have caused some problems in effective implementation of the policy on child development. In addition to other problems, these have produced conditions that are generating children who live in situation of helpless and hopeless, thus the rapid increase of street children in urban Tanzania during the last 10-15 years (UNICEF, 2000).

The cry of helpless children looking for their rights are seen in the streets, begging, being beaten, being sexually abused and doing all sorts of work classified as "labour" cannot pass as such unnoticed. This violation of children's rights is visible in many people who, because of their selfishness, either of not wanting a big family/or for their

economic gain do some abominable deeds to unborn children, that is abortion (Labuva, 1999)

2.3 Fighting against street children problem

Young people are migrating from rural areas to urban centre at higher rates but very few find reliable employment, while life is very difficult in urban areas. Some children have left their home with all their ties to their families and communities of origins and their lives are completely in streets though a few number have sporadic contact with their families. Some NGOS built centres where they try to keep these children. However some children don't like to stay in the street children centres. Thus they can only serve as temporary measure, since these cannot stop or reduce the number of street children. Children centres can only be used to serve those who are most helpless at the time of crisis and those who have fallen out of their families, thus lack loving care and support.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapters were about the background information and literature review on the very subject. This chapter presents the location of the study area, study design, data requirements, data source, questionnaire design, instruments for data collection, the sampling technique the sample size, sampling design, data collection and limitation of the study.

3.2 Description of study area, location and population

3.2.1 Study area and location

The study was conducted in Kilimanjaro region, specifically in Moshi Municipality. The region was thought to be ideal for studying street children problem due to its location with good transportation network thus easily accessible to other urban areas and villages in the region.

Moshi Municipality is the headquarters of Kilimanjaro region. It is a transit town on the main road from Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Nairobi. The area was chosen after reading from report of the Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare Department which, shows that the number of children in streets has been doubling each year since 1996.

Thus expected to offer good results of the problem of street children and depict the situation of many other urban areas of the country. So the findings would be applicable to other urban areas of Tanzania.

Kilimanjaro region covers a total area of 13 209 sq. km. and is located in the North-Eastern part of Mainland Tanzania. It lies just South of the Equator between Latitudes 2.5 degrees and 2.30 degrees and Longitudes 37.0 degrees and 38.2 degrees East of the Greenwich. It borders Kenya to the North, Arusha Region to the West and Tanga Region to the Southeast. Administratively, the Region is divided into five districts namely Rombo, Same, Mwanga, Hai and Moshi which comprises of Moshi Urban and Rural. These Districts are further divided into25 divisions, 114 wards and 403 registered villages.

3.2.2 Population of Kilimanjaro region

According to 1988 National Census, the Region had 1,104,068 people of which 533,084 were males and 573,356 were females. Population growth rate was reported to be 2.1% annually. About 15% of the population were living in Moshi Municipality. The population density is 99 people per sq. km. (Bureau of statistics, 1994). It therefore implies that if this rate has maintained, then by the end of December 2008 (20 years later) the population for the region is estimated at 1,680,349 people.

Economically, about 85% of the total population live in rural areas and largely depend on agriculture and livestock keeping for their livelihood. There are also varied

industrial and commercial activities undertaken as well as abundant tourist attraction potentials in the Region.

3.3 Study design

A cross-sectional design, which employs a survey method as, outlined by Bernard and Babbie (1994) was used for the study. That is data were collected at a single point in time, though some informal data were also obtained by interviewing the sampled respondents in-groups. The data can also be used for simple descriptive interpretation as well as for the relationship between variables at particular point in time. The design was also chosen because it is easier and economical to conduct, especially where resource constraints like time and money dictate the results.

3.3.1 Data requirements and source

(a) Primary data

These are the main sources of information for this study, which were collected through personal interview using both structured and unstructured questionnaires and through group discussion with respondents. Supplementary information for the study were collected through personal observation and interview of some people outside the sampled respondents.

(b) Secondary data:

Secondary data were collected through reading various relevant literature, official reports and other documents.

3.3.2 Questionnaire and questionnaire design

The questionnaire were designed to capture various information such as general characteristic of respondents, level of formal education, parents wealth, factors which might have driven children to streets, persons who were living with these children before going to streets, life in streets, why some children prefer life in streets rather than street children centres and type of life in the centres. Questionnaires were also designed to capture information on the willingness of children to go back to their households as well as their characteristics back in the community.

A cross-sectional survey method was used to gather information by asking to the representative a cross- section of the population, at a single point in time, where instruments like questionnaire and interviews were used. (Balley, 1997). This design is regarded as the most appropriate by some researchers so long as the research can identify the population to his/her interest (Babbie, 1973).

3.3.3 Instruments for data collection

Seven sets of questionnaires were used to collect data. These included; a set for social welfare workers, one for workers in street children centres, questionnaire for children in street children centres, a set for children in streets, questionnaire for parents whose children are in streets/centres, questionnaire for parents whose children have been in centres, and the last one was for Village Executive Officers (VEOS)/Ten cell leaders of villages where these children come from. The questionnaires had both closed and open ended questions. The open was used to obtain the opinions and comments of the respondents.

3.4 Sampling and sample size

3.4.1 The sampling procedure

The population from which the sample for this research was drawn was that of children in streets or who are in street children centres of Moshi Municipality. Accidental sampling was employed for those children in streets. In SCC, children were randomly selected. Also sample was drawn from adults who are in one way or another dealing with street children. These included two officials from the Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare Office. These were one purposely selected and another randomly selected.

Since there were the only street children centres in the Municipality, all three centres were selected for conducting this research. Officers incharge of these centres were purposely selected for interview. In addition to the officers incharge one worker was randomly selected for interview in each centre. In order to make the research gender sensitive, single parents were purposefully included. Other parents or guardians were randomly selected. Purposeful sampling was also used to get four village executive officers (VEOS) so as to get supplementary information. These are VEOS in villages where parents with children in streets/centres were. These were two in urban and two in rural areas.

3.4.2 Sample size

Because of limited time and financial resources small sample size was used in this study. The sample frame consisted of 60 children from SCCs, 20 children from streets 8 workers, 12 parents and 4 TCL/VEO. Thus the sample size had 104 respondents.

3.5 Data collection

3.5.1 Preliminary survey

Before intensive fieldwork started a preliminary survey was carried out in the study area. This was important so as to acquire familiarity of the study area. The survey helped to galvanize basis for deciding what information was required and how to structure interviews and discussions, and also to gather data usable in analysis.

3.5.2 Field work

Data were collected in 3 street children centers, namely, Mkombozi, Tunahaki, Upendo and along streets of Moshi municipality at Kahawa house and at Post Office. Other data were collected around the central market place and at the central bus station. Data were collected through Personal interviews using structured questionnaire.

One assistant researcher assisted the researcher and data were collected from November 2000 to January 2001. Respondents were interviewed using questionnaire for each group. The number of children interviewed both in streets and in SCC for this study is shown in Table 1.

3.6 Data analysis and tools

The data were collected, edited, and summarised from questionnaires (coded), and entered into a spreadsheet by hand then into a computer for analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Computer programme was used. Main statistical analysis used were descriptive statistics and cross-tabs. These were used to analyse

the distribution of individual variables of the research to determine the contribution of various factors to street children problem. Every variable was expressed as percentage of total 80 children among various groups of street children as seen in Table 1. The average percentages were taken to be the proportion by which factors contributed to SC (street children) among 80 children.

3.6.1 Descriptive statistics

In order to take inventory of number of children, frequencies and percentages were used. This helped to show how many times a factor has contributed to the problem. The Cross-tabulations were used to provide joint frequency distributions of several variables in order to determine whether or not the variables were statistically independent. The test of independence (Chi-square) was used to test hypothesis that variables were independent'.

3.7 Limitation of the research methodology

This study, though successful, there were some limitations. Some respondents did not remember their actual age, the ages are estimate, and others did not remember exactly when they left their households. Other children were not certain with their parents/guardians'occupation. Another limitation was lack of sufficient research funds. Only a half-requested budget was obtained. This had put a big limitation on the researcher especially in collecting data in the filed, and analysing them. No major problem was faced in identifying the population of children in street children centres (SCC). Only at Upendo SCC all 20 children who were present during the period of the research were interviewed. However those in streets demanded for some financial

tips in order to be interviewed. This might be another factor of maintaining children in streets.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The parameters analysed include sex, age, formal educational level, family size, parent's occupation, place of origin and the number of children who joined street children centres yearly. The number of children interviewed both in streets and in SCCs for this study is shown in Table 1 below. Twenty children were selected from streets and 60 children from SCCs of which only 3 were girls the rest were boys.

Section one describes general characteristics of street children, namely their ages, sexes, levels of their formal education and parents' occupation. Section two represents factors, which drove children from their homes to streets. Section three explains life of children in streets and street children centres. In other words, it explains life of children out of their households. Sources of livelihood of the sampled children in street are also presented. The impact of street life and street children centres on children's behaviour are presented in section four. Section five is about life of rehabilitated children in the community, and section six gives reasons of visible girls in streets.

4.1.1 Gender

The selected sample for the present study has more than 77(96%) males' respondents. About 57 (95%) of them were selected from street children centres, while 20 children (100% of children interviewed in street) were selected from streets.

Table 1: Gender of the sampled children in MM

Children	In SCC	In streets	Total
Male	57	20	77
Female	3	0	3
Total	60	20	80

Source: Research data 2000/2001`

Out of 60 children interviewed in SCC (Table 1, above) only 3 (5%) were female children, purposely selected for interview. This implies that the large proportion or majority of SC in MM were boys. This implies also that there was a small number of female children who run away from their families though are not seen in streets. Adequate information is needed to find out the whereabouts of these females. Possibly they ran out and ended up in hands of people who preferred to house them. Thus established imbalances in sexes of street children in Moshi Municipality. And probably reflected the traditional patriarchal background of the study area that females were not supposed to be seen far away from their households and especially in kitchen. Also females were taught to tolerate hardships. Furthermore this might have been caused by views that many small activities in street are ideal for males than for females.

4.1.2 Place of origin

Children in Moshi municipality are primarily originating from districts in Kilimanjaro region. This comprised a total of 84%. (Figure 1). Using the data acquired during this research, the majority of children, 28% come from Kibosho, Kindi, Uru and other

areas of Moshi District. Negligence, poverty and alcoholism might have been the real bid issues in these places (Mkombozi Annual Report, 1998) This is probably because parents spend most of their time doing business, other activities or taking alcohol and less or no time with children. Thus children lack proper up bringing. Other reason might have been that these areas of Moshi district are located closer to Moshi Municipality compared to other districts such as Mwanga and Same.

The research further indicates that, about 16% of the total sampled children of the urban originality came from Njoro, Pasua, Kiboriloni, Langoni, and Majengo. Probably there is manifestation of family breakdown, single parents, poverty, prostitution and alcoholism. However some children were in streets because their parents are in streets too. Most of these parents are from the government centre for leprosy victims situated at Langoni in the MM. These came mainly from Lake Zone regions.

Due to the government failure to provide them with basic needs the victims resorted to go in streets begging as an alternative way of living. Children were born in such life and inherit the same life.

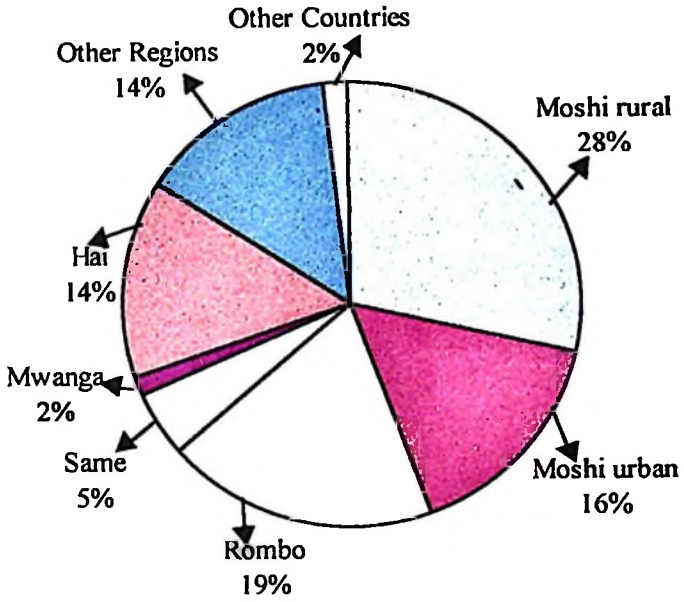

Figure 1: Place of origin

Rombo district is also a hotspot for children coming to the streets. 19% of the sampled children came from this place to look for schooling or employment in urban area. Few children came in streets in search for their fathers who left their families in order to establish business in town, leaving their families with no any assistance. Following the failure to locate their fathers, they decide to live in streets. The research further indicates that 14% of 80 sampled children came from other regions such as Dodoma, Singida, Mwanza, Arusha and Dar es Salaam. These were mostly from poor rural families. While 2% came from neighbouring countries especially Kenya and Uganda. These were in Moshi Municipality as a result of civil/conflicts wars in their countries. This implies that SC problem is not of a single place rather of the worldwide. This implies SC has no boundaries, can originate from any place and family.

4.1.3 Average age of sampled children in streets

Children have important implications on socio-economic development of a society. When children are in streets they cannot develop their capabilities and talents and it is a loss to them and to the nation, since children are future working force of a nation. Thus nation can not disengage from poverty when her children are in streets.

Table 2: Average age of the sampled children in streets

Age group	Number of children	Percentage
5- 10	8	10.1
11-16	44	55.7
>16	28	34.2
Total	80	100

Source: Research data (2000/2001)

The research results on Table 2 above shows that the majority of the street children in Moshi Municipality were aged between 11 and years 16, that is 55.7% of the sampled children who were interviewed. The majority of the sampled children fell under this group. The youngest child was 5 years old who was abandoned by unknown bus passenger from Mwanza to Dar es salaam, who was picked by street workers and took him to SCC. The mean age of respondents was 14 years.

4.1.4 Level of education of the sampled children

Despite the large number of primary schools in Kilimanjaro region, (about 698) the large number of street children has not attained even primary education. The level of education for the sampled children was very low. As indicated in Figure 2, about 81% of the interviewed children in Moshi Municipality had not completed primary education. The system of cost sharing starting from primary school, and economic reberalization probably might have made many families unable to support their children educationally.

The option has been to send them to do petty business along the streets and at bus terminals so as to sustain their families. Other children run from schools due to lack of essential school requirements such as school fees and other contributions. This was also observed in Songea district, where a fall in coffee producer prices led to a fall in secondary school enrolment as parents didn't afford to pay school fees for their children who were selected to join form one at Mpitimbi, Nomabengo and Namtumbo secondary schools. Affected students left for town to seek for employment (RTD, 30 May 1998, Kapinga 1998) The results agreed also with Lubuva (1999) and UNICEF

(2000) that somehow, economic liberalization has increased poverty and due to cost sharing many parents didn't afford to pay school fees for their children as opposed to some years back when education was in the hands of the central government.

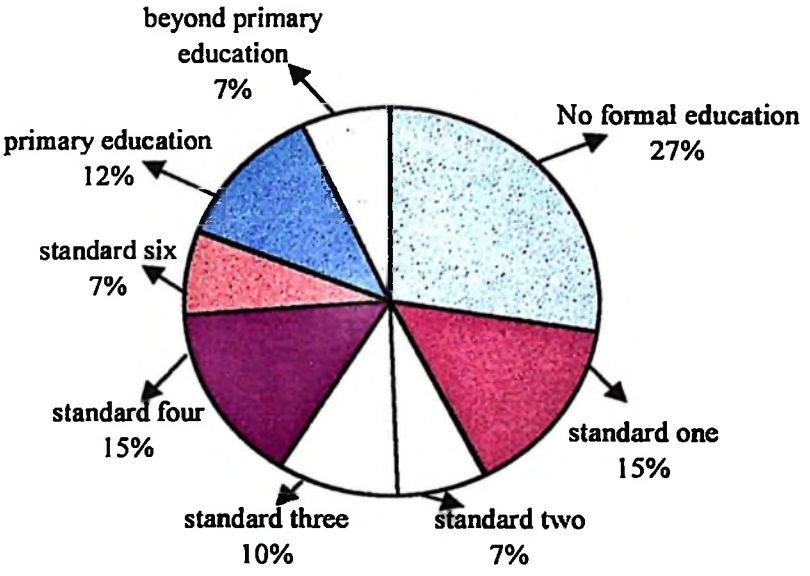

Figure 2: Education of the sampled children

The results of this research indicate that only a few numbers of the sampled children reported to had completed primary education, that is 12%, while27% of the sampled have not even entered formal education, 47% of the sampled children went up to only between standard I and IV of primary education. The research result shows that some children received formal education after they had joined street children centres, which assisted them to get formal education. Through assistance of street children centres, about 7% of the sampled children went as far as secondary/vocational training education (VETA). This has forced some persons beyond 18 years old to stay in street children centres so as to maintain their educational sponsorship.

4.1.5 Parents'/guardians' occupation

Table 3 presents a list of occupations of parents/guardians of the interviewed children. The research indicates that the largest proportion of the children who were in Moshi municipality were those whose parents are small farmers in rural areas.

Table 3: Occupations of parents whose children were interviewed in study area

Type of occupation	Number of children	Percentage
Farmers	44	62.9
Businessmen	16	22.9
Farmers and Businessmen	2	2.9
Livestock and Farmers	1	1.4
Civil servant s	3	4.3
Civil servants and Farmers	1	1.4
Unspecified occupation	1	1.4
None	2	2.9
Total	70	100

Source: Research data 2000/2001

Out of 80 children interviewed 44 came from farmer's families. This was equal to 62.9%, followed by businessmen, 22.9%. For the dwellers of Moshi municipality, most street children were from Njoro, Majengo, Pasua and Rau area. Occupations of some parents in these areas were not clearly known. Some depend on petty business such as fruits and vegetables, vitumbua and buns selling along roadside. Other activities include brewing of local liquor; some depend on prostitution, while others have undefined activities. It is also said that, alcoholism and drug abuse are common in these areas, thus children were neglected and often at risk of abandoning their households (Mkombozi Annual Report 1998). Chi-square test shows statistical significance ($P>0.05$) of association with occupation. It implies that type of occupation of parents may dictate life of children. Thus type of occupation of parents/guardians might have influenced their children to run from their families.

occupation of parents/guardians might have influenced their children to run from their families.

4.1.6 Persons who were living with children before going to streets

Table 4 below, presents the persons whose children in streets were living with them before going to streets.

Table 4: Persons who were living with children before going to streets

Person	Frequency	Percentage
Parents	33	43.4
Farther	9	11.8
Mother	10	13.2
Farther and step mother	9	11.8
Grandparents	5	6.6
Relatives	10	13.2
Total	76	100

Source: Research data 2000/2001

It is observed from Table 4 above, that, majority 33 (34.4%) of the children were living with their parents followed by those who were living with mothers or relatives, each consists of 13.2%. The least 5 (6.6%) number were of those who lived with their grandparents.

4.1.7 Reasons for not returning home

Figure 3 below shows different reasons given by sampled children in both streets and in SCCs, when asked if they would be willing to return home. Out of 80 children

interviewed, only 4 (5 %) said that they were thinking of returning home. Two children were from businessmen parents, one from civil servant, and another one from a farmer. In general these who were living with their parents before going to streets, and most of them run from their families out of naughty behaviour. The rest 76 (.95%) said that they did not like to go back home and they gave different reasons. Basically these were the reasons, which put them in the streets. Some said they would be willing to return home if these problems are first solved.

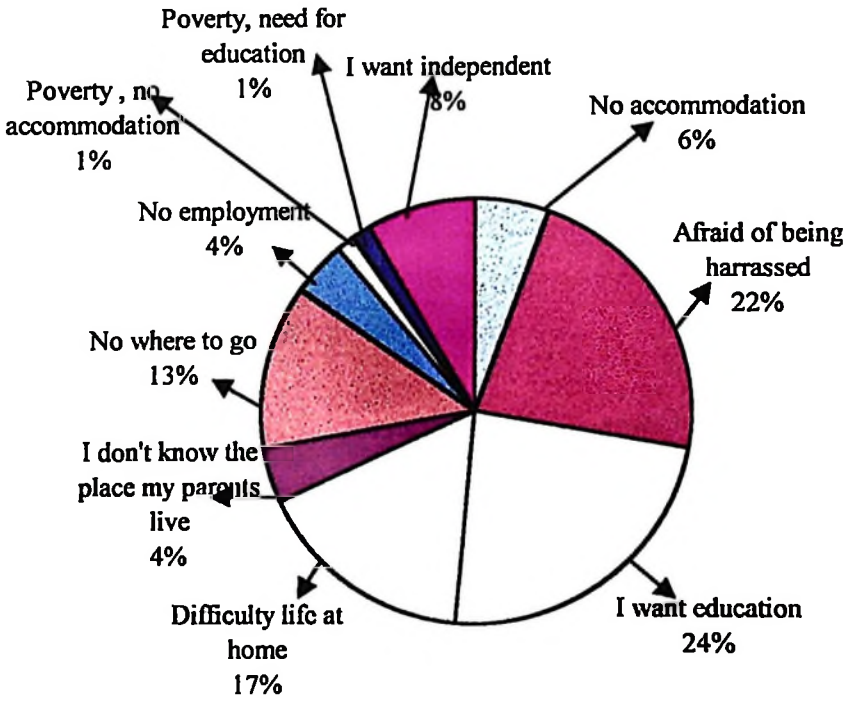

Figure 3: Reasons for not returning home

4.2 Factors driving children into Moshi Municipality streets

The research results indicate that street children in Moshi Municipality can be grouped into four categories, namely:

i. Numerous children from various places of the Municipality like Njoro, Langoni,,Pasua, Kiboriloni, Majengo and Rau come to town during the day to sell sweets, cigarettes, newspapers, fruits and other related small items. These children normally are on streets until late hours in the evening, then they return to their homes. The purpose is to get something to sustain their poor families.

ii. Children who live in town and whose families live in town too, but they have no contact with their families.

iii. Those children from rural areas who were willing to return to their homes if their problems at home are solved.

iv. The distinct minority group of children who were completely on their own with no knowledge of their families whatsoever.

The factors driving children to streets include those related to social cultural and economical, gender relationship in household, organization and management of the street children centres

Table 5: Factors Driving Children in streets in Moshi Municipality

Factor	Number	Percentage
Bored by rural life & seeking for employment	2	2.5
Orphanage & Relatives harassment	5	6.3
Poverty at home	29	36.3
Orphanage	6	7.6
Father and stepmother harassment	8	10
Father died, mother ill, lack of food and school fees	2	2.5
Influenced by parents	4	5
Influenced by SCC workers	35	43.7
Naughty *(Utundu)*	4	5
Accommodation, food, school fees & employment	4	5
Father died and mother ran away	5	6.3
Poverty, mother run away, seeking for employment	3	3.8
School fees, mother died, father drink and beat us	4	5
School fees & other contributions, teachers' harassment.	13	16.3
Wanted own freedom	3	3.8
Chased by father	1	1.8
Poverty, orphanage, teachers' harassment	8	10.0
Parents' conflicts & Marriage breakdown	3	3.8

Note: Multiple responses
Source: Research data 2000/2001

4.2.1 Economic, social and cultural factors, influencing the existence of street children

4.2.1.1 Economic factors

(i) Seeking for education sponsorship or employment

The research shows that some children from poor rural families came to streets in search for educational sponsorship or employment so as to earn some money to pay

for school fees and other school contributions or to get someone to pay for them. This is shown in Figure 3 that some children were not willing to go back home because they were still seeking for education. They have stayed in streets for long time with no any success and later on decide to live in streets completely. This was true for most of sampled children from Rombo. About 7.5% of children interviewed from Rombo came in streets as a result of searching for school sponsorship or employment. Some came after being chased from schools due to failure to get school fees or other school contributions. Thus they went to urban areas searching for their fathers. Due to failure to locate them they decided to live in streets or in SCCs.

(ii) Influenced by ignorant poor parent

The research shows that some children were chased away or advised by their poor parents to go to street children centres so that they could get some one to pay school fees for them. In urban areas poor families teach elder children to go to urban streets to find something to support their families.

The end results of all these were children abandoning their families and live in streets. Five percent (5%) of the sampled children fell under this group.

(iii) Poverty in the family

In Figure 3 it has been observed that for not returning home are those which first put these children into streets. This research also shows that the majority of children are in streets because of poverty. Although there might be other factors, the research (Table 5) indicates that about 47.3% of the sampled children are in streets due to poverty at family level. All in all, almost all other mentioned factors have their origin from

poverty. Due to poverty parents fail to offer adequate essential needs like shelter, food and education. Aptekcr (1991) also observed the same in earlier research in Kenya. In Morogoro, Lubuva (1999) observed that most children are forced to work as domestic servants due to various reasons, but the most conspicuous one is poverty. Later they resort to live in streets due to severe punishment which they receive from their employers.

In some cases parents especially those in urban areas, fail to rent residential rooms for their family members. In most cases they have large numbers of children and other extended family members. Thus the grown up children feel ashamed to share a room with their parents. Therefore they decide to go to streets.

Of the sampled children, 7% faced accommodations problem. Poor families have no ability to give enough food to their children. In some cases children stay without food for a day or two. They thus resort to live in streets because they are able to earn some money by pick pocketing, luggage carrying, or begging, in order to buy food. Sometimes they get something to eat from street dustbins.

The early research by the East African news paper January 2000, showed that in urban streets of Kampala "foods" are sold very cheap, thus enable a person who even has no job always to have something to eat. The research further found that children from poor rural families come to streets in search for education or employment. Most of the sampled children from Rombo indicate that their main concern was education or employment. This implies that children who are in streets will in future be poor

parents and their children will experience the same problem. Thus the chain of poverty goes on and on. This is a vicious circle

4.2.1.2 Social factors

(i) Father and step mother's harassment

The research shows that some children ran away due to harassment either by fathers or stepmother or both. From Table 5 about 11.3% of the children interviewed ran away due to stepmothers' harassment, especially the first born males, since they seemed to pose a threat to her offspring's inheritance. While 3.5% ran away due to father or father and stepmother harassment. Because traditionally with regard to inheritance of the Wachagga people, a status of a wife is dependent on whom she breeds and what number of wife she is.

Some male children go to live with their father in urban areas where they do business or are employed, leaving their wives in the rural areas. In towns they get re-married. The new married wives tend to harass the boys who were living with their fathers. Or father harasses these boys following lies said by their stepmothers against them. The same applies to those children born out of wedlock. This can be explained by the fact that some children are in streets as a result of harassment either by stepmothers, fathers, or both.

(ii) Population pressure on land

It was observed that, a reduction of the land size of the family small holding as it is inherited through the generations, and the lack of employment prospects in villages

tolerate seeing their mothers being beaten by their husbands when drunk. Some husbands beat both wives and children some when they are drunk stop even families from cooking or eating.

(iv) Physical harassment

The present study observed that some of the sampled children ran away due to physical harassment either at their homes or at schools. This refers to the parent or guardians willfully inflict pain or injury on a child. Some parents tend to beat their children for no reason, sometimes suspecting them to have stolen some home items like money, radios or any other asset, and sometimes by acting under influence of alcohol.

At school, children are beaten due to failure to pay various school contributions or failure in class subjects, slow thinking in class or/and failure to have proper school uniforms. Sometimes children are harassed at school for something that is not the problem of theirs, and when they come home they are also threatened by punishment. In the long run, children run away as refugees in streets. Misquith (1999), reported the same in Morogoro that, there have always been parents who have whipped or starved, locked up and threatened their babies and children. The US department of Health reported that, child abuse has come to such an extent that every four hours, a life is claimed by child abuse.

(v) Orphanage

In this study it was observed that some children are in streets due to death of one or both parents. This is probably because relatives who, in most cases, fail to take care of these because they have taken some of these children. These tend to harass these children. Some agree to take care of orphans as a way to inherit possessions of the deceased.

Thus after completion of their goal turn out and chase away these destitute or harass them till themselves surrender and run away. About 23.8% of the interviewed were orphans. Other 6.3% ran away after the death of father's death and mother failed to handle family matters or chased away by the late husband's relatives. This orphanage probably is because of AIDS epidemic.

According to Rutayuga (1992), in Africa where poverty and unrest were once the main factors enforcing children out of their homes, AIDS has now become a key factor in a phenomenon of putting children in streets. UNICEF (1999) reported that most of children from single parent who are in streets were living with grandparents. Most of whom were elderly, lacked resources, and overburden by their own children, families and other grandchildren, probably because other relatives were reluctant to adopt orphans whose parents were feared to have died of AIDS. Aylward (1997) established that, one of the worst consequences of AIDS is growing more rapidly of orphans who due to lack of care run to urban streets. This report continues to say that some of children have become head of their households and sometimes drift to the streets.

(vi) Peer group and street centres workers

The study results indicate that some children came to streets after being convinced by peer group, about good life in towns. The study findings indicate that about 34.5% of children interviewed fall under this group. Other 43.7% children were advised by some staffs of the street children centres to leave their homes to avoid harassment which they were receiving from their fathers and stepmothers or other social difficulties. Others faced various problems including lack of food, clothing, school fees, etc. Aylward (1997) established that most children suffer attacks, abandonment, rejection, sexual abuse and injury by every possible object on every part of the body. At times, they are burnt, strangled, stabbed, starved to death either by their parents, guardians, employers, etc. So they undergo emotional psychological abuse such as being neglected by the parents, relatives and friends and consequently the whole society as well. While some others were just naughty (*utundu*) or bored by rural life. The research shows that, 5% of the sampled children are in streets due to their naughty behaviour and 2.5% were bored by rural life. These wanted to test different life and so went to SCC.

4.2.1.3 Cultural factors

(i) Parents negligence

Here negligence is taken to mean those actions done by parents or guardians whether intentionally or not, which deprive children from getting parental care love and socialization. The researcher observed that some children were in streets due to parent's negligence and irresponsibility. It seems parents are busy with other business such as livestock, farming etc and forget to take care of their children. The study

findings show that some parents always come to their household in most cases very late when children were already asleep. So it is very difficult for the parent to know what is happened to their children during the whole day.

Hence some children took this opportunity to go to urban areas during the day to meet friends, selling some small items like groundnuts, plastic bags, cigarettes, newspapers, etc and return home before their parents were back. After sometimes they decide to live in streets completely.

On the other hand, some children whose parents live in urban areas go to town streets during the daytime to sell fruits, sweets, bites and other petty items. These are often in streets until late in the evening, sometimes are easily side - tracked, and are frequently beaten on their way back home if they have not sold enough items. As a result, they completely abandon household and move to live in the streets. O'brian (1981) reported that when parents are drunk or when they have no concern for their children, are easily succumb to various types of abuse and neglect. Thus, their own uncles abuse sometimes-teenage girls or they are forced to have sex with them in the absence of their parents. This might also lead to unwanted pregnancies/children.

(ii) Large families

The family size was determined by considering all number of children present in a household. This includes own children and dependents. Many families, especially those of ordinary rural parents/peasants are too big to maintain. Family planning is unwelcome due to ignorance. Lack of education does not allow them to go beyond

their horizon. Many other factors like drunkenness disrupts the whole plan. The research findings indicates that 43.6% of the sampled children came from large families, that is more than 4 children (Table 5). A family has many children to look after which is beyond its ability to maintain. This is because most of the large families fail to provide the members with essential needs, since some families have up to 12 or more children. About 16.7% consist of 9 to 12 children. Probably due to poverty stricken families fail to educate their children, give them shelter and adequate food. Thus children decide to go to streets to find alternative ways.

The Chi-square test indicated a statistically significant association with SC problem (P>0.05). This implies that large families contributed to SC problem. Similar factor was also reported by FAO (1987) that families with a large number of children/dependants might find it difficult to feed, cloth, house and educate their children.

Table 6: Number of children/dependants per family of sampled children

Number of children	No respondents	Percentage
1-4	31	39.7
5-8	34	43.6
9-12	13	16.7
>12	2	2.5
Total	80	100%

Source: Research data 2000/2001

4.2.2 Gender relation in household

(i) Single parents

The research indicates that single parents contribute to street children. Many single parents, mostly in urban areas were trying to raise children alone with little material or emotional support.

Early studies observed pregnancy as one factor causing girls to drop out from schools and hence single parent (Puja et al.1994, Katapa, 1994 UNICEF, 2000).

The similar research made by Bauni and Obonyo, (1999) observed that in Nakuru,Kenya, there has been an increasing rate of street children as a result of increasing rate of early unwanted pregnancy . Others originate from young girls from rural areas who go to towns due to various reasons, whereby they get unwanted pregnancy and babies through prostitution. They return and leave their babies with poor old grandparents. Due to hardships these children are trying to learn how to become independent at very early age, trying to find basic needs by doing petty business. Other families depend on elder children to feed their families. When they become tired they run away and live in streets. Uptaker et al (1991) observed the same that, most of Kenyan street boys are taught by their impoverished head of household mothers to cope with a very limited economic environment by becoming independent at far earlier ages than the dominant society deemed appropriate. About 6.6% of the interviewed children were living with their grandparents of which 3.5% were from single parents, some of them did not even know their fathers. This is probably because proper children upbringing, need both parents.

(ii) Family conflicts and marriage breakdown

It was observed during this research that, family breakdown contributes to street children problem. This comes as a result of various problems and conflicts in the family. When a family breaks, children suffer the consequence. They have difficulty lives and in some cases resort to street life. It was observed that some of children interviewed were in the street as the result of family conflicts or broken marriages. These finding agree with what was earliest reported by Raffaelli et al (1999) that the presence of poor girls in streets sterns from a breakdown in the family process. After the break of marriages, some children moved with their mothers, who later fail to give them essential requirements. Those lefts with father lack proper upbringing or face stepmothers harassment in both case children endure hardship life and resort life in streets. Thereby means Family conflict and marriage breakdown are some of factors influencing SC problem. The same factor was reported by Raffaelli (1999), also observed and broadcasted by RTD (1 May 2000). This could be relevant also when considering problems faced by children when their parents break their marriages.

4.2.3 Organization and management of street children centres

(i) Why some children prefer life in streets rather than in street children centres

The researcher found that a large proportion of SC (95 %) interviewed in streets knew about the presence of street children centres and 80 % of them had been in these centers before. While 10% of the interviewed were completely in streets, living, sleeping, eating and working in this environment. The rest returned at home in the evenings. They seemed to be satisfied with this type of life, though they

acknowledged that life in streets was tough. However they are not ready to go into the street children centres. Their reasons include the following:

i. In Street children centres they cannot go to town without permission
ii. In streets they can earn some money by washing cars and selling some petty items and earn between Tsh. 200/= and 800/= a day. So they use the money to purchase whatever they want or they use to assist their families. Although sometimes younger boys are robbed off these money by elder ones
iii. Street children centres prohibit them from smoking, taking of alcohol and drugs while they can consume them freely in streets
iv. In streets children have freedom to implement ideas to suit their personal interest as opposed to home where they are compelled to do all things according to the wish of parents and in street children centres decision depends normally on majority
v. They would not like to be under somebody's supervision
vi. Some consider going to street centres as synonymous to going to prison with no reason while social services offered by street children can be obtained whenever needed. These services includes food, judicial, health and shelter
vii. Availability of much tourist attractions that enables children to earn some cashes from tourists. During the pick period they earn beyond Tsh.3,000/= per day

The research also shows that children from Kenya, Marangu and Rombo live first at Himo streets where life is said to be particularly harsh thus compelled them to come to Moshi Municipality. By the time they reached here they were already inured to the way of life and saw that there was no need of going into street children centres.

Table 7: Children interviewed in streets

Category	Number of children	Percentage
Have knowledge on presence of SCCs	19	95
Have been in SCCs	15	80
Life completely in streets	2	10
Return home daily	14	70
Sometimes return home	4	20

Note: Multiple Response
Source: Research data 2000/2001

4.3 The life of children out of their households

4.3.1 Life of children in streets

By living in streets the children are impoverished in every aspect because in streets they cannot get basic needs such as food and safe place to stay (Shelter). In streets also they lack formal education opportunities, particularly life skills that is essential to human life. Thus they cannot develop their capabilities. These children are also abused verbally, sexually and physically. As reported by Misquith, (1999), that a glance around us surely reveals the gravity of child abuse and neglect that are taking place everyday. And UNICEF, (2000), reported that due to lack of clear policy on SC we always witness police harassment and brutality towards street girls who practice commercial sex (*changudoa*). Cases of these girls being arrested, beaten and sometimes abused by the police themselves are common. The report continued saying that we commonly also see street boys and beggars being arrested by the police and repatriated to their rural home areas. So in the long run, they learn to be cruel as sort of defensive mechanism. The result of which is creation of unskilled and jobless

society, often resorting to crime and unable to remove themselves from the poverty trap, which often first forced them into the streets. In streets also they are prone to taking drugs and therefore vulnerable to the violence. Besides the commercial drugs like bang, marijuana and others, they also sniff glue and petrol.

According to some workers in street children centre, due to harsh life in streets, is very difficult to rehabilitate the children who lived in streets for a long time because they are already inured to the way of life. Even if rehabilitated, success in re integrating them with their families is questionable, because when they are removed in street children centres to their families, they tend to return to streets.

4.3.2 Sources of livelihood of sampled children in streets

Some children live and sleep in the ditches, along roadside and under trees dispersed all over Moshi Municipality streets. They do marginal works such as car washing to get money to purchase food and clothes. They do not have capital to do any sound business. However, those who have been in town for a long time are entrusted by some businessmen to take small items like newspaper, peanuts, plastic bags, sweets and cigarettes to sale. After selling they give money to the owners, who in turn give a small amount as their wages or buy food for these children. Sometimes they get some money by pick pocketing or begging. When, they have completely nothing to eat, they go to their friends (Businessmen at bus stand) to get some thing for a day. Again during the reap time when they get enough money they give some money to these businessmen. So they always work from hand to mouth, and their activities are jointly

collaborated with businessmen. In other words, some businessmen sponsor their lives in streets.

4.3.3 Life of children in street children centres

During this research, there were 3 street children centres in Moshi Municipality. From section 2.2 of this work, it is clear that the government has no policy on street children. This means therefore that lack of guidelines/directions to the SCCs in terms of how to establish and on how to handle the SC. Every SCC therefore has established its own ways of operating (own timetable and programmes). If this is not dealt with, it might come to a situation whereby some SC will have policies which abuse children instead of protecting and assisting them, Other SCCs would be undemocratically run and make their SCCs a source of primitive accumulation of capital for individuals who initiated their establishment. And most of them might collapse due to lack of funds, because most of them are literally vulnerable and depend on foreign donors. Almost all these centres work on the principal that these children have been supporting themselves and know more than anyone about the problems they face and possible solutions. So registered children enter into formal programming. These are involved in planning and implementing programmes at centres including preparation of a timetable.

Informal support such as medical and other social services are offered through street work programme to those children in streets who are not willing to enter into formal programmes at the street children centres However these centres are not governed by one single policy. Every centre does according to its wishes to suit its interests.

These SCCs work with difficult children, the petty criminals, and the homosexuals and with emotionals. Workers and children democratically do many decisions. For instance children decide on type of disciplinary action to be taken, type of decree on their buildings and so forth. Support rendered by the SCCs to the children include those of socially Welfare oriented, education, Social work and Rehabilitation, Advocacy and Family re-integration.

4.3.3.1 Number of children in street children centres

Some centres do not cap nor restrict entry to a child who wants to start to rebuild his life. Thus there has been an increase in the number of children joining SCCs yearly. However, from Figure 4, an average number of children in residence differ from one centre to another and from year to year. Some centres can access a child to the streets within twelve hours of his arrival. In order to build trust with street children, Mkombozi street children centre has employed a long-term street boy as street educator. Thus the children become at ease in their territory and see him as a peer, rather than a threatening and judgmental adult. So this greatly reduces the risks faced by new child sleeping on the street. At the same time some boys have advantage of moving between Arusha and Moshi taking advantage of availability of good transport network and the services offered by street children centres.

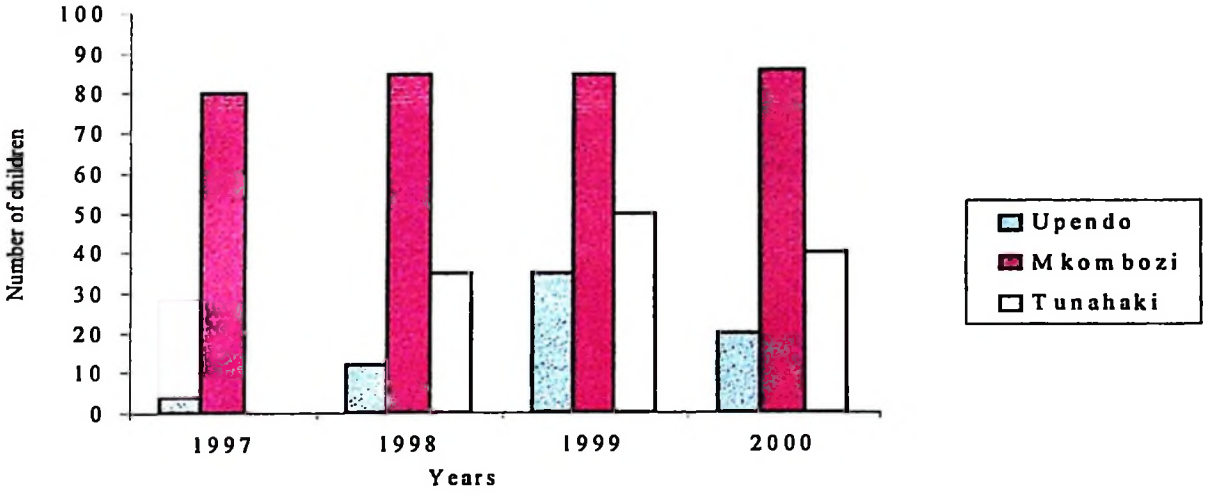

Figure 4: Number of children in street children centres

4.3.3.2 Social welfare services

All SCCs make sure that they give enough food and have a place for a night sleep. As a result, all SCCs in MM have a drop-in-centres that provide accommodation, medical services, food and clothing. They also provide counseling, some training activities, and recreation services so as to encourage social cohesion and stimulate self-confidence. At the centres the children are trained to socialize together. In case of clothing, some centres take these children to marketplace situated at Kiboriloni whereby secondhand clothes are sold. Every one chooses the type and colour according to his/her wish. That is every child is given chance to make his/her choice.

4.3.3.3 Formal education

One of the prime objectives of the SCCs visited during this research is to make sure that at least all SC get primary education. However this is not practical, for instance at Tunahaki which had more than 35 children who were in the centre during this research only 6 were in primary schools, others were not. The record showed that these children have been attending school elsewhere before joining the centre. This makes one query if this centre seriously wants to help these children. The response was on the problem of securing official transfers from children' previous schools.

SCCs provide also informal education, particularly in the area of numeracy and literacy. This is offered to those children who do not qualify for formal education enrollment. These programmes are flexible, which in most cases take place in the afternoon. Some centres send few SC to secondary schools although it is not a priority. This is to ensure that those SC who have completed their primary education and passed to enter secondary education have opportunities to do so. Some centres provide also vocational training like carpentry and tailoring. However, in some cases, children are sponsored to attend training in other training institutions.

4.3.3.4 Social work and rehabilitation

The basic aim of all SCCs is to take children of the streets, provide them with a variety of social work related services aimed at rehabilitating the SC. They give vigorous counseling and moral support to help them increase to self-esteem and reform in terms of their behaviour Children get advice on different opportunities that can help them to improve their welfare.

4.3.3.5 Family re-unification

This is one of the primary aims of the SCCs. Once children are taken to a centre, an attempt to trace their historical background, history and their origin are done while counseling is also in progress. The contacts made to see the possibility of reunification. The SCC workers said that this is a very difficult task because many children become reluctant to re-unite with their families due to the persistence of the factors that made them run away from their households. Parents also become reluctant to take their responsibilities. However in some cases SCCs have been successful in rehabilitating and re-uniting some SC to their families though sometimes these children fail to live rural life and go back to urban areas.

4.4 The impact of street life and street children centres on children behavior

As discussed before, some children living in streets /SC do keep contact with their families. Children in streets are abused physically and sexually (Mkombozi, 1998). Drug and alcohol abuse blot out the violence they face on a daily basis. They therefore become petty criminals and homosexual. Thus back in the community tend to practice what they lived in streets while it is not acceptable in the society.

Parents interviewed said there was a great behavioural difference between children who came straight from streets and those who have been in SCCs. Those from streets have difficult characters, smokers, alcoholists and they are always aggressive and may wish to be paid for work they do at their households. Thus back in the community they tend to misbehave. However, children from street centres have better behavior as compared to those from streets. If given tools/capital they can be productive

because most of them, especially the elder boys come back with some knowledge/skills such as auto- mechanics, tailoring and welding. Besides this knowledge they normally fail to live normal lives. Due to the fact that they cannot practice their skills due to lack of capital or employment. Thus, some of them decide to return into streets or street children centres since they feel hard to live in local families, preferring modern life.

4.5 Rehabilitated former street children to the community

The researcher observed that it is very difficult for these children to run normal life in the community. Due to their bad behaviour people do not like them. In most cases they seem to find it difficult to distinguish between right and wrong and admit to their problems as the first stage in doing something about them. Also they frequently steal. Together with normal issues associated with adolescence, they also have numerous additional behavioural problems as a result of long living in streets for an extended period.

Thus back in the community they lack company, their peer group try to avoid them. Parents teach their children to avoid them. So they lack company and in most cases compelled to go back to urban areas.

4.6 Reasons for no visible girls in streets

Visible street children in Moshi Municipality are boys. The researcher interviewed not a single girl in streets. However, during the research, it was discovered that there are a small number of female children who have abandoned their household for the

streets. These are not seen in streets probably because they are quickly taken into prostitution or as cheap labour in houses. This might be due to traditional belief in the research area that females are not expected to be seen far away from their household, but their places are normally in the kitchen. Thus females feel ashamed to be seen in the streets. Furthermore these girls might be feeling ashamed to be seen in streets. Accessing these children is difficult. However, 3 % of respondent, girls were purposely selected for interview in street children centres. These were two in Tunahaki and one in Mkombozi SCCs.

In one seminar held in Arusha, the Government reported on the increasing number of females aged below 14 years. These are Children living in ghettos and practicing prostitution (Majira, Jan. 2000). As referred to by Misquith, the research by TAMWA in the regions of Tanga, Arusha, Mwanza, Iringa, and Dar es salaam, shows that the problem of child labour in Tanzania is acute. The report further said that there are many girls from regions like Dodoma and Singida who have come to urban areas for housework, or prostitution. Reporting on the same issue O'brien (1981) said that often girls are the victims of sexual exploitation assault, that a man can ruin a girl and sacrifice her on the "alter" of lust. He further declared that, statistics indicate that 11 in 44 females or 25-30% of all females in the world are sexually abused by the age of 18, and that often girls are victims of this assault even to the age of bellow 12. This call for a need of different research on how to accessing these vulnerable females. By engaging in prostitution or as cheap labour in houses may be facing greater problems than in streets as reported by Majira 21st Feb. 2000,pg 6 that a house girl 15 years old (Name withhold) was badly hurt when raped by her employer's husband in Dodoma.

This shows, instead of being seen in streets they are facing more dangers in the homes as hidden domestic 'slaves'.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Findings and conclusion

The result showed that no single factor alone has contributed to children running from their households. But the problem has been a result of different reasons. The study further shows that children are in streets as a result of contribution of many factors. At the same time SC problem has been at an increasing pace. It has been found also that existences of SCC are very important to accommodate those children who have just fallen out of their families and with genuine cases.

The discussion about the services of the SCCs rendered to SC suggests that there are a variety of achievements so far. It is evident that these SCCs are doing a commendable job taking into consideration that the Government has been silent as far as helping SC is concerned. However in some cases SCCs have been sources for children running from their families. In the beginning children were corrected from streets to SCCs. Currently some go themselves, sometimes accompanied by those already in SCCs when they go to town or to their households. It is also clear that the existence of the SCCs that focus on SC have assisted in rescuing many children whom would have continued to live in a high risking environment. It is important to see the fact that the services mostly offered are just treating the symptoms of the problem rather than the real causes of the presence of SC problem.

Despite the presence of SCCs, some elder boys prefer life in streets rather than in SCC, though they acknowledged that in streets they face many dangers. But they have

to tolerate due to different reasons particularly possibilities of earning some money in streets. Also encouraged by some policies in SCCs, which allow SC who are in streets to enjoy some social services offered by these centres.

In some cases SCCs have been successful in rehabilitating and re-uniting some SC to their families though sometimes these children fail to live rural life and go back to urban areas. Thus some parents interviewed blamed the way of life offered to children in SCCs which is not equivalent to rural life. The study shows that 95% of children in SCC are males while females consist of only 0.5%. The same is seen in employment. The staff in these centres, consists 75% males and 25% females. Some boys in SCCs are aged beyond 18 years. This means SCCs keep adults too. Children, both in streets and SCC would be willing to return to their families if only problems at home, which put them in streets, are solved first.

The research also revealed that the Government has no clear policy to deal with SC. This implies therefore that it does not have a policy that can give direction to street children centres in terms of how to establish and operate. There is no guideline on how these children should be handled. This might be because the Government lacks the clear definition of "who is a child" Consequently the Government lacks programmes that try to eradicate the problem or improve the welfare of the SC. Among the Government officials interviewed think that SC problem is a concern of NGOs and foreign donors. And still others were of the view that these children and their parents are responsible for their own situation. And others thought these are

young criminals so must be removed from urban streets immediately before they become hard-core criminals.

Family/parents are the ones who have the major role to play for the safe upbringing of their children. The long separation of children from their families would reduce the chances of re-integration to the family. The research shows that, when a child goes to streets, most parents do not take immediate action to try to return him home. Some parents consider it a relief, others see it as just an alternative way of life. Of the 12 parents interviewed only 25% have taken initiative of tying to bring back their children home. While of the six parents interviewed whose children are in SCCs, only 2 (33%) made some efforts though not successful, and the rest did nothing. Six parents whose children have been in streets children centres only one (16.7%), restored his children through some efforts, the rest return in normal ways of SCC's rehabilitation and family re-unification programmes If this situation continues unchecked, it might result into total separation of many children from their families.

There were complains that when the SCCs, try to re-unite the children to some parents, they feel uncomfortable to take in their own children again. The SCC workers said that such parents exaggerate their hardship and less willingness to exercise their responsibilities. Some SCCs also said that, some parents have being approaching some SCCs pleading to poverty and requesting these SCCs to take care of their children especially orphans, on their behalf. Some parents have gone to the extent of impersonating their children to them as orphans. Children become reluctant

and refrain from joining their families. Since these SCCs do not want to forcibly remove children from streets/SCCs, let them stay.

5.2 Recommendations

Children have the right to grow in a safe environment. So communities are supposed to build more supportive environment for children and women. Preventive work therefore should start at grass-root level after clearly understanding why children are running from their homes and find best ways to address the root causes. Children are expected to grow up in their society, and especially in a given family this gives strength of the feeling of family and provides a sense of belonging, which gives children additional security. In the light of the above conclusions and findings of this study, the following recommendations are made which could be useful to policy makers, planners and development agencies if the SC problem is to address in the study region and rest of the country.

i. The Government has to address well the controversy issue on "who is a child" and set the child development policy mainly focussed on how to protect and improve the welfare of children in general. The Government should have clear, specific policy on eradication of street children problem as well as specific uniform policy guiding the establishment and operation of centres for street children.
ii. The success in eradication of SC problem requires committed community and individuals. These elements are presently lacking. Therefore there is need for all development agencies including Tanzania Government, NGOs and private organization to establish training programmes to the community for the creation

of awareness on street children problem. The whole community should be involved in child development, know why children are running from their homes and get education on the danger of letting children in streets. Teaching materials and researches should be translated and made available into Swahili so as to be of more universal benefit. To ensure that information reach more people, teachings should be publicly broadcasted in various local radios and spread in churches, mosques etc.

iii. The study shows that large proportion of children in streets/SCs originates from rural poor families. Large number of children in streets has not completed primary education. The study further indicates that larger number of children in streets has not even entered formal programmes of primary education. Cost sharing in education starting from primary school, might have been contributed to this situation. The government should provide free primary education to children from poor families. This will facilitate them to stay with their parents and thus enjoy parents' child upbringing and ensure that children grow up in their families and the community at large.

iv. In addition street children centres should create social centres Programmes to support families in need so that their children can continue to grow up within the protective world of their own families instead of taking them to grow up in street children centres. For those children with no parents or relatives, foster parents should be found and get assistance in terms of school fees, clothing, food etc.

v. SCCs in collaboration with the government should find ways to equip rehabilitated SC for self-reliance. That is enabling them to get working capital so that they can stay in their communities and be productive. This is to say job for these boys

should be created so as to change their lives to make them useful members of the society.

vi. The idea of extended family should be revived particularly for orphans. Need should be pressed to liaison with relatives as well as dying parents in order to identify relatives to whom they could entrust their children in case of death.

vii. Factors which push the children to streets as discussed in chapter IV of this work must be addressed to solve the SC problem once and for all, instead of solving the symptoms as being done by many SCCs.As indicated in this research the majority of the children in streets are because of poverty. Hence if poverty alleviation policies become practical they can minimize the drifting of children to urban areas.

viii. The longterm solution to the SC must avoid rehabilitating children in isolation of families and community. It must ensure that children get sense of belonging to a family and community while they undergo rehabilitation. Thus rehabilitation of children goes hand in hand with rehabilitation of families and entire community/society.

ix. Most workers consider running away of children from their families, is an employment to them while also services offered to SC are very inadequate. These lack clear goals but work with SCCs to earn their daily bread. To stop this situation i suggest that the government makes close supervision on activities and programmes of all SCCs. The activities/programmes should be monitored and evaluated and accounts audited.

5.3 Area for further research

There are a number of issues that have not been thoroughly covered by this study, which could be followed by other researchers. In order to explore more information about SC, there is a need to collect data and information from a wide range of sources. Such study could reveal more important issues on SCC in the country. It is suggested that other researcher take up the challenges to find out why there are no visible girls in streets.

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APPENDICIES

Appendix I: Questionnaire for social welfare workers

1.Name of respondent...

2. Age ...

3. Sex...

4. Level of Education...

(i) No formal education ( )

(ii) Up to standard four ( )

(iii) Primary education ( )

(iv) Beyond primary education (Specify)...

6. Designation...

7. What are the estimated number of street children in Moshi Municipality?

8. What is the estimated numbers in street children centres?

9. What is the estimated numbers of street children in Kilimanjaro region?

10. How many street children centres are in Moshi Municipality? ...

11. Name these street children centres.

12. What are their capacity? ...

13. How do they operate? ...

14. How does the Government collaborate in operations?

15. Which are regulations/rules guiding the street children centres?

16. How are they financed?

17. What is the government's contribution to these street children centres?

18. How does the government ensure children in centres are not mistreated?

19. What do you think are the reasons for no visible street girls in Moshi Municipality?

20. What do you think are primary casual factors driving children to the streets in Kilimanjaro Region?

21. What do you think should be done to stop/reduce number of street children? ...

22. What is your advice to the:

a) Government...

b) Parents

c) Owners of street children centre? ...

d) Children...

Appendix II: Questionnaire for workers in street children centres

1. Name of respondent...
2. Age ...
3. Sex...
4. Tittle...
5. Level of Education

   (i) No of formal education ( )

   (ii) Up to standard four ( )

   (iii) Primary education ( )

   (iv) Beyond primary education (Specify)...

6 Name of street children centre...

7 Registration number...Date...

8 For how long have you been working with street children? ...

9 What do you think are the main factors driving children to streets in Kilimanjaro? ...

10 What do you think can be the cure for the street children problem? ...

11 What do you think are the factors causing some children to prefer life in streets rather than in street children centres? ...

12 What are the pre-requisites for admission in your street children centres ? ...

13 Which are contact addresses of some parents/relatives?

(i) Name ...

Village...

Districts...

(ii) Name...

Village...

Districts...

(iii) Name...

Village...

Districts...

(iv) Name...

Village...

Districts...

(v) Name...

Village...

Districts...

19 Where are most children coming from?

Villages...

Districts...

20 What do you think are the major reasons?

21 How many children have you been receiving? ...

Year	Number of children	Average age

22. How do you help children build their own future life? ...

23. Do you have education programme ? Yes/No...

24. Which is the programme ?

25. How are they being conducted? ...

26. What do you think are the reasons for visible street boys than girl? ...

27. Which are social services offered by the centre? ...

28 How are they offered? ...

29 How do the children who are not in your street children centres benefit? ...

30 What is your motive towards working with street children centres? ...

31 What problems encountered by working with street children centre?...

32 What measures are taken to solve the problems facing the centres?...

33 What problems do you think children face in streets?

34 Does the centres have any income generating activities? Yes/No...

35 How do you operate them? ...

36 How do you cooperate with the government in dealing with street children? ...

37 Is there any problem by cooperating with the Government in dealing with street children ?... Yes/No...

38 If Yes what are the problems? ...

39 What is your future plan? ...

40 What are your advice to:

Children

Government

Parents

Community

Other street children centres

Appendix III: Questionnaire for children in street centers

1. Name of respondent...
2. Age...
3. Sex...
4. Place of domicile ...
5. Level of education

   (i) No formal education ( )

   (ii) Up to standard four ( )

   (iii) Primary education ( )

(iv) Beyond primary education (specify)...

6. Where are your parents/guardian living (village/District)
7. What is their occupation...
8. How many children are you in your family...

   Female... Male...

9. Did you come from home straight to Moshi Municipality or lived somewhere else first?
10. If no where were you living before? ...
11. And why did you leave that place? ...
12. With whom were you living with before (relative, mother, grand parents, father, parents)...

14 What are your driving reasons to street life?

15 How did you come to the street children center?

16 How do you see life in streets as compared to life at your home?

17 How do you see life in street children centre as compared to life in streets? ...

18 How do you compare life at home and in street children centre?

19 When did you last visit your home? .

20 Would you like to return home?...Yes/No

Reasons---

21 How is your daily programme here in street chhildren centre?

22 Would you like changes? ...Yes/No

23 Which ones?

24 What are your advice to:

(i) Owners of Street children centre? ---

(ii) Parents----

(iii) Government...

(iv) Other children in streets...

Appendix IV Questionnaire for children in streets

1. Name of respondent...

2. Age...

3 Sex...

4 Place of domicile...

5 Level of education...

(i) No formal education ( )

(ii) Up to standard four ( )

(iii) Primary education ( )

(iv) Beyond primary education (Specify)...

6 Where are your parents/guardian living (Village/District)...?

7 What is their occupation? ...

8 How many children are you in your family? ...

Male...

Female...

9 Did you come from home straight to Moshi Municipality or lived some where else first?

10 If not, where were you living before?

11 And why you left that place?

12 Whom were you living with before (Relatives, mother, father, grand parents, parents)

13 What are your driving reasons to the street life? ...

14 Did you come straight to Moshi Municipality?..... Yes/No

If yes where were you first? ...

15 Do you visit your home?.... Yes/No...

16. When did you last visit? ...

17.How do you compare life at home and at streets? ...

18. How do you get your daily needs in streets...?

19. How do you get health facilities? ...

20. Would you like to return home?..... Yes/No----

21. Where do you spend your night? ---

22. What are your reasons? ...

23. What problems do you face in streets ? ...

24. Why don't you go to live in street children centres? ...

25 What is your advice to:

Other children? ...

Parents...

Owners of street children centres? ...

Government...

Appendix V: Questionnaire for parents whose children are in street/centres

1. Name of respondent

2. Age---

3. Sex---

4. Marital status-----

Single ( )

Married ( )

Divorced ( )

Widow ( )

Separated ( )

5. Level of Education

No formal Education ( )

Primary education ( )

Secondary Education ( )

Higher education ( )

6 Occupation...

7 Other activities...

8 Relation with the child in street/ centre for street children...

9 How many children do you have...

Own children... male/female...

Other children ---male /female...

10 How many children are in school ...

11 How many children are not schooling...

12 Why not in school...

13 What do you think are the reasons for children to resort life in streets rather than at home?

14 For how long your child/children have left home? ...

15 Have you done any efforts to return the child/children at home? ... Yes/No...

16 What are these efforts? ...

17 What are the achievements? ...

18 What problems encountered? ...

19 Do you think you need any assistance in returning the child home?

Yes/No-----

20 What assistance needed? ...

21 Do you have contact with your child/children?..... Yes/No...

23 When did she/he last visit home?

24 Did you notice any changes in behaviour?..... Yes/No

25 What are the changes--------

26 What is your advice to:

Children? ...

Parents...

Owners of street children centres? ...

Government...

Appendix VI: Questionnaire for parents whose children have been in centres

1 Name of respondent...

1. Age...

2. Sex...

3. Marital status...

Single ( )

Divorced ( )

Widow ( )

Married ( )

Separated ( )

4. Level of Education

(i) No formal education ( ) (ii) Primary education ( )

(iii) Secondary Education ( ) (iv) Higher education ( )

5. Occupation...

6. Other activities...

7. Relation with the child who has been in street children centre

8. How many children do you have...

Own children... Male...Female...

Other children...Male...Female...

10 How many children are in school...?

11 How many children are not schooling? ...

12 Why not in school? ...

13. What do you think are reasons for children to resort life in streets rather than at home? ...

14 What efforts you did to return your children home ----

15. Did you get any support from else where? .... Yes/No

16. What are the supports?

17. What problems did you encounter? ----

18. How do you come into contact with your child ---?

19. How did you solve these problems? ...

20 What is your advice to

(i) Parents... (ii) Government...

(iii) Children centres ...(iv) Children...

Appendix VII: Questionnaire for village executive officers

1. Name of respondent... 2. Age...

3. Sex... 4. Marital status

Single ( ) Divorced ( )

Widow ( ) Married ( )

Separated ( )

5. Level of education

(i) No formal education ( )

(ii)Primary education ( )

(iii)Secondary education ( )

(iv) Higher education ( )

6. Occupation...

7. What do you think are the reasons for children to resort life in street rather than at home?

8. How do you cooperate with parents to return their children home? ...

9. What problems do you encounter? ...

10. How do you solve the problems? ...

11. How the village government helps children/parents live with their children/parents? .

12. How do you see the characteristics of children from streets/centres as compared to before they left ? ...

13. How do you help these children live normal life? ...

14. What is your advice to

(a) Parents...

(b) Children...

(c) Street children centres...

(d) Government...