

**ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF STREET CHILDREN  
TO THE COMMUNITY: A CASE STUDY OF NYAMAGANA WARD,  
MWANZA**

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REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL  
WORK OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**

**2019**

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that has read and hereby recommends for acceptance by The Open University of Tanzania a dissertation titled, “Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Street Children to the Community: A Case Study of Nyamagana Ward, Mwanza” in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Social Work.

.....

Dr. Huruma Sigalla  
(Supervisor)

.....

Date

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**DECLARATION**

I, Abraham Msechu, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my own original work and that it has never been presented and will not be presented to any other University for similar or any other degree award.

.....

Signature

.....

Date

**DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved family, my wife Mrs. Jovitha J. Mmochi, and my beloved children Faithy, Ian and Aviel who cared for me during all this time of my study.

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My first and foremost thanks should go to the Almighty God for giving me the strength and courage to pursue my studies and conducting this research study. I owe special thanks to my family for their help, advice, guidance, continued support and encouragement. The study swallowed a lot of time and other resources, which they had a right to claim and for which there is no compensation, but may God bless them.

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**ABSTRACT**

The study aimed to assess the socio-economic impact of street children to the society by focusing on Nyamagana ward, Mwanza as a case study. Specifically, the study aimed to identify social, psychological and economic effects of street children in Nyamagana ward, to find out how Nyamagana ward deals with the problem of street children and identify challenges they face in dealing with the issue. The methodology used to conduct this study was qualitative in nature. The findings of the study show that the presence of street children has severe impacts on Nyamagana ward because it results in more incidences of petty crime, reported cases of juvenile delinquency, prostitution, incidences of child neglect, prevalence of child labour, loitering and increased rates of drug abuse among the youth. The study recommends that the government should urgently take measures to address the problem of increase in number of street children in order to avoid social upheavals that may arise due to the plight of street children in Tanzania. Also, the government should establish more centre for accomodating street children. And when they are established, they should be governed effectively to keep childfren off the street.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

UNICEF (2011) defines a street child as any boy or a girl for whom the street has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults. Lugala and Mbwambo (2010) define street children as a young person under the age of 18, who lives and sleeps in the street. A street child is a young person under the ages of 15 who lives and sleeps in the street, whose family ties are broken and who cannot return home. Street children refer to those who work and/or sleep on the streets. Such children and/or may not necessarily be adequately supervised or directed by responsible adults and they include the two co-existing categories (UNICEF, 2013).

According to Swart (2003), there are two categories of street children; children on the streets and children of the streets. Children on the streets are children who still have family connections and they belong in the community but they spend most of their day time in the streets. Children of the street are children whose streets are their home and it is there where they seek shelter, food and sense of family among their companions.

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Worldwide, the estimate number of street children sums up to 300 million who live without the basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Among these street children, 70 million children are in Africa and the number keeps increasing as the world population rises (UNICEF, 2011). There are two categories of factors which cause children to live in the streets namely; push factors and pull factors.

Push factors include; intense poverty, family conflicts such as divorce of parents, domestic violence and abuse by parents or relatives, lack of parental care, being orphaned from incurable illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, abandonment and bad experience in school. Pull factors include; the need to earn income due to poverty of parents and peer pressure (Mickelson, 2000). The problem of street children is linked to breaking down of extended family ties. Childhood security in the traditional sense of being contained within a family system is no longer there due to high rates of poverty, divorce, desertion, suicide, alcoholism, and parental death resulting in orphanhood and child abuse, as a result of these there are estimated millions of street children worldwide (Mwangosi, 2001).

Since there is always lack of employment in urban areas, most illiterate children and youth who migrate to towns seeking a better life fail to get any job, left alone without a place to live. Being frustrated, they find themselves in the street where they are not shielded or protected from unlawful activities such as alcoholism, petty theft, prostitutions and sometimes drug abuse as a means to survive the hardship of the life (Kopoka, 2000). Street children leisurely walk through a market, in railway station, past a hotel or at the roadside of any major street in the centre of most African capital towns, or urban areas and you cannot fail to see them. In order to survive in those areas they are stopping cars and people to beg or to ask for work such as pottering. You will see other shining shoes, hurrying to wash the windcreens of cars stopped at traffic lights.

Others gathered in small groups waiting for something to do, you look at them clearly their faces show strained and sadness, their clothes, are torn and dirty, others

appear hungry, suffering from ill health and malnutrition. At night, you can see them huddled along street corners, in doorway and secluded corner (Kapoka, 2000). Peacock's (2004) study on street children in South Africa explains that, in ancient times, about the eighth century B.C, the phenomenon of street children was virtually unknown, primarily as a result of ancient Roman law, which provided the father with unlimited power over his children. This power enabled the father to eliminate the unwanted children by assassinating or selling them as slaves.

The turn of 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen a sea of changes in most of the wringing concerning street children. The term street children itself has almost disappeared from the literature which now uses different appellations to refer to street children and other disadvantaged groups. Children themselves, of course, are still on the street; easily visible in the majority urban centres (Le Roux, 2003).

Peacock's (2003) study on psycho-criminal investigations in Pretoria posits that street children occurred during the middle age too. During 1212, nomadic children were noticed in rural areas of Europe, due to famine and civil war these children survived by raiding villages. Many were captured and sold off as slaves. Peacock further argued that gangs of urban youths were noticed during the Russian revolution of 1917. As a result of civil war and famine, many children were forced to survive on the streets. They survived through begging, theft or the performance of odd jobs. Estimates indicate that, during this period, there were about 6,000,000 street children in Russia. As result of worldwide economic depression in the period 1930-1940, many children were compelled to leave their parental house to live as nomads on the street (Peacock, 2003).

The problem of street children has been growing steadily in the last two decades. An estimated 10 million children in Africa live without families, most in towns as 'street children' (UNICEF, 2004). While the aforesaid estimates tend to be realistically low, it must also be noted that in the last two decades or so, Africa has experienced unprecedented level of crisis ranging from such natural disasters as famine resulting from drought to enthrone-religious wars, wars of attrition and the devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS. All these put together have added a quantum leap in the number of street children in Africa. Africa estimated currently to be in the range of 40 million (UNICEF 2007). The problem of street children is a growing problem worldwide but more so in African countries. The presence of street children in Africa, sometimes as young as three in urban areas was virtually unheard of prior to the transition to market economy.

The growth of industries in towns and cities has tempted some children living in rural areas to migrate to urban areas, thinking that in urban areas life would be better, while in urban areas, they find themselves having nowhere to live and nothing to do to earn a living. Therefore, these children spend their time on the streets begging to make a living (Ennew, 1996). A study by Peacock (2004) on street children revealed that in Africa, this phenomenon was first seen during the last 1960s and it is estimated that there were 16 million self-employed street children in the 2003s, with the number doubling in 2000 in Zimbabwe. For example colonial officials were concerned with the way children survived on the streets or made a living on the streets. Many of these children found wage employment in urban areas as domestic servants including, in some cases, offering sexual services to single miners who

lived in the huts they built for themselves in native locations adjacent to the mines. However the literature shows that the exact number of street children is not yet known because street children are nomadic people (Peacock, 2004).

According to the study by Kulena (2008), majority of street children were found in urban areas due to rural-urban migration caused by economic hardship in rural areas. Currently the problem is not the children who are currently on the streets, but the scale of children who are vulnerable within their homes and will inevitably become street children because there are no alternative safety nets. The extent to which children in Tanzania are able to fulfil their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter is not known. The issue of street children has been studied by various people, from different aspects especially on the causes of street children. According to Chaula (2001), several canterers have been established in Tanzania to accommodate street children.

Such canterers include; Dogodogo Canter, Msimbazi Canter and Child in the Sun, all in Dar es Salaam. These canterers were established to help street children recover from the hardship of street life. Apart from basic needs of food, clothing and shelter provided by these canterers to street children, the centers also offer psychological and educational guidance and counselling services to solve their social and emotional problems.

Due to the small number of such centers, only few children have benefited from these services. The rest are still on the streets and it is not clear how they materially and emotionally cope with the problems they face in the streets (UNICES, 2003). as

a result, the phenomenon of street children has become a big problem with numerous socio-economic effects.

### **1.2 Statement of the Study**

Since the early 2000s, Tanzania has witnessed a rapid increase in the number of children living in the streets. A research carried out by Global Giving (2013) found out that there are estimated 437,500 street children in Tanzania and the number keeps increasing. Dar es Salaam has the most number of street children (112,085) followed by Mwanza (88,450) and Arusha (67,012). Street children are socially excluded; they lack basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, they lack proper education and health care. To survive, street children involve themselves in various activities such as; begging, stealing, prostitution and selling drugs. Not only that, street children are also vulnerable to various forms of exploitation such as child labour as well as sexual, physical and mental abuse (Lugala and Mbwambo, 2010).

Various measures have been taken to address the plight of street children in Tanzania. The measures include establishment of shelter homes which provide street children with accommodation, food, clothing, treatment, psychological guidance and education. One of such centres is Kuleana Centre located in Nyamagana ward in Mwanza. However, these shelters can accommodate only a few children, leaving many children in the streets. However, very little is known about the socio-economic effects inflicted by street children on the society. Limited evidence-based information is available which explains the relationship between street children and the communities where they live. Hence, there is a knowledge gap. This study aims to fill that gap by focusing on Nyamagana ward, Mwanza as a case study.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study was to assess the impact of street children to the society by focusing on Nyamagana ward as a case study.

#### **1.3.1 Specific Objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- i. To identify social, psychological and economic effects of street children in Nyamagana ward.
- ii. To find out how Nyamagana ward deals with the problem of street children.
- iii. To identify challenge faced by Nyamagana ward in dealing with the issue of street children.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following questions;

- i. What are social, psychological and economic effects of street children in Nyamagana ward?
- ii. How does Nyamagana ward deal with the problem of street children?
- iii. What are the challenges faced by Nyamagana ward in dealing with the issue of street children?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study will be useful to residents of Nyamagana ward and members of the general public by helping to raise their awareness on the factors which cause children to become street children, the socio-economic effects of street children to

the society, and how the society of Nyamagana ward as a whole deals with the problem of street children and whether or not they have succeeded to solve the problem.

Findings of the study will help the government leaders, decision makers, counsellors, social workers, Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs) faith-based institutions and other stakeholders responsible for the welfare of children in Tanzania to develop strategies and formulate policies aimed at helping to devise appropriate measures to reduce the problem of street children. Findings of the study will also serve as a stepping stone for future studies on the same or similar subjects by identifying areas that need further studies to be conducted. Also, successful completion of the study will help the study to partially fulfil the requirements for the award of a masters degree in Social Work offered by The Open University of Tanzania (OUT).

#### **1.6 Limitation and Delimitations of the Study**

It was difficult to get reliable information from street children concerning how they became street children, and their effects on the society. However, the study assured the children that this study will be beneficial to them. And the findings of the study were only being treated confidentially. Also the study expected to face the problem of time and financial constraints that might affect the quality of data.

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## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents different material reviews to cover literature review and empirical review. Also presents theories which guide the study, such as Maslow theory of Human Development and Social capital theory which offers the theoretical beginning of the analysis of the street children phenomenon. The major concern here was to assess socio-economic impacts of street children to the community

#### **2.1.1 Theoretical Literature Review**

**Maslow's Theory of Human Development:** The study was guided by Maslow's Theory of Human Development. According to this theory, a street child never develops into a full potential of self actualization. Human development can be explained in terms of gratification. The needs must be fulfilled for self actualization to be achieved. Thus, since street children have unfulfilled needs, they never achieve self actualization.

According to Maslow's Theory of Human Development, unfulfilled needs of street children include; psychological needs, safety needs, needs for affiliation and love, needs for self esteem and finally, needs for self actualization. To fill the gap for these needs, street children resort to actions which are against the norms of society and involve themselves in activities which become a burden to the society (Barrete, 2004). Maslow's Theory of Human Development is suitable for this study because it tries to establish the link between unfulfilled needs of street children, how children

cope with unfulfilled needs (the coping mechanism used by street children to fulfill their needs) and how street children become a burden to the society if their needs are unfulfilled.

**Social Capital Theory:** The social capital theory offers a beginning point in the theoretical analysis of the street children phenomenon. This theory draws a correlation between family structure and street children. Coleman (2003) defines social capital as resources which "inheres in the structure of relations between actors and among actors and is productive, making possible the achievement of certain ends that in its absence would not be possible.

For a child to have access to other resources in the society, the family of the child should possess some social capital, which should be accessible to the child. Coleman (2003) further posits that the social capital of the family is the relationship between children and parents. That is, if the human capital possessed by the parents is not complemented by social capital embodied in family relations. The theory is irrelevant to the child's educational growth that the parent has a great deal, or a small amount of human capital. The social capital of a child should include the synergy of the family social capital and community social capital. Coleman (2003) refers to family social capital as the relationships between parents and their children, which encompass the time, efforts, resources and energy that parents invest in their children.

In contrast, community social capital represents family's interactions and relationships with the surrounding community. Here, the community encompasses

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both residents and local social institutions, including schools and other non formal systems of support. Coleman (2003) further contends that “unlike other forms of capital, social capital inheres in the structure of relations between persons and among persons.

The importance of social capital theory in providing a firm theoretical basis for understanding the delinquency among children has been offered by Hagan and McCarthy (2007). They contend that the focus of social capital theory on institutional sources, which includes work, family, school, neighborhood, and community, provides an important insight to the explanation of crime and delinquency among children. Hagan and McCarthy (2007) link a lack of social capital in the family to street children. To link this theory to the phenomenon of street children in Tanzania, the study first explored some theoretical assumptions from Coleman’s assertions. Coleman (2003) contends that family capital investment in children is to ensure their access to other forms of social capital.

Wright *et al.* (2001) further posit that; a family will invest time, effort, and resources in its children with the goal to forego an intergenerational link that embeds the youth into relationships of mutual trust and obligation what Coleman refers to as closure. Coleman makes explicit reference to certain, but not all, potential outcomes associated with family investment. Wright *et al.* (2001) assert that if families are committed towards the education of their children, the likely results will not only be success in the educational enterprise of the children, but will also reduce the tendency of the children being delinquent.

Children with little or no social capital are bound to leave their nesting home in search of a better life and other avenues of comfort. In the case of street children based on some assertions made above, one can conclude that the lack of social capital within the children's cycle of existence is a major catalytic causality of their decision to leaving their nesting homes. However, the study's analysis of the data will either collaborate or contradict the assertions of the social capital theory.

The most obvious way to define a child would seem to be in terms of age. The United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN in 1989, defines a child as every human being below the age of 18 unless, under the law of his/her state he/she has reached his/her age of majority earlier" (Eade *et al.*, 2000). Childhood refers to the state and condition of a child's life. A child who has been kidnapped by a paramilitary group and compelled to bear arms or forced into sexual slavery cannot have a childhood; neither can a child put to hard labour in workshops in cities far from family and home village. Children living in abject poverty without adequate food, access to education, safe water, sanitation facilities and shelter are also denied their childhood (UNICEF, 2005).

The concept of childhood as period of protracted protection was developed in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Today, most of the world's children live in the earth's poorest parts or in the slum and improverished rural sections of the so-called developed countries. For children from poor families in these areas children is much shorter that it is for children from well-to-do families. This is because poor children usually have to go to work from a very early age to support their families. For that

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reason the majorities of children in poor countries either never go to school or, if they do, never have a chance to go beyond elementary school (Geddes, 1997).

Millions of children make their way through life impoverished, abandoned, uneducated, discriminated against, neglected and vulnerable. For them life is a daily struggle to survival. Whether they live in urban centres or rural out posts, they risk missing out on their childhood. They are excluded from essential services such as hospitals and schools, lack the protection of family and community, and are often at risk of exploitation and abuse. For these children, childhood as a time to grow, play, learn and play safe is in effect meaningless (UNICEF, 2006).

The experiences of these children contrast with the ideal of childhood as a time when children are allowed to grow and develop to their full potential (UNICEF, 2005). From the above premises: if childhood is defined in a western sense, for many children in the world this is a broken promise, as they will never experience such a long period of care and protection. Children are especially in difficulty circumstance when their basic needs for food, shelter, education, medical care, or protection and security are not met. Such children are at great risk of suffering malnutrition, disease and possibly death. Unless their own situation changes, their condition of gross disadvantage will extend to their own children who may suffer even greater misery and suffering (CEDDS, 2001).

The plight of children in developing countries is all too well known to merit extensive discourse. In a very major international forum, the needs of children and youth are subject of intense debate and preoccupation. The 1990s 'New York World

Summit for Children' is a vivid testimony to the concern that the global community has shown in recognizing the needs of children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has addressed comprehensively the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for children. The international community has been time and again reminded that special attention must be paid to the various needs of particularly vulnerable children such as street children (Tedla, 1996).

Innocent children throughout the world are still facing war and mass migration, social discrimination and illiteracy, malnutrition and epidemics, along with their socially disadvantaged families. Millions are wilting under especially default circumstances (Gobena, 1994). The situation of disadvantaged children in Africa is particularly precarious. The OAU/UNICEF report has put the plight of Africa's disadvantaged children in the following informative manner. Africa's children in especially difficulty circumstances represent on this continent's most urgent and devastating problems robbing our children of their childhood. As in other least developed countries, the situation of children in general and children in especially difficult circumstances in particular, is very critical in Ethiopia. Along with women they represent the most vulnerable group in society (Tadele, 1996). Localised studies in Ethiopia have indicated not only that all categories of children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC) do exist.

## **2.2 Empirical Literature Review**

Street children comprise a very mixed group, with different background and personalities that challenge any neat categorization. The term street children have

been defined in various ways. Swart (2003), on the other hand, categorizes street children into two groups based on the reasons, which brought them onto the street, thus the push out or throw away and run away.

Various names have been given to street children in various countries. In Tanzania they are known as 'watoto wa mitaani', in Kenya they are known as "chokoraa" and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) they are known as "Les Chameaux. Studying street children in South Africa, Swart (2003) argues that in Johannesburg, as elsewhere in the world, street children are predominantly male. The existence of street children in the largest cities is not particularly new. But the international media began to document the condition of large numbers of Brazilian street children as early as the 1970s. Thus the presence of children living on the street has elicited emotional public concern, having been given considerable media coverage and caused the matter of priority for national and international child welfare organizations.

Publications in both academic and welfare literature have emphasized the sheer scale of the worldwide problem, have sought to explain the root causes of this phenomenon, have summarized the characteristics identifying street children worldwide, and have documented the terrible consequences of street lifestyle for children's health and development (Le Roux, 2003). Despite the significant media attention over the past 15-20 years, the study agrees with Ennew, (1996) that much remain unknown about the lives and activities of street children, and how they manage on their own to cope with such a life. Street children have been a constant source of fascination for those whose childhood years have passed (Swart-Kruger,

1996).

Swart-Kruger (1996) observed further that these are people who have decided to take responsibility for their own life. The street children phenomenon has been developing at a high speed to match industrial and economic activities, as well as social services, which have developed rapidly in towns and cities, thus creating many problems, both in developed and developing world. Throughout the world, there are children who have drifted away from their families. There are no countries and virtually no city anywhere in the world today without the presence of street children. Both developed and developing countries face a broad spectrum of problems posed by these children. However, experience has shown that the problems are more serious in the developing countries (Peacock, 2003).

Though the reasons for this are not yet adequately researched, it appears that girls are abandoned less frequently, and when the family disintegrates, relatives and neighbours are more willing to take them in than boys. Boys are more likely to be involved in activities which put them on the street such as vending, car washing, collecting scraps, pick pocketing, shoe shining and involvement in drug dealing (Peacock, 2003). On the other hand, girls are more often employed or earn an income off the streets, for example by being involved in commercial sex, household tasks and child minding. These differences reflect cultural beliefs that males are stronger and able to fend for themselves on the streets. Some cultures consider that it is the responsibility of the male child to be the provider for the family, thus forcing him out to earn an income.

Calves (2007), in his study on the prevention of street migration in Angola contended that, for many cultures and specific communities, the phenomenon of street children is often considered to be an embarrassment and viewed as a failure of their respective societies. It appears that, in these communities, the least tolerated aspect of this problem is to witness young girls on the street. Where communities feel a need to protect their children, often it is traditionally the girls who are offered the greatest protection, or who are placed in roles, which keep them at a distance from outside the world. This community's intolerance of street children which differs according to gender is a critical factor in determining how a community responds to the problem of street children.

Swart's (2003) study on the moral values of street children in Hill brow, Johannesburg, found that for those children who have left their families, the gender differences are still evident. Physical, sexual and emotional abuses are common reasons for a child to leave home. As survival on the streets is less threatening for boys, it may be an easier decision for boys to leave an abusive family setting than for a girl. Swart (2003) further argues that the reasons why there is such a large gender difference with regard to the numbers of street children are obviously complex and multifaceted. The preceding discussion only alludes to some possible factors, which require further investigation. In particular, any such inquiry needs to address specific cultural issues, which determine the differences between street boys and girls which are not solely those of numbers and activities.

Street girls are at greater risk of experiencing certain health problems than boys. Girls also experience specific problems related to adolescent female development

and reproductive health. On streets, the risks are considerable, with unplanned pregnancies often complicated by minimal or no antenatal care, poor nutrition and hygiene, sexual violence and the possible use of drugs (Swart, 2003). Lalor (2004) took at the life that these unfortunate girls lead on the streets of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. He found that all children at risk of sexual exploitation, but girls living in poverty, those who have been abandoned or abused, are more vulnerable. Street girls are seen by many as being available for sex. The majority of the street girls are solicited daily for sex by street boys, private individuals and by brokers such as bar owners.

Evidence suggests that, in general, boys are more likely to experience physical violence at home whilst girls experience more psychological and sexual violence. Martins' (2003) research in Brazil shows that boys are likely to be victims of family violence than girls. These distinct gender patterns of violence in the home have implication for trends in the phenomenon of streets migration. Globally, girls make up of the small percentage of street living children (estimates range from 3-30 percent, depends on the country). That is, in developing countries the proportion of girls among street children is reported to be less than 30 percent and about 50 percent in many developed countries.

Street children, particularly but not exclusively female street children, are exploited in the sex industry in different parts of the worlds. Female street children are not as visible on the street as their male counterparts as they are drawn in the formal system of prostitution and illicit drug addiction very soon after arriving in the city. These children live in the hotel rooms. They play their trade on the streets and in brothels.

These children do not abuse solvents as their male counterparts do, but are rather crack cocaine and intravenous opiate addicts. Many of the girls are managed by pimps who in effect control them and make any access to them by a helper almost impossible. Street girls also become victims of sex tourism. Sex tourism is a major concern to many countries in Asia as it affects a very large number of children (UNICEF, 2004).

According to a report by UNICEF (2004), Thailand, one of the favourite sex tourist destinations, has an estimated 300,000 child prostitutes. More than one million children worldwide are forced into the sex market annually. Commercial sexual exploitation of children cannot be isolated from its root causes, which include poverty and urbanization, child abuse, sexual stereotypes and gender inequalities (Child Watch, 1995). WHO has found that where HIV/AIDS epidemic began early, the newly infected are between 14-25 years of age. The demand for sex with children has increased since the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Tourists prefer young partners, believing that these are less likely to be infected with AIDS causing virus.

Cohen and Lazarus' (2009) study on coping with the stress of illness indicate that life is not static. There will be the continuing, immanent, normal stressors of life on the streets. There will be harsh, unanticipated, uncontrollable experiences, but whatever pains such experiences bring; they will be coped with successfully, allowing maintenance of the dynamics balance. The ones that increasingly seem to plague us demand the utmost perseverance and stamina. People have certain patterns of behaviour that help them to adjust and minimize the negative effects of major stressors and other traumas. These patterns are referred to as coping styles/strategies.

This definition of coping takes into account the effort needed to manage stressful demands, regardless of the results (Lazarus and Folkman, 2006).

Naughton's (2007) study on stress and coping found that coping is clearly a complex process, influenced by our personality types and social and physical characteristics of the setting (Mechanic, 1978). Some coping strategies are internal, that is, they are based on what occurs within our psyches. These internal methods are the ways in which we use our thinking abilities in planning, analysing, and synthesizing information. Other coping strategies are external. These external methods include those through which we gather information, act in the environment (Halligan, 1995). Coping theorists have distinguished between acute and chronic stressors. Acute stressors are major life events such as loss of both parents whereas chronic stressors refer to dealing with daily stressors such as the struggle to get daily food.

There are various coping strategies used by street children to cope with daily hassles. Studying street life in America, Hall (1972) found that street children are exposed to a variety of potential harms, but are able to manage because they do not live in fear as they perceive their problems as part of their life or occupational hazards (Riccio, 1992). He analysed how street children cope with their environments and concluded that street children cope with violence by manipulating the street landscape, such as bus stops, benches, and so on, and concluded that the primary way street children learn how to avoid violence is through experience. This means that they must first be subjected to abuse. Experience actually improves the odds of avoiding violence.

Poverty is a major cause of street children. Africa is a continent characterized by extreme poverty. It is poverty that is resulting in children being forced to work on the street to support themselves and their families. It is poverty that also causes many families to break up with parents being unable to support their children. It is rural poverty that is making children to move to urban areas with the hope of better future. Poverty causes malnutrition and poor health and reduces a family's ability to work thus creating conditions for children to move to the street. Tanzania is a testament to the depth and breadth of the country's poverty and the low level of economic development. Thus, poverty is one of the main reasons why children run away from their homes and become street children as a way of escaping poverty in their homes (Kopoka, 2000).

According to Lugalla and Mbwambo (1996), the family institution in Africa is going through a lot of upheavals, fewer and fewer children have stable and loving family environment. Many families have broken up with children left to fend for themselves. Many families are characterized by absent parents or poor communication between parent and children. Alcoholism and domestic violence and abuse in the family are also rampant. It is common occurrence to hear of terrifying stories of abuse of children by parents or family members. The result is that of more and more children escaping to the streets as a safe haven. Once on the street, children beg and steal to survive. New arrivals on the street soon find the streets inhospitable (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1996).

Onyango's (2004) study on the extent of labour problems in Africa indicates that the problem of street children is the most visible part of the labour problem. It is difficult

to disassociate the issue of child labour from that of street children. Some scholars combine the two concepts of street children and child labourers and call them “street and working children. The International Labour Organization’s (2002) study on child labour in Tanzania defined child work as the involvement of children in work for the purpose of earning a living for themselves or their families. This is one of the major reasons why street children are on the streets. Furthermore, many children who have been working as domestic maids have become street children after being abused by their employers.

A study by UNICEF (2004) revealed that rarely does the proportion of income generated by children exceed 10-20 percent. Therefore, poverty may determine whether a child works, but it rarely improve the life of a family with children who work. Indeed, it may perpetuate the cycle, as children neither complete their education nor are taught skills, which will enable them to become employed. According to United Nation (UN, 2008) statistics, there are approximately 100 to 200 million street children worldwide. About 18% of such children are under the age of 18. In Latin America there are 40 million street children, in Brazil alone there are about 17 million, and about 1.2 million in the Philippines. In Bombay, there are about 3 million. In Germany there are only about 7,000.

In Tanzania, most societies, especially poor rural ones, child work is not regarded as bad, is regarded as part of socialization process, which gradually introduces children to work activities and teaches them how to survive. Children perform different activities according to their ability, but due to economic realities, different families have altered what children supposed to do (Dunford, 1996). In Tanzania, there are no

known statistics of street children. The phenomenon of street children in Tanzania results mainly from family breakdown. In an increasing individualistic society such children quickly learn to survive on their own, and in the process are exploited through child labour and trafficking. Many take to the streets for refuge from hardships experienced in the home (Kapoka, 2000).

Two main kinds of street children are found in Tanzania: those who live and work on the street, (Children of the Street) and those who work on the streets full or part time but who return to their homes each night (Children in the Street). Yet, there is another variant of the street children known as street wandering boys and girls roaming the streets doing nothing serious. While it is hard to come by accurate national statistics on street children in Tanzania, available figures are often contested, and many are estimates or extrapolated figures from other sources as opposed to figures derived from specific studies. A study conducted by Kuleana (2008), shows that homeless street children were rare in the mid 1980s.

Anna (2013) did a study on the challenges experienced by Kinondoni district in managing street children. The findings revealed that the NGOs, the district officials and the Government have no abilities in managing the complex issue of street children in Kinondoni district, the study recommended that the issues need to be looked from the large framework of the families, political and economical aspect before it is addressed. Weber, (2013) did a study in Uganda on the challenges the Kampala city experienced after the effects of Gulu war in Uganda.

The study findings showed that the street children in Kampala city were a problem. The children were unmanageable and they experienced a lot of problems like stealing

in the streets that led to imprisonment, they experience lack of food, no shelter, no clothes and other forced to be baggers in the streets. Girls street children were forced to prostitution and other experienced rapping. Further, Weber (2013) explained that the causes of the street children in Uganda were associated with extreme poverty and domestic violence. In one case a boy was asked to take goats to pastures. Unfortunately when the little boy went back home without complete number of goats, the brother did a very serious violence by cutting the leg of the little boy. Hai (2014) did a study on the problems facing street children in Dhaka city, Bangladesh, the findings reflected that street children was a failure or the collapse of the social systems, weak social network, weak social capital, poverty and families insecurity.

### **2.3 Knowledge Gap**

As seen in this chapter, various studies have been conducted on the extent of the problem of street children, problems faced by street children and the factors that force children to become street children such as poverty and child labour. However, no academic study has been conducted on the socio-economic effects of street children in Mwanza area, specifically in Nyamagana ward. As a result, there is a knowledge gap that needs to be addressed. This study tries to fill that knowledge gap by making an assessment of socio-economic effects of street children to Nyamagana ward, the factors which causes children to become street children, and how Nyamagana ward deals with the problem of street children, and whether it has succeeded or not.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter presents the overall research design, location of the study, the sample, sample size, sampling techniques, nature as well as sources of data collection techniques and instruments, and data analysis employed for the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The methodological approach that was used in this study was qualitative. The study adapted a case study approach. This study attempted to understand the perceptions of members of the community on the socio-economic impact of street children on the community. Qualitative enquiry focuses on exploring, describing, interpreting and understanding social situations. The researcher used case study because it deepens research perception and gives us a clear insight of street children. Under case study we not only study how child become street child but peep into the factors which can be attributed to the social economic impact of street children in the community

#### **3.2 Area of the Study**

The study was conducted in Nyamagana ward in Mwanza. Nyamagana ward was selected as the area of the study because it is the most populous of all wards in Mwanza, with a population of 223, 015 residents (Census, 2012) which represents a quarter of all residents of Mwanza City. Records obtained from the Mwanza City Council show that Nyamagana ward has the highest number of street children in Mwanza which stood at 3,331 in December, 2012.

### 3.3 Population, Sample and Sample Size

#### 3.3.1 Population

The population of the study was made up of residents of Nyamagana ward. It is from this population that the study selected residents of Nyamagana ward who participated in the study as respondents. The targeted population of the study also involved street children, local government leaders and social workers, teachers and parents. The reason for including local government leaders is to check the reliability of data.

#### 3.3.2 Sample Size

The study used the sample size of 100 due to lack of time and funds. It included 20 street children, 75 residents of Nyamagana ward, 1 local government leader, 2 Social Workers and 2 teachers as shown in the table below.

**Table 3.1: Sample and Sample Size**

Type of respondent	Number
Local government leader	1
Social workers of Nyamagana ward	2
Residents of Nyamagana ward	75
Teachers	2
Street children	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** researcher, 2019

#### 3.3.3 Sampling Techniques

Sampling technique is a process of selecting a sample from the population. In this study, the study used purposive sampling techniques for all types of respondents based on the criteria of their awareness on the effects of street children to the society. Purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents among street children,

local government leaders, teachers, social workers and residents of Nyamagana ward.

In order to get maximum number of source population for the sample frame streets were selected based on their concentration of street children. Selection of streets was done through observation and consulting some street children and individuals working in the area of street children. One day prior to data collection, registration of all street children living/working in street was done.

### **3.4 Techniques of data collection**

During the study both primary and secondary data collection techniques were used. Primary data collection methods that were used during the study include observation, questionnaires and interviews. Secondary data collection method that was used to collect data is documentary review.

#### **3.4.1 Observation**

The study visited areas where street children normally gather and observed their day-to-day activities. The data was recorded by writing a brief account of what was observed. Observation enables the study to witness the phenomenon he/she is studying, as well as day-to-day activities of respondents. The study chose this method because it enabled him to get first hand information.

#### **3.4.2 Interview**

An interview is a data collection method which involves a set of question administered through oral or verbal communication or is a face to face discussion

between the interviewer and the interviewee. There are two types of interviews, namely structured and unstructured interviews. Both types of interviews were conducted. The study used interviews because they allow face-to-face communication with respondents, it is a simple and easier way or method of acquiring information that provides straight answers to research questions. Also, the study used structured interview because it enabled him to get information in addition to that collected through face-to-face communication.

### **3.4.3 Documentation**

Documentation techniques were used to collect important information from various documents such as; District, Regional and National reports from various levels and Institutions. This secondary data collection technique was useful for collecting information from various publications such as journals, official documents, books, internet, and policies. However documentary review was a major source of secondary data collection includes policies, reports and governmental circulars. Documentation is also very useful because most of the data obtained using this technique is already analysed.

### **3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions**

Another technique was focus group discussions. The focus group discussions consisted of 10 respondents including 1 local government leader, 1 teacher, 1 social worker, 3 street children and 4 residents from Nyamagana ward. During focus group discussions, respondents were able to share experiences by discussing issues with each other and therefore, in turn, give each other new ideas and perspectives. Focus group discussions functioned as a good complement to the interviews for two

reasons; firstly, they enabled the researcher to attain more in-depth knowledge on issues that was continuously brought up during the interview sessions; secondly, by being a group of people with similar experiences, the participants felt more comfortable when discussing issues.

### **3.5 Data Processing, Analysis, and Presentation**

This is process of putting data into a readable way so that it may be used by the Government, NGOs and other stakeholders working with street children. The data collected were carefully tabulated, classified, coded, and analysed. Qualitative method was analysed by examining the responses given in interviews and questionnaires in line with conceptual framework to find reality.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### STUDY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

In this chapter the result of the study are presented and discussed in line with the study objectives and research questions. The chapter consist of two sections whereby section one presents the characteristic of respondents. Section two present discussion of finding, and the discussion on the application of theories used in the study in relation to the finding.

#### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section presents a profile of street children interviewed by means of a structured questionnaire with a view to understanding the problem better by gathering lifestyle and life-circumstances. The emphasis in developing this profile was on generating information that would be useful for policy development. The aim was to identify and describe trends in respect of the effects of street children. The findings of the analysis were cross-tabulated as shown in the Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Education Background**

S/N	Respondent category	Male	Female	Total
1	Primary Education	25	49	74
2	Secondary education	01	03	04
3	Highh school education	03	01	04
4	Vocation Education	10	04	14
5	Diploma Education	01	03	04
	Total	40	60	100

**Source:** Field data 2013

**Table 4.2: Respondents by Gender**

S/N	Respondents	Male	Female	Total
1	Local government leaders	01	00	01
2	Social workers Nyamagana	01	00	01
3	Residents of Nyamagana	29	46	75
4	Teachers	01	01	02
5	Street children in Nyamagana	08	13	21
	Total respondents	40	60	100

**Source:** field data 2013

**Table 4.3: Age Profile**

Sn	Age profile	Male	Female	Total
1	12-25	25	35	60
2	26-35	10	06	16
3	36-45	04	08	12
4	46 -55	03	05	08
5	56-Above	1	3	04
Total				100

**Source:** field data 2013

These findings are based on the study conducted between 16 June and July, 2013 in Nyamagana ward, Mwanza region. A total of 100 respondents were involved. The researcher interviewed street children, local government leaders, individual stakeholders from NGOs dealing with street children and local government officials in Nymagana ward.

The findings from the study shows that 60% of respondents are female while 40% of respondents are male. On the issue of marital status 48% of respondents are single, 36% are married, 10% are divorced and 6% are separated. On the issue of age, 60% of respondents are aged 12-25 years, 16% were aged 26-35 years 12% are aged 36-45 years, 8% are aged 46-55 years and 4% are aged 56 or above. On the issues of level of education, 74% of respondents have primary education, 14% have vocational education, 4% have secondary education, 4% have high school and 4%

have diplomas. Apart from street children different respondent from different department with different gender,age,education level from NGOs,Nyamagana ward,municipal council. Social welfare responded from Nyamagana ward,Municipal and from NGOs graduated from certificate level and diploma. In primary most of this children respondents attended primary school but did not succeed to finish standard seven because of family problem. 46% of respondents had stayed in Nyamagana ward for up to 5 years, 36% have stayed for 6-10 years, 10% have stayed for 11-15 years, 4% have stayed for 16-20 years and 4% have stayed for 2 years or more.

The number of street children in Nyamagana ward is very difficult to quantify, and none of the interviewees was able to give the exact number. Street children move from place to place: they work and spend time at different stations and market areas. Their situations are constantly changing which makes it difficult to know their exact number. However, documents from the Nyamagana ward show that their number is increasing. Findings from the study also show that the number of street children in Nyamagana ward has been increasing from 457 in 2003 to 3,342 in 2012. According to the Ward Executive officer of Nyamagana ward, the main reasons for the increase in number of street children in Nyamagana ward is rural-urban migration which has resulted in an increased population in the city.

Street children were asked to describe the marital status of their parents. More than 40% of respondents indicated that at least one of their parents had died. In view of this, the respondents who indicated that they had lost a parent were asked if they had lost their mother or father, or both parents 47% indicated that both parents had

passed away, and a further 39% indicated that their father had passed away. The study also found that the main reason why children are on the streets is to earn money. Nearly 75% of the street children said that they live in the streets to earn money. There is little doubt that the overall socio-economic situation is exacerbated by individual vulnerabilities resulting in children having to earn money to supplement personal and household income.

When asked how long they have been living in the street, 70% of street children have been spending time on the streets for the past two years but there is also a smaller yet substantial category of children who have been on the streets for three years and longer, and nearly 1% who have been on the streets for 10 years and longer for three and longer. Only 30% of the street children have been on the street for more than two years.

In tracing the process by which children move to the street from children's own account, it was established that many children were able to identify the factors which precipitated their involvement in street life. However, once the initial movement to the street was made, a number of factors then served to maintain the child's involvement in the street. These factors may or may not have been the same as those responsible for initial involvement. From conceptual perspective, an importance distinction can be made between initiating and maintenance factors. This section explores the initiation and maintenance factors and attempts to isolate the factors associated with why and how children become involved in street life.

The interviewed street children in Nyamagana ward cited a number of reasons for their initiation to the streets. It was revealed that the majority (45) of the interviewed

street children initiated to join the street because of various problems at home. These included being abused by parents, absence of food at home, parental problems and runaway after committing an offence. About one-third of the interviewed street children forwarded that the need to look for job as the main reason for their being on the streets. A 12-year old shoeshine boy, reported that he came to work on the streets of Nyamagana ward hoping for bright future. Answering what he dreamed, he said “I will own a shoe repairing shop.” About twenty two percent (22%) reported that they were abused by parent(s).

Street children appear to experience abuse and witness fighting or violence between parents frequently. Stress theory advocates associate such behaviors usually with the parenting style of parents under stress. A further about thirteen percent (13%) of children was on the street because they were orphaned or for other reasons had no one to support them.

*“Since my parents died when I was 12 and there was no one willing to help me, I just came here to find a job,” said a street child pseudonym Kidus, 16 years of age.*

Marital problem of the parents was also cited as a recurrent theme to push children to street. Close to fifteen percent (15) of the street children reported that marital troubles initiated them to move to the streets. **Ibrahim**, 13 year old shoeshine said.

*My father died and I left home to find work because of conflict with my step father”*

Another typical story was that of **Biniam’s**, 17 year old boy, reported that after his mother passed away in 2005, his father brought a step mother. Biniam used to

**Comment [a4]:** Inaruhusiwa kutaja majina ?

**Comment [a5]:** Inaruhusiwa kutaja majina ?

quarrel repeatedly with his step mother because she treated him ruthlessly and he was weighed down with heavy workload. When his disagreement reached its zenith he punched out his step mother's teeth and left home to the streets of Nyamagana in 2007.

Seven percent (7%) of the street children reported that they often experienced hunger at home. Over half of all street children regularly did not get enough food at home. They suggested that street children mainly come from economically deprived families. Another 21% of the street children reported that the reason for their initiation to the street was committing a misdemeanor and run away from home.

The following responses were typical responses in this category.

- i. "I quarreled with my father so I couldn't stay with him",
- ii. My father hit me because I came home very late in the night so I just ran away and joined the street".
- iii. I came onto the street after my father and I exchanged blows and that was my first contact with street life,"

These cases showed that there were problems in the parenting style in the families, i.e they were more authoritarian. In Nyamagana ward, the situation of street children had its roots in the economic and social circumstances of the family. Throughout the literature street children have been found to be primarily a product of poor families, whether urban or rural.

In depth interviews with street adults confirmed the finding that street children were primarily from poor family settings and came to the streets due to lack of support

and care by parents and members of the extended family. One of the circumstances responsible for maintaining children on street life, as clearly seen from questionnaire responses and interviews was the condition of growing up in abject poverty. Asha 17 years old, reported that she stayed on the street because of the mounting destitution of her family. Her father, who was previously a soldier, worked as a guard. Her mother died when she was 7 years old. Because the family's income was not enough to support her education and other basic necessities, she started selling groundnuts in the streets. She was able to deal with her personal needs by herself.

She found the street to be better than home because it provided her with the chance to possess money at a younger age. And hence she moved to the streets of Nyamagana ward in 2006. Another common cause that forces children to the street was the situation in which the family experienced a change in economic circumstances (father's illness, a loss of employment, death of parents or divorce).

Masele's, 17 years old beggar, story was a typical example of such a course. His father was a **figherman** and was able to secure enough money to meet the family needs. When the government's control and patrol system became tight, his father was arrested and his capital was confiscated. As a result their livelihood faced a change and their economy fell down dramatically.

He added, "I was not strong enough to tolerate such a terrible experience in my life", such sudden shift forced him to move to street to work and meet his own demands.

More than fifty percent of the interviewed street children had lost, either through death or divorce, their biological parent(s). Furthermore, focus group discussions

**Comment [a6]:** Ni nini hii?

reported that they were abused physically and/or sexually by step-parents or extended family members. Such children chose to move onto the street, rather than staying within step-parent settings.

Parents following divorce often are preoccupied with their own depression, anger, emotional neediness and are unable to respond sensitively to the wants of the child. In the immediate aftermath of divorce both parents tend to be inconsistent, less affectionate, and lacking in control over their children. Some of the most pervasive stresses confronting members of divorcing families are those associated with money.

Abdalah's experience, an 18 year old street vendor, suits such an incidence. His mother was housewife. He said, "I was 14 years old when my parents were divorced." He added, because my mother was not able to get job, she became a casual labourer. When his mother got sick and was not able to work, their living situation deteriorated. Hence, he joined the street in 2005 to support his mother by selling newspapers. Some children expressed their involvement in street life by being encouraged by their parents. Many of these children gradually became sex workers. Amina, a 15 year old girl, narrated her early street life precipitation;

*"I went out to the street to play, then somebody asked me to have sex with him and so I did and got three thousand shillings. Then my mother asked me to continue, and so I do."*

Some of the interviewed children believed that they were pressurized by family members to go to towns to work. A typical example is a 14 year old boy names Hamisi;

*“My friends were selling marijuana and my family was always insisting that I do likewise.” He added; “What I earn is not only for myself. I have to work hard for the reason that assisting my family financially is expected of me”*

Other children revealed peer influence as a cause for their street life involvement.

The narration by Ashraf, the street child mentioned earlier, was a good example of such development. He said;

*“I was from a well-to-do family background. I used to generate my own income by renting bicycle. In due course of time I developed intimacy with children of the street. Hence, I began chewing ‘chat’ and smoking cigarette.”*

These bad behaviours brought him in conflict with his family. With mounting disagreement and violence at home, Ashraf was advised by his friends to join the street in 2003. In general the phenomenon of street children in Nyamagana ward seems to be a social problem with basic social, economic and environmental causes. Throughout the analysis poverty alone was not seen as a factor in pushing children onto the streets.

Respondents from Nyamagana ward Social affairs Department and NGOs, mainly saw the antecedent factors as family dysfunction and/or disruption. Such factors, as already noted above, included abusive families, child headed households, death of a primary care-giver, inadequate care and support, and over-extended families. The alluring influence of city life were also identified as a cause for street involvement throughout.

When asked how they sleep at night when on the streets, 30% of street children indicated that they did so in shop doorways, 21% that they slept in the market place, and 25% that they slept in spaces described as “Ghettos”. There is a reason to believe

that children may also move between these different localities because of various safety factors and weather conditions. On the issue of how difficult the lives of street children are; 36% of respondents had the opinion that the life of street children in Nyamagana ward is very difficult, 54% said it is difficult and 8% said it is normal. No respondents said that their life is comfortable or very comfortable. 46% of respondents are strongly aware of the effects of street children, 46% of respondents are aware while 8% were not sure.

When asked how frequent they have encountered the effects of street children, 38% of respondents said that they encounter effects of street children very often, 46% said often, 10% were not sure and 4% mentioned occasionally. No respondents said they rarely encounter the effects of street children. 24% of respondents strongly agreed that street children cause problems in the society, 70% agreed and 26% of were not sure. On the issue of the problems caused by street children, findings from the study showed that the main problems caused by the presence of street children are; loitering and petty crime (both mentioned by 72% of respondents), prostitution (69%), drug abuse (54%), child neglect (46%), juvenile delinquency (24%), pollution (18%), child molest and poverty (both mentioned by 14% of respondents), and childhood pregnancies (18%).

Street children were mainly being found in two categories. One that becomes the bully type or the ones who learn to survive through means considered illegal in civilized society. They end up doing criminal or unethical activities. Their activities may vary from picking pockets to vandalism, from theft to murder, from dealing in drugs to child trafficking. The second category of street children included those who

have become victim of their fellows and other man made problems. They lack the tactics, will power or physical endurance to keep abreast with the demand of their tough life. These are the ones most vulnerable to social evils like physical and sexual abuse, torture, exploitation, child trafficking, begging and drugs among others. Girls may be subjected to prostitution.

In Nyamagana ward, street children are seen hopping from one corner of the town to the other begging for money from business people and passers-by. They beg for money supposedly to buy food. After getting the money from sympathizers, some buy food but most of them buy glue to sniff. They say it makes them forget life problems and keeps them high. To get money or food, they use several means. Some even use human waste (feces) and they force people to part with their hard-earned money. Others fake illness to get money from unsuspecting citizens and sympathizers. Most of them engage in petty errands, theft, prostitution or illegal activities in order to make ends meet. These children are abused, exploited, persecuted and neglected.

Street children are being used as street beggar in Nyamagana ward. Some adult members of the society force street children to beg for them. The adults provide the street children with food, clothing and shelter in exchange for the money they collect from begging. If a street child refuses to go to beg, he or she is threatened or be beaten or even denied food, clothing and shelter. During the study, the researcher found that some of the male street children in Nyamagana ward are involved in pick pocketing. There has been an increase in the number of reported cases of juvenile delinquency

involving street children. Other vices of the street children in Nyamagana ward are stealing various car accessories such as side mirrors.

The menace of street children has been witnessed in almost all areas in Nyamagana ward. The presence of street children has caused a rise in insecurity especially during the night since some of them get violent and attack passersby and dwellers. Sometimes they throw human refuse and dirt to anyone who passes by as they solicit for money and food items. Living or spending time on the streets can involve a number of risk factors. Children were asked what problems they experienced during the day and at night respectively. They were also asked how they dealt with these problems and how they remained safe on the streets. This section deals with these issues.

Street children also experience harassment from older boys by day and by night; indeed, this was the commonest problem experienced, although there is a very substantial difference between the frequency of this during the day and during the night. Other problems include harassment by police. Personal safety and adequate sleeping arrangements appear to be the dominant themes in this regard. During the study, the researcher, conducted interviews with various respondents on the effects of the presence of street children in Nyamagana ward. The respondents mentioned the increase in number of children loitering in the streets as one of the main effects of the presence of street children in Nyamagana ward. The researcher himself observed a large number of street children loitering in the streets.

The increase in number of street children loitering in the streets has led to a sharp increase in incidences of petty crimes such as pick pocketing and stealing of car

parts such as power windows. According to interviews with respondents, some of the street children have turned to being thieves as a way of surviving and earning money. Street children are being used as street beggars in Nyamagana ward. Some adult members of the society force street children to beg for them. The adults provide the street children with food, clothing and shelter in exchange for the money they collect from begging. If a street child refuses to go to beg, he or she is threatened to be beaten or even denied food, clothing and shelter.

During the study, the researcher found that some of the male street children in Nyamagana ward are involved in pick pocketing. There has been an increase in the number of reported cases of juvenile delinquency involving street children. Other vices in which street children have been involved in Nyamagana ward are stealing various car accessories such as side mirrors. The researcher found that some of the female street children are involved in prostitution. The street children as young as 16 can be found in various bars, groceries and guest houses. Other street children live in brothels where they are accommodated by their masters in exchange for providing sexual services to customers, while being given little or no money.

**Comment [a7]:** Repeattions

Data obtained by the researcher from the Nyamagana Police Station prove that there is a sharp increase of juvenile delinquency cases involving children who have been arrested, prosecuted and jailed for committing various forms of juvenile delinquency. For instance, for the year 2012 alone, there were 113 cases of juvenile delinquency involving street children in Nyamagana ward. This proves that, if the issue of street children is not addressed properly, the presence of street children can cause many problems to the society. The researcher also found out that among the

measures taken to address the issue of juvenile delinquency among street children is the establishment of “Social Police” (Police Jamii) and participative social patrol (Ulinzi Shirikishi) which has somehow managed to address the problem.

**Comment [a8]:** Tafuta jina sahihi

**Comment [a9]:** Tafuta jina sahihi

Children were asked about their substance-use habits and it has to be accepted that there will be a measure of under-reporting, especially when illegal drugs are used. The overall pattern is that substance use is lower than what is often associated with street children. 78% of the respondents reported that they never used any drug. 15% used drugs daily, 4% did so weekly and 2.5 did so monthly. Sniffing glue and other solvents were used with the greatest frequency daily followed by cigarettes. The use of alcohol appears to be more prevalent when assessed according to weekly and monthly use as compared to other substances. The substance-use patterns, as described here, appear to tie up with the use of money earned, where 22% of respondents indicated that they spent money on drugs.

The researcher attributed the higher use of drugs among street children to be a lifestyle symptom and coping mechanism used by children at a high level when they have to sleep on the streets. Services to street children therefore need to be mindful of the prevalence of substance-use disorders among street children and come up with interventions to address the problem. During the study, the researcher found out that some of the female street children are involved in prostitution. The street children as young as 26 can be found in various bars, groceries and guest houses. Other street children live in brothels where they are accommodated by their masters in exchange for providing sexual services to customer, while being given little or no money.

**Comment [a10]:** A child? What is the definition of a child?

From interviews conducted with respondents and observations made by the researcher, it was established that the presence of street children in Nyamagana ward has also increased the prevalence of prostitution among young girls who are believed to be street children or former street children. The child prostitutes are found in various bars and nightclubs during evening hours and have become a threat to social norms.

There has also been an increase in the number of street children involved in drug abuse or selling drugs. This is evidenced by the increase in number of children who have become drug addicts from using various forms of drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin while others are involved in sniffing glue. The researcher also found that it is the same drug addicts who are also involved in petty crime and juvenile delinquency. During the study, the researcher conducted interviews with Social Welfare Officer at Nyamagana Ward on the effects of drug abuse among the youth, and the excerpts from the interview were documented as follow;

*“One of the causes of drug abuse among the youth in Nyamagana ward is the easily availability of drugs which make it easy for youth to access them. In addition, peer pressure among the youth, especially those without parental guidance such as street children is the main factors that influence the youth to start abusing drugs”*

On the effects of drug abuse among street children in Nyamagana ward. The social Welfare officer had this to say;

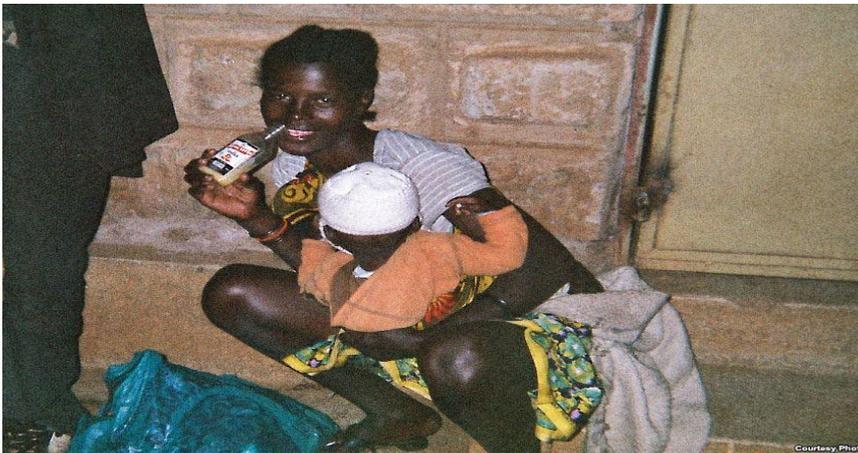
*“Drug abuse among the youth spells danger not only to the youth who abuse the drugs but also to the well being of the nation, because the youth represent the future of its people. Drug abuse is determined by the existence of risk and protective factors. Street children who abuse drugs tend to be involved in criminal activities and many display anti-social behaviour”.*

On risk factors associated with drug abuse, the Social Welfare Officer had this to say;

*“the risk factors associated with drug abuse are many and include; alcohol abuse and cigarette smoking at a tender age, peer pressure, poor school performance, poor parenting, pressure to perform, low self-esteem and stress. Protective factors that make people less likely to abuse drugs include; attachments with the family and peers”*

On the age profile of youth who abuse drugs, the Social Welfare Officer Worker had this to say:

*“The large proportion of drug abusers in Nyamagana ward are youth aged between 16 and 25 years, and mostly males. Drug abuse is more prevalent among youth who are not under the control of their parents or guardians, and street children are the most vulnerable group in the risk factors associated with drug abuse”.*



**Figure 4.1: A Teenage Female Street Child With her Child, Sniffing Glue**

**Comment [a11]:** I am not sure if you are observing ethical issues; you are mentioning names and posting photos.

The picture above was taken by the researcher in Nyakahoja street in Nyamagana ward, it shows a teenage female street child carrying her child while sniffing glue as a form of drug abuse. Describing the most commonly used types of drugs in Nyamagana ward, this is what the Social Welfare Officer had to say”

*“Overall, commonly abused drugs are marijuana, glue, cocaine and heroin. The most abused drug among the three drugs is Marijuana because it is easily accessible and is sold at a much cheaper price compared to cocaine and heroin which are imported from other countries, and are thus sold at a higher price that the street children cannot afford”.*

Answering the question as to where the youth buy drugs, this is what the Social

Welfare Officer said;

*“Majority of the street children who abuse drugs buy them from street corners in slums such as; Kona ya Bwiru and Nyakahoja streets in Nyamagana ward. The street children also buy and sell drugs in the bars, small shops, school workers and from public transport (touts and drivers). The street children usually take the drugs in the open and it is not a secret”.*

Commenting on the strategies used by the Nyamagana Ward Executive office to address the effects of drug abuse among the youth, this is what the Social Worker had to say:

*“Strategies used to address drug abuse are mainly reporting them to the police, offering medical treatment and counseling. So far, these measures have proven to be effective and have helped some drug addicts to stop using drugs and become good citizens again. Other measures include providing counseling to drug addicts so that they can quit using drugs”.*

On the challenges faced by Nyamagana Ward in dealing with the problem of drug abuse among street children in Nyamagana ward; the Social Welfare Officer had this to say;

*“The main challenge we face in dealing with drug abuse among street children are lack of cooperation from members of the society and lack of cooperation from law enforcement agencies such as the police. While the police assume jailing street children is the solution, we believe that counseling and medical treatment are the best solutions to the problem”.*



**Figure 4.2: A Child Labourer Washing a Car in Nyamagana Ward**

During the study, the researcher observed that one of the effects of the presence of street children in Nyamagana ward was the flourishing of child labour. The researcher observed street children involved in various forms of child labour such as washing cars, crushing stones and collecting empty plastic bottles. These children are exploited and this menace is propagated by members of the society themselves.



**Figure 4.3: Street Children Crushing Stones in Nyamagana Ward**

The researcher observed that street children in Nyamagana ward do face; poor working conditions, long working hours, heavy workload and underpayment. Due to their involvement in child labour, street children face various health problems such as; severe exhaustion due to long working hours, stunted growth due to heavy workload, frequent injuries and malnutrition.



**Figure 4.4: A street Child Collecting Plastic Bottles in Nyamagana Ward**



**Figure 4.5: A Street Children Sleeping Outside a Closed Shop in Nyamagana ward**

The researcher also observed that when they get tired or hungry, street children in Nyamagana ward sleep in pavements of buildings during the day time for the purpose of begging money from passers-by. This creates a bad spectacle for the area which is normally very busy during day time and contributes to pollution.



**Figure 4.6: A street Children Sleeping on a Pavement in Nyamagana Ward**

**Child Molest and early pregnancies:** Last, but not least, the researcher found out that another effects of the presence of street children in Nyamagana ward is that there has been an increase in reported cases of child molest and early pregnancies involving street children, both male and female have been sexually molested. For instance, in 2012 alone, 6 female street children were raped and impregnated and they gave birth to children they can't take care of.

From interviews with street children themselves, the researcher found that female street children are especially at risk of being sexually abused by their male counterparts since they have no place to sleep. Sometimes the female children are sexually abused by other grownups who are not street children themselves by being given a small amount of money for food. Street children are the victims of their own situation. They are the victims of abuse and inhuman treatment. They are exposed to health hazards such as unhygienic conditions of living and overcrowding because

they prefer to live as family. Having no shelter, they are constantly exposed to harsh environmental conditions such as heat and rain. They face harassment by municipal council officers and the police.

They are harassed, abused and persecuted by the authorities. The increase in the number of street children and families begs for answers. There is a problem somewhere. We need to play our respective roles to reduce the number of street children. It is possible to reduce the number of street children in our country but only if our society becomes responsible. It all begins with the basic instinct of survival. A street child will do anything to survive. He would be the first afraid of doing anything illegal but would do it when he is hard pressed to do so. As illiterate and without professional training, they face difficulty in finding proper jobs. Also public overwhelmingly has negative views about them. The public views them with suspicion and fear while many would like them to disappear.

Street children fall prey to illegal activities, sometimes in reaction to the above mentioned discretionary attitude towards them and sometimes in order to sustain themselves. Many of this type of street children became juvenile offenders and find a place in overcrowded prisons. There they have every chance of becoming hardened criminals. They even subject their fellow street children to do their bidding.

Child trafficking is one particular example of the horrors faced by these children. The victims of child trafficking are mostly from second category of street children. They are recruited, transported, harbored and received for different exploitative purposes. Trafficking may include such pervasive purposes as forced labour,

servitude, slavery and removal of organs, or it may include such illicit activities as prostitution.

During data collection, it was found out about two local NGOs that are specialized in street children work in Nyamagana ward: Kuleana and Youth Idleness Control Centre. In this study, all the interviewees representing NGOs were representatives of Youth alive and Youth Idleness contro Centre. Kuleana is the biggest organisation working with street children in Mwanza. Kuleana started its work as an Action aid initiative in 1995, and was called the Street Children's Project. The project aimed, however, to become an independent local organisation, and finally, in 2002, the project registered as an autonomous NGO. Kuleana supports the education of street children and provides apprenticeship to learn trades, such as dress making, carpentry, welding ect.

Although the government often lacks the resources to be an effective service provider, it is positioned uniquely to provide the necessary working environment for assisting street children. Already, the government, through the ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and other relevant departments has demonstrated its desire to formulate and implement policies and legislation to improve the well-being of children. The MOHSW has launched a policy namely the National Child Policy (NCO), in 2006. In spite of the perceived weaknesses of the policy documents, this is an encouraging development regarding the policy environment in the country. Further, local government authorities through their Departments of Social Welfare (DSW), have been running specific interventions aimed at improving the welfare of street children.

The Department of Social Welfare provides technical and financial support to district-level NGOs that offer services for street children. These activities are meant to assimilate and keep children in especially difficult circumstances off the streets by engaging them in income-generating activities and offering those opportunities for education and training in life skills. Currently, an ambitious programme is being implemented in conjunction with MOHSW, to remove from the streets and rehabilitate all the street children of Mwanza and later to expand this programme to other urban districts.

These children, it is planned, will be taken to National Service Camps for rehabilitation and training in various economic activity skills. The department has also been striving to enhance collaboration, co-ordination and networking with other line ministries and NGOs in developing a comprehensive programme for preventing problem of street children. The effectiveness of this programme is still under discussion by the street children Re-integration committees under the guidance of the department.

The department provides financial and technical support, legislative and policy guidance to street children's centres and committees, children's homes and other organisations providing care and support to children in difficult circumstances. In addition, MOHSW in conjunction with UNICEF has set up a project called "Childcare Upgrading Programme (OCCUP) to improve services to street children. While majority of respondents interviewed acknowledged government's efforts, they observed that the current effort was not adequate to have an impact on the problems of street children. It was noted that what the government is doing may be having

some positive effects on some individuals or households but that to have an impact on the general problem of street children at national level, government needs to double its efforts.

Regardless of the weaknesses of government efforts to respond to the problem of street children, stakeholders observed that the government still had a major role to play in creating a supportive and enabling environment in which families, communities and NGOs could respond to the problems of street children. This argument was corroborated by information gained from interviews with stakeholders in this situational analysis.

The researcher observed that the role of NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and other stakeholders such as private-sector institutions in responding to the problem of street children was critical, especially in an environment like Tanzania where the government is struggling to meet the needs of its citizens. It was a widely-held view that NGOs should complement the efforts of the government in improving the situation of street children. Already, a significant number of NGOs, CBOs, FBOs are responding to the plight of street children in Nyamagana ward. The majority of organisations currently providing services relevant to street children are working in the following thematic areas. These organisations now recognise that it is as important to address the underlying problems that cause a child to leave home as it is to help children living on the street.

## **4.2 Discussion of Findings**

### **4.2.1 The Causes of Street children in Nyamagana Ward**

The data developed through interview and focused group discussion revealed that the

major causes of the street children was associated with collapse of the families in the homes, domestic violence and extreme poverty that made the children to be encouraged to influx in town for unclear employment or street bagging or used in the gangs for stealing. This resulted and created psychological tensions among communities. These findings of the poverty and other domestic violence to cause street children are in line with Weber (2013) who established that the causes of the street children in Uganda were associated with extreme poverty and domestic violence.

In one case a boy who was asked to take goats to pasture, unfortunately when the little boy went back home without complete number of goats, the brother did a very serious violence by cutting the leg of the little boy. Furthermore, Hai (2014) supported the above observation and established that street children was a failure of the collapse of the social systems, weak social network, weak social capital, poverty and families insecurities.

**Ways in which Nyamagana ward dealt with street children:** The data showed that the issue of street children was not an easy one, but the officials are dealing with it. The data showed that the street children sometimes are caught by the police and interrogated and other are returned to their homes like Kagera, Shinyanga and Ukerewe islands. The data revealed that this has been done but after few months the street children are flooding again in the city. The findings also showed that some of the street children who were taken back to their homes and found to return after few days they are taken to court and charged. The last way the street children have been handled by the Nyamagana authority was to register the children and take them to

school. The current findings was is in line with the strategy used by Kampala city authority of asking the community to contribute towards the street children to go back to schools (Weber, 2013).

**Challenges Nyamagana ward authority face in dealing with Street children:** The street children in Nyamagana have resulted to tension the street and along the road junctions. They are begging, they are forcing to wash car windows and in other cases they steal cars spare parts like power window and sight mirrors. They go to sell these items to the local dealers at low price so that they earn a living. Whenever caught they are beaten to death and the town council has to manage their burials. This increases the cost of unexpected events to the town authorities. Weber (2014) holds that street children apart from risking their lives due to being trapped, killed in theft and shortage of food they cause tension to the town authorities.

Another challenge is associated with the way the street child get basic needs like food, toilets, water for drinking as the result they stand along roads and they beg, if one denies they flush dirty water inside the car. This is very critical to their health and the health of passengers passing along roads. The effect of this is to increase the number of criminals in the police stations and consequently affecting and overloading the prisons.

The very critical findings of the challenges of the street children are the way the children are living in the frustrated life and they are trapped in the danger of using drugs. The data show clearly they please each other by taking various forms of drugs which interfere with their health and finally they die because they don't have basic

medical services. Hai (2014) was in line with this observation when established that street children in Dhaka city in Bangladesh were not only caught begging but also trapped in the danger of using drugs.

**Discussion on the application of theories (Manslow hierarchy of needs and social capital theory) used in the study in relation to the findings:** The findings of the study showed that Nyamagana has the problem of street children and they affect the communities by causing tension to the communities. The findings went further and revealed that Nyamagana ward uses various ways to manage the street children like taking the children to their homes and admit them to schools. All these evidence are reflecting that the families have collapsed and the children are not getting the basic needs (food, shelter water, security and education) at their homes that is why they leave home (hierarchy of needs).

Further more the street children seems to loose hope, they live in town, hopeless, not connected to any social systems, and they are not experiencing social cohesion. Their earning is un predictable and they live in hardship environment that is likely to subject them to rape, drug abuse, insecurity and crime. They indeed are not connected to the social capital. Hence from the study findings one to understand well the issue of street children has to use the elements of both Manslow hierarchy of needs theory and social capital theory. Hence the findings of this study have conformed the applicability of two theories in analysis of street children phenomenon.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter presents the conclusion arrived by the researcher from the findings of the study and recommendations made.

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

The findings of the study, the researcher concludes that the presence of street children has severe effects on Nyamagana ward because it results in increase in incidences of petty crime, increases in reported cases of juvenile delinquency, increase in prostitution, increase incidences of child neglect, prevalence of child labour, loitering and increased rates of drug abuse.

#### **5.2 Recommendations**

To address the effects of presence of street children in Nyamagana ward. The researcher recommends the following;

- i. The government should urgently take measures to address the problem of increase in number of street children in order to avoid social upheavals that may arise due to the plight of street children in Tanzania. Specifically, the local government at Nyamagana ward should find measures to address the issue of street children in the ward.
- ii. Public education through the media, such as radio and/or television, should be intensified to change people's attitudes toward street children. Street children should not be perceived as criminals or potential criminals but rather victims of their families' disintegration and the social and economic system at large. They thus should be treated with love and dignity.

- iii. More centres for accommodating street children should be established. And when they are established, they should be governed by the principle of collective reasonability, which encourages close personal ties with stable caring adults. The staff in these centres should be trained to mitigate and offset the psychological consequences of these troubled children.
- iv. The researcher recommends the following for further study. A comprehensive study should be done on the impact street children of the economic development of a country like Tanzania. More detailed research should be done on the other cities in Tanzania, with cooperative research between regions or with other poor countries.
- v. Concerned government departments and NGOs should create job opportunities for street children and enhance children's creativity by providing training, reunite street children with their families where they still exist; improve the economic status of the families of street children, and establish care intuitions for young street children.
- vi. The government should allocate sufficient resources for awareness-raising campaigns against domestic violence and support for child victims and increase awareness raising efforts against child abuse by developing different mechanisms by which children rights messages are disseminated to the society.
- vii. Nyamagana ward administration should give due attention to children's views in all matters that concern them; establish children's homes and increase access to food, clothes, shelter, education, health, and caring family environment. Tutorial classes should also extend especially to street girls.

### **6.3 Future Research Direction**

From the finding it was learned that street children are mainly products of poverty and social network instability. Accordingly, street children are conceptualized as passive victims of the circumstances to which they were born. More research is needed in the proceeding question of why do some children swap the home for the rough life of the streets?

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Comment [a12]: Hana majina mengine?

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## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE**

This questionnaire has been prepared by a student of the Open University in Tanzania pursuing a Masters degree in Sociology for the purpose of collecting data on a research study titled “Assessment of Soci-Economic Impacts of Street Children to the community: Case study of Nyamagana ward, Mwanza”. Strict confidentiality of all information is guaranteed as it will only be used for the research purpose only.

#### **PART ONE: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. Gender
  - a) Male
  - b) Female
2. Marital status
  - a) Single
  - b) Married
  - c) Divorces
  - d) Separated
3. Age
  - a) 16-25 years
  - b) 26-35 years
  - c) 36-45 years
  - d) 46-55 years
  - e)  $\geq 55$  years
4. Age
  - a) Primary education

- b) Vocational education
  - c) Secondary education
  - d) High school
  - e) Diploma
5. length of stay in Nyamagana ward
- a) 0-5 years
  - b) 6-10 years
  - c) 11-15 years
  - d) 16-20 years
  - e) 21 years or more
6. What is your opinion on number of street children in nyamagana ward?
- a) Too high
  - b) High
  - c) Average
  - d) Low
  - e) Very low
7. What is your opinion on the life of street children in Nyamagana ward?
- a) Very difficulty
  - b) Difficulty
  - c) Normal
  - d) Comfortable
  - e) Very comfortable
8. what is your level of awareness on effects of street children in the society?
- a) Strongly aware

- b) Aware
- c) Not sure
- d) Slightly aware
- e) Not aware

9. How frequent have you encountered the effects of street children in Nyamagana ward?

- a) Very often
- b) Often
- c) Not sure
- d) Occasionally
- e) Rarely

10. In your opinion, do street children cause any problems in Nyamagana ward?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Not sure
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

11. Which of the following problems are caused by street children in Nyamagana ward?

	Yes	No.
Loitering		
Petty crime		
Prostitution		
Drug abuse		
Childhood pregnancies		
Child neglect		
Child molest		
Juvenile delinquency		
Child labour		
pollution		

- 12 Which of the following problems caused by street children in Nyamagana ward have negative effects to the society?

	<b>Strong agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
Loitering					
Petty crime					
Prostitution					
Drug abuse					
Childhood pregnancies					
Child neglect					
Child molest					
Juvenile delinquency					
Child labour					
Pollution					

- 13 What are measures taken by Nyamagana ward to address the issue of street and how effective are those measures?

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- 14 What are the challenges faced by Nyamagana ward in addressing the issue of street children?

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In your opinion, what measures should be taken by Nyamagana ward to address the issue of street children and overcome the challenges it faces in doing so?

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**Thank you for your participation**

**Your cooperation is highly appreciated**



**APPENDIX III: PROPOSED BUDGET**

Items	Amount TZS	
Stationary and Printing		
a) 4 reams of photocopy and printing papers @ TZS 8,000/-	32,000	
b) Writing, printing, photocopy and binding 1000 pages @ TZS 50	500,000	532,000
Internet Services		
a) Browsing for downloads 10 times x 4 months @ TZS 1200	48,000 50,000	98,000
b) Printing the downloads – est. at TZS		
Field Survey Expenses:		
a) Per diem: 17 days @ 40,000	680,000	
b) Transport cost	450,000	1,130,000
Data analysis and reporting costs:		
a) Data processing and analysis	350,000	
b) Secretarial services	440,000	
c) Report production & editing	450,000	1,240,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,000,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>3,300,000</b>