THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN PREVENTION OF STREET CHILDREN'S PHENOMENA IN DODOMA CITY

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that I have read the entire work and hereby recommend for the acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) a Dissertation entitled, **the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.** In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Master's Degree in Social Work.

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DECLARATION

I Diana Joseph Makoye declare that the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other University or Institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the master's degree in social work.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City. The specific objectives were to assess the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City, to assess the reasons for prevention of street children in Dodoma City, and to find out challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City. The study used a mixed approaches and descriptive research design. Data was collected through questionnaires and interviews methods. The sampling procedure used in this study were both Probability Sampling and Non-Probability while data analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer software version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel software. The theoretical bases for this study included Structural Functionalist Theory developed by Emile Durkheim. The study recruited 92 subjects as its sample size. The findings show that 42% of the respondents were informed of the factors contributing to streetism, and 22% of respondents cited the community's responsibility in combating the stigma. Adding on, 36% of respondents were aware of the reasons causing streetism. The phenomena of streetism waters down the dignity of child's welfare, hence multiple measures should be used to counteract the problem. Study recommends for the government and community to work together to end the problem of streetism.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NGO   Non-Governmental Organizations

USA   United States of America

URT   United Republic of Tanzania

UNICEF   United Nations Children Education Fund

UN   United Nations

SACCOS   Saving and Credit Cooperative Organization

TASAF   Tanzania Social Action Fund

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Chapter Overview

The study aimed to assess the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City, Tanzania. This chapter was an introductory that explain the background of the problem, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions and the significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

Street children is a global phenomenon that cuts across boundaries of both developed and developing countries (Hassen, 2019; Waziri, 2013), though it is more common in Latin America, Asia and Africa (Ahmed, 2018). Historically, street children's phenomena linked to industrial revolution in Europe in the process of revolutionizing the British economy whereas it disrupted family life as a result created many street children (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) categorized street children into two groups; "Children on the street and Children of the street" (Alam, 2021; Linus, 2021). According to UNICEF estimated globally to have over 100 million street children (Julien, 2022; Fantahun and Taa, 2022; Linus, 2021).

In America, the National Survey conducted by National Center on Family Homelessness shows in the United States of America (USA) had 2.5 million street children, which means 1 in 130 children experiencing homelessness each year where most of them are from single-parent families (Ponio, 2022). Community measures used to prevent street

children's phenomena in USA is adoption of children which occurs in three main paths ways; Foster Care System, Domestic Infant Adoption, and International Adoption, whereby it estimated to have 440,000 children in the foster care system (Dodge, 2020). The role of community on children remained socialization through promoting engagement and emotional development that shaping altitude and believe of children.

In Africa, estimated to have 20 million street children (Shitindi *et al*, 2023). Yusuph *et al.* (2021) found 30 million street children all over Africa. Abimakinde and Shabir (2023) study found 100,000 street children in Lagos, Nigeria, whereas Anthony (2019) in Cairo, Egypt found 1 million streets children. In African context parenting has always been a role of community and not just the biological parents of the child (Kariuki *et al.,* 2019). Community measures used to prevent the street children's phenomena in Africa was through the application of extend families (McCloskey and Eisler, 2022), and provision of education that involving maintaining discipline (Ogutu, 2020).

In East Africa, show that third of a million children living on the streets of Kenya (Anthony, 2019). Ebitu (2018) figure out 10,000 street children in Uganda. New Vision estimated 8000 street children in Uganda, whereby 4000 were staying in Kampala, 800 in Mbale, and 500 in Jinja, and the rest in other urban (Tahia, 2019). According to Strait (2016) the roles of a community in East Africa to their children were provision of discipline, mutual care of children, and built the foundation of mutual responsibility, whereas community measures that prevent street children's phenomena remained to be socialization through active interaction of the child within the environment.

Tanzania, as a part of the global village, is not immune to the problem of street children (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). It estimated 437,500 street children living in the streets all over the country (Chingonikaya and Salehe, 2019). Street children are found in almost all urban centers like Dar-es-Salaam (Waziri and Fundi, 2019), Dodoma, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya and Tanga (Moses, 2022). The role of community remained to support children in playing and learning process (Ogendo, 2022). Community measures used to prevent the street children problem in Tanzania is through family support (Shitindi *et al*, 2023) whereas community supporting families living with children and identifying family living in poverty while proposing them to join into TASAF benefit.

Community role on children goes beyond involving parents (Gatt, 2022). General roles of the community to children are engagement, interaction and imparting cultural norms from the early age (Arshad, 2023), implementation of household responsibility, honing social skills, alleviating loneliness, augmenting wellbeing (Kapur, 2022), increase learning process opportunities (Daly, 2022), ensuring safety, provision of discipline, mutual care, support children in playing, and supporting families.

Prevention roles of the community on street children includes provision of supportive and inclusive environment that help children grow (Robinson, 2023), helping children to act through collective action, bridge members of the community through connections, promote collaboration (Gatt, 2022), and provisions of guidance (Natalia and Syamsi, 2019). On the other hand, traditional history of Tanzania, the responsibilities of raising a child belonged to community, whenever, a child did wrong or an adult did wrong to a

right to play or leisure, clothing, medical care and education, to report the matter to the local government authority of the area" (URT, 2009).

Despite of initiatives, street children are still increasing and are being vulnerable to abuse and exploitation (Shitindi *et al.,* 2023). In overall there is a gap, where there is lack of researches based on the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City. Most of researches conducted in Dodoma was based on the influence of poverty on street children, causes, effect, and the role of family, government and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), still the problem of street children exist daily. Thus, this study intended to assess the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

1.3   Statement of the Problem

It is responsibility of the community to make sure children cared or upbringing in their family. But the situation in Dodoma City was quite different. For instance, in Dodoma estimated to have 347 street children (Ngwai, 2021). Despite of having programs and initiative including foster care services, parenting training and family planning still street children exist. It is questionable on the efficient and effectiveness of programs offered towards reducing street children.

Unfortunately, the impact of having street children divided into short and long term impact including existence of social exclusion to street children, increase of substance abuse users and brokers, increase of sexual abuse and prostitution, emergence of young street gangs (Fantahun and Taa, 2022), lack of protection, poor child development, poor

enrolment in education, and it creates risk of suicide among children while community remained silent. Thus, the intention of this study was to assess the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

1.4 General Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study was to assess the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives

1. To assess the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

2. To assess the reasons for prevention of street children in Dodoma City.

3. To find out challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What is level of community's awareness on prevention street children's phenomena in Dodoma City?

2. What are the reasons for prevention of street children in Dodoma City?

3. What are challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City?

1.6   Significance of the Study

This study added new awareness in the existing body of knowledge on street children matters. The study provided useful information to the community through encouraging proper community parenting style. It would help the community members to avoid same mistakes practicing in daily life within the community specifically looking street children as criminals or other people would take responsibility of caring them on behalf of the community. Generally, it would be increasing community awareness and responsibility on issues of street children and how to address the problem in local levels from family level, neighborhood, street and national at large.

However, this study would raise awareness to policy makers, government and other institutions through understanding proper ways to handle issues affected children and family, and the formulation and implementation of policies on children. Furthermore, the study would help stakeholders, Social Welfare Officers, and Tanzania Police Gender Desk and Children to take immediate actions on helping street children including increasing foster care and provision of awareness based on adoption of children.

Lastly, the study would be useful to future research on generating the same topic of street children. The researchers would increase knowledge on street children issues including lifestyle and categories of street children, communicating street children, root causes of street children, community parenting system, contribution of government and community on street children and the preventive measure to combat the problem of street children in Tanzania settings.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Chapter Overview

In this chapter reviewed literature relating to the study. This chapter included Definition of key concept, Theoretical and Empirical review, Research Gap and Conceptual Framework. Some Literatures from worldwide used in this chapter.

2.2   Conceptual Definition of Key Terms

In this study the conceptual definition of key terms were child, community, street children, and phenomena as follow: -

2.2.1   Child

A "child" defined as a person underage of 14 years (URT, 2004). A Child means a person below the age of eighteen years shall be known as a child (URT, 2009). In this study a "child" means any person who has not reached the age of 18 years.

2.2.2   Community

Community is a collection of people who interact and share common characteristics (Friberg and Martinsson, 2017). Zevallos (2013) defined community as a group who follow a social structure, work together within a particular place, or bound by sense of belonging. In this study a word "community" means a group of people living together sharing common characteristics and interest including norms and values.

2.2.3   Street Children

Street children mean any boy or girl for whom the street has become his or her habitual abode or source of livelihood (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). Sharma, (2020) defines Street children as children who have not reached adulthood, for whom the street has become their habitual abode and a source of livelihood. In this study, "street children" means any child who depends on the street for their daily survival, and they are unprotected.

2.2.4   Phenomena

According to American Psychological Association APA (2018) defined "Phenomena" are the sensible things that constitute the world experience, as contracted with the transcendent realities that are known only through reason. In this study the word "phenomena" means a fact situation or observable event that occurs in a natural or human-made world that is an unusual or abnormal and can be seen, felt, or tested.

2.3   Theoretical Literature Review

This study was guided by structural functionalism theory in support the study based on the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

2.3.1   Structural Functionalism Theory

This study adopts Structural Functionalist Theory developed by Emile Durkheim (1858-1917). The theory views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability (Ossa *et al.*, 2023). Durkheim argued that all these parts must work efficiently and effectively so that society remains stable (Milton, 2007). Stability of future community depends how community prepares children in early age to

be future community member. According to Gómez-Diago (2020) Structural Functionalism emerged in the early 20th century associated with authors such as Émile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, Herbert Spencer, and Robert Merton.

2.3.2 Relevance of Structural Functionalism Theory to this Work

The relevant of the theory on the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena is that the lower community's awareness on street children matters, the higher the number of street children. This was argued by Mtaita (2015) who found that, many people are unaware of the street children, and they perceive them as nuisance who somehow want to be on the streets. The children themselves are viewed as the problem rather than the communities (Kisembo, 2012, cited Mtaita, 2015).

The relevant of the theory on the factors for prevention of street children is that, prevention of street children phenomena depends on the roles performed by the community members such as provision of supportive and inclusive environment, helping children to act through collective action, bridge members of the community through connections, promote collaboration, and provisions of guidance on the family.

Furthermore, the relevant of the theory on the challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena is that, street children are viewed as a result of failure of different structures to function properly (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). For example, family have a role of parenting, while community have the role providing discipline, mutual care, engagement and interaction. The assumption was that, if the one of this would fail to meet its role, problem of street children would continue to exist.

2.4   Empirical Literature Review

In this study the empirical literature review included community's awareness, reasons contributing to street children's phenomena, the role of community on helping children living on the streets, Research gap and conceptual framework.

2.4.1   Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

The levels of community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena is low. The community has developed plenty of negative perception and altitudes about these children which leads to a lot of abuse and even isolation from the large part of the society (Ngwai, 2021). Most of community member have not enough education about parenting children living on the streets. This was evidenced due to presence of street children as shown by Ngwai (2021) who found Dar es Salam has about 2984, Mwanza 978, Arusha 544, Iringa 954, Mbeya 586, and Dodoma 347 street children.

Unfortunately, the community who were supposed to help this child, they segregate them and they call them, "*watoto wa mtaani" or "matonya*" (URT, 2018). Fayaz, (2019) argue that low community's awareness leads to physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect to children. Moreover, these children were supposed to receive parenting care from the community member, but what is witnessing in the urban street, is that children are taking care for themselves. Moreover, the community remained silent as a result streets experiencing street children's phenomena in urban areas.

Communities can better understand the root causes of youngsters becoming involved in the streets by raising awareness of issues including poverty, family dissolution, abuse,

and limited educational opportunities. Research shows that a community-driven understanding of these causes allows for targeted preventive measures, like creating social support networks in the community or giving money to families that are at risk (UNICEF, 2012). Additionally, raising community awareness encourages a sense of shared accountability for children in need. Research indicates that communities with a high level of awareness are more likely to set up services like shelters, mentorship programs, or after-school programs to keep kids off the streets (Consortium for Street Children, 2018). Citizens, companies, and municipal leaders are inspired to actively support at-risk children and their families by this sense of duty.

Community awareness frequently leads to support for improved laws and tools meant to stop the phenomenon of street children. According to research, communities that are aware of the dangers that homeless children face can exert pressure on local governments to create comprehensive child welfare policies that include housing, healthcare, and education access (Mathur and De Camargo, 2016). In other words, raising community awareness can help street children reintegrate into society more easily by lowering the stigma attached to them. According to studies, stigmatization frequently causes street children to become isolated, which makes help more difficult. Nonetheless, there is more compassion and support for reintegration initiatives when people are aware of the factors that contribute to children ending up on the streets (Aptekar and Stoecklin, 2013). Initiatives to strengthen families, such parenting classes, programs for economic empowerment, and tools for resolving conflicts, are more likely to be supported by a community that is aware of the issues that contribute to the

phenomenon of street children. Family-centered support makes the streets a safer place for children who are at risk by reducing some of the main factors that drive them there (Thomas de Benitez, 2007).

To prevent the phenomena of street children, community awareness involves a variety of strategies, such as comprehension, involvement, lobbying, resource mobilisation, and community-based action. Together, these elements produce an informed and proactive community that helps at-risk kids and lessens the conditions that encourage involvement in the streets. Understanding the factors that lead to youngsters becoming involved in the streets, such as poverty, family strife, abuse, and limited access to social services or education, is the first step in developing community awareness. By identifying these variables, communities may better target vulnerable groups and implement preventative strategies. A knowledgeable community may be better equipped to spot and help at-risk kids before they become homeless, according to studies (UNICEF, 2012; Thomas de Benitez, 2011).

It is essential that the community actively participate in and engage with child welfare efforts. Community-driven strategies, like neighbourhood watch groups, volunteer programs, and local collaborations, foster a feeling of shared accountability and empower communities to assist kids who are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. There is evidence that initiatives that incorporate the community heavily are more effective and long-lasting in tackling the root causes of street children (Consortium for Street Children, 2018). Support from the community for legislation

protecting children is essential for long-term prevention. Communities are more inclined to actively support government action when they recognise the importance of protective measures, such as legislation safeguarding children, access to first-rate healthcare and education, and so forth. Research indicates that communities with knowledge of welfare and child rights laws can influence lawmakers to enhance the resources and legal protections for children in danger (Aptekar and Stoecklin, 2013; Mathur and De Camargo, 2016). By encouraging communities to see street children as individuals in need rather than as "delinquents," education and sensitisation initiatives can lessen the stigma associated with them and promote empathy. To improve integration and support, sensitisation efforts can involve media programs, workshops, and school projects that increase awareness of the needs and rights of street children (Hulme and Mushi, 2005).

One of the most important aspects of raising community awareness is mobilising resources, including money, food, shelter, and educational initiatives. Communities are more inclined to support or finance programs that offer vital resources when they are aware of the needs of children who are at risk. Research shows that communities with adequate resources are better able to provide safe spaces and alternatives for kids who might otherwise wind up on the streets. Communities create assistance programs to assist vulnerable families and children because of increased awareness. These can include parenting classes, family counselling, and educational initiatives that try to stop family dissolution and child neglect, two major factors that lead to involvement in the criminal justice system. For kids who might not otherwise have help, community

support systems like mentorship programs or drop-in centres offer safe havens and direction (Thomas de Benitez, 2007; Consortium for Street Children, 2018).

2.4.2   Prevention of Street Children

Ways for Prevention of street children phenomena defers from one country to another depending economic level and nature of the culture of the country. The following are ways for prevention of street children in Africa context: -

Strengthening African extended family system. There is African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child" (Reupert, *et al*., 2022). Extended family promotes mutual childcare support and proper socialization to a child. Advantages of extended family system is that a child is not trained and cared by only one person, each one contributes one way or other in the training of the child (Nwanmuoh, *et al*., 2024). Strengthening of extended family system will help the community to care and socialize children in their family with their relatives such as biological parents, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and grandparents.

Raising public awareness. This is the process of influencing or supporting people to rise their altitude towards solving the problem. The increase of public awareness can be very helpful by telling people stories of different kind of street children, problem facing street children and what to do to help street children through door to door (Ayomide, 2019). Ngwai (2021) suggesting that, the biggest help to give street children is seminars that will train them to stop living in street while helping them to develop necessary skills including vocational training.

Detection of children who are most vulnerable before running into the streets. Children are among the significant vulnerable groups (Mmasa and Mbaula, 2016). The family, which is supposed to be the bedrock of the children's welfare and protection, has today become a major cause of the problem of street children (Ngwai, 2021). Reality is that, children at risk can fall into the category of children of the street at any time (Bhukuth and Ballet, 2015). Thus, it needs the community members to discover such type of children and helping them before running into the streets.

The voice of street children must be heard. Northeast Lincolnshire Children Partisanship (NELSCP) defined "the voice of the child" is a phrase that is used to describe the real involvement of children by seeking their views and wants. In order to solve street children's phenomena in our streets it needs to listen street children by finding out the major causative and providing the best alternative solution. Reupert, *et al*. (2022) argued that it requires an environment where children's voices are taken seriously.

Proper involvement of stakeholders through networking. Stakeholders promote conducive environment for wellbeing of the child to live in their family. Stakeholders such as community volunteers, teachers, professionals, policy makers, practitioners needs to work as a team in working with street children in the community. According to Moses (2022) suggesting that, to reduce problem of street children, community needs to agree that there is a problem that needs to be solved. Through networking the problem of street children will be solved early before the situation to be bigger. It is crucial to keep kids off the streets because of the many dangers and detrimental effects of living on the

streets, which not only affect the kids but also the larger community and society. Street kids frequently don't have access to basic rights like safe housing, healthcare, and education. Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), every child's right to development and protection is emphasised. These rights are upheld by preventing the phenomenon of street children by making sure they are raised in secure, nurturing surroundings where their basic needs are satisfied (UNICEF, 2012).

Malnutrition, infectious disease exposure, drug misuse, and mental health disorders are among the many health problems that street children are more likely to experience. Being homeless increases one's susceptibility to disease and damage since it frequently results in limited access to nutrition and medical care. By giving them access to necessary services and alternatives, preventive interventions assist shield kids from these health hazards (Aptekar and Stoecklin, 2013). Street kids are more susceptible to abuse, exploitation, and violence. Research indicates that children who live on the streets are often subjected to trafficking, sexual exploitation, and physical assault. The goal of preventive measures is to protect children from various types of abuse by tackling the underlying issues that lead to homelessness, such as family dysfunction, poverty, and limited access to social services (Thomas de Benitez, 2007).

Being involved in the streets frequently disrupts schooling, which limits children's chances of finding work in the future and ending the cycle of poverty. One of the most important tools for social and economic mobility is education, and keeping kids from dropping out of school to live or work on the streets contributes to brighter prospects.

Systems of family and community support are essential for maintaining children's interest in their education (Save the Children, 2015). Since surviving on the streets frequently necessitates engaging in unlawful activities, an increase in the number of street children can put a strain on social services and increase rates of small crimes and substance usage. Communities may lower crime rates and improve social stability by preventing street children, which will benefit society. Preventive measures have been shown to safeguard children and create safer, more stable communities (UNESCO, 2016).

Long-term financial costs to society are decreased by addressing the underlying causes and keeping kids off the streets. The phenomenon of street children may result in future expenses related to social welfare, healthcare, and law enforcement. Long-term society outcomes are improved, and costs are reduced when prevention, education, and support services are invested in (Dybicz, 2005).

2.4.3 Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

Poor planning and existence of weak Legislations. The problem of street children is crosscutting which needs multi-sectoral planning but the situation is different in Tanzania. There is poor coordination among government departments that is Social Welfare and Community Development Department. Furthermore, in Tanzania it seems most of the existing laws are not effective enough to combat the ever-increasing problem of street children (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). In that circumstance, it creates difficulties to community members because it failing to get proper way to prevent street children.

Breakdown of traditional safety nets. African extended family system which ensured children's safety and socialization have totally declined in urban areas. Families and community, especially in urban areas no longer take responsibility to take care of children of their relatives once their parents die, they leave children alone without financial and social support, children are left at the mercy of the community, more so to fend for themselves (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). In this circumstances it creates challenges to community in taking its responsibility.

Persistent of poverty. Poverty is among of the challenges that push children into the streets (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). Street children move or work on the streets to earn money for themselves, and to support their families. They earn money through begging, car washing, drug trafficking, juggling, performing music, sex work, and shoe shining or vending (Moura et al, 2014; Zena and Aneth, 2010, cited by Hassen, 2019). Money, they get are used to buy some basic needs such as food, clothes, and treatment for themselves or their families. Because of poverty existed, it creates difficulties for community to play its role of prevention of street children.

Further, many communities find it difficult to obtain the sustainable funding needed for preventive programs that assist children and families who are at risk. Programs like counselling, family support services, and after-school activities are frequently underfunded due to a lack of funding, which lowers their accessibility and effectiveness. According to research, effective preventive programs require consistent funding, yet

many communities struggle with a lack of resources because of conflicting social and economic goals (Consortium for Street Children, 2018).

One of the biggest problems facing many communities is economic hardship. Poverty frequently restricts the resources available to families and community initiatives to help children who are at risk. Financially unstable families may find it difficult to meet their children's basic requirements, which may push them to seek work on the streets. Research shows that poverty is the main reason why kids leave home, as they look for methods to help themselves or their family (UNICEF, 2012). It is challenging to provide successful intervention programs because community resources are frequently overextended (Save the Children, 2015). Ample social services, such as child protection, education, healthcare, and mental health support, are also lacking in many places. Because at-risk children and families might not have access to the necessary help, this lack of infrastructure makes it challenging to avoid street involvement. Limited social services are linked to greater rates of street engagement because adolescents who face abuse or family conflict have few other options, according to research (Aptekar and Stoecklin, 2013).

The most frequent causes of children leaving home include abuse, neglect, and unstable families. Complex family difficulties, which include delicate subjects like substance misuse, parental neglect, and domestic violence, are frequently difficult for communities to handle. Families that are unable or unwilling to participate in supportive interventions restrict the effectiveness of preventive initiatives, and children who lack family support

are more susceptible to living on the streets (Thomas de Benitez, 2007). Furthermore, street children are not perceived as people in need of help but rather as stigmatised, delinquents, or problems in many communities. This stigma can make people less likely to help street kids and their families, which makes it more difficult to create preventative policies that work. Furthermore, there may be misconceptions and ineffectual strategies because of communities' ignorance of the underlying reasons for street engagement (Hulme and Mushi, 2005).

Lack of strong legal safeguards for kids can make it more difficult for communities to keep kids off the streets. Holding families, organisations, or community leaders responsible for the care of children can be challenging in some areas due to lax, poorly implemented, or nonexistent laws and policies pertaining to child protection and welfare. Strong legislative frameworks and enforcement, which provide a safer environment and clearly define responsibilities, are crucial for lowering the prevalence of street children, according to research (Mathur and De Camargo, 2016). Additionally, prevention initiatives that support children and families at risk need long-term funding, which many communities find difficult to get. Due to a lack of funding, programs including family support services, counselling, and after-school activities are frequently underfunded, which lowers their impact and availability. Strong funding is essential for effective preventive initiatives, according to research, yet many communities lack resources because of conflicting social and economic goals (Consortium for Street Children, 2018). Some countries have social conventions and cultural beliefs that can serve as obstacles to keeping people off the streets. For instance, youngsters may feel pressured

to support their families financially, which may lead them to look for employment on the streets. Additionally, families may find it more difficult to keep their children in school and off the streets if society accepts child labour or if education is not prioritised (Aptekar and Stoecklin, 2013).

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual Framework is a framework based on an existing theory in a field of inquiry that is related and reflects the hypothesis of a study (Adom and Hussein, 20018). The Conceptual Framework in this study was guided by structural functionalism theory developed by Emile Durkheim. Figure 2.1 provided the conceptual framework that gives the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. In this study role of community was independent variable and prevention of street children was dependent variable. There was a relationship between role of community and prevention of street children. The assumption was that if the community would work on prevention of street children, the problem of street children would end.

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable
ROLE OF COMMUNITY Engagement Interaction Mutual care Socialization Discipline	**PREVENTION OF**
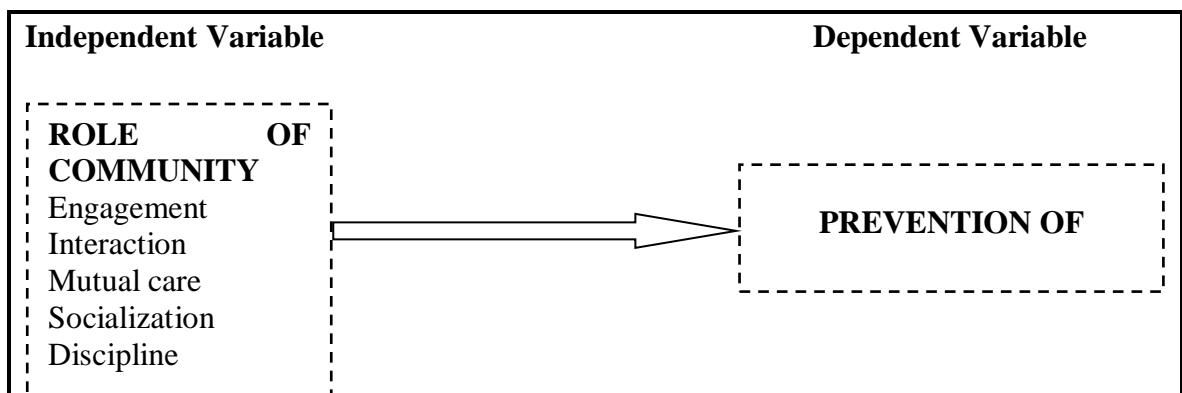
Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher, 2024

2.6 Research Gap

In general, there was a gap, it lacked of researches based on the role of community in prevention of street child's phenomena in Dodoma City. Following work of Shitindi, Zhang, and Nyello (2023), Shitindi, Nyello, and Mswima (2023), Seni (2023) and Kato (2023), their findings focused on streetism causes, challenge, effect and the role of family, government and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), though the problem continue to exist daily. Unfortunately, this researcher didn't show the levels of community's awareness on presentation of street children.

Furthermost of current research conducted in Dodoma did not show factors for prevention of street children. Factors for prevention of street children didn't given a priority discussion in conducted research as a result it needed other research to be conducted in Dodoma City whereas this study showed factors for prevention of street children in our streets.

Based on the challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma, most of the researchers conducted in Dodoma City ignored low public awareness as a major challenges facing community in addressing the situations. Thus, this study had intention of assessing the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1   Chapter Overview

This chapter presented the methodology of the study. It included Research philosophy, Area of the Study, Study Population, Sampling procedure, Data Collection methods, Data Analysis and presentation, and Reliability and Validity of Data.

3.2   Research Philosophy

Research philosophy is a framework that guides how research should be conducted based on idea of reality and the nature of knowledge (Collis and Hussey, 2014 p.43, cited Ramsberg, 2018). It is the set of beliefs concerning the nature of the reality being investigated (Chege and otieno, 2020). This study used pragmatism research philosophy because it involved both positivism and interpretivism. Pragmatic paradigms were well-suited for studying the real-world benefit of streetism and the community involvement to prevent the phenomenon. By focusing on tangible outcomes and considering the importance of context, this approach provided valuable insights into how streetism can be prevented in the study area of Dodoma City.

3.2.1   Research Design

A research design is the framework or plan for a study that is used as a guide in collection and analyzing the data, and it is a blueprint that is followed in completing a study (Pandey and Pandey, 2015). In conducting research there were many research designs, such as explanatory, explorative, to list but a few. Considering the benefits of

descriptive research design, study adopted it as it was compatible with both quantitative and qualitative data. Further, the benefit of using a descriptive research design was that it offers methods for gathering pertinent information at a reasonable cost and yielding detailed information. Detailed information on the prevention of streetism and the involvement of community members was studied where precise and accurate data were obtained.

3.2.2   Research Approach

A research approach is the procedure selected by a researcher to collect, analyze, and interpret data, these approaches can be qualitative or quantitative (Budert-Waltz and Moffitt, 2023). This study was carried out using mixed approaches. A mixed methods research design combines qualitative and quantitative research and data into a single study. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected through a semi structured questionnaire to identify the awareness of community on prevention of streetism in Dodoma. Both qualitative and quantitative data approaches were employed in the study because of the sensitivity of the study in dealing with the complicated nature of streetism to avoid influencing each other and sharing the data collection tools information. Simultaneous means of data collection were employed to counteract the identified challenge.

3.3   Study Location

This study conducted in Dodoma City in Tanzania. The justification of the area was that Dodoma is a highly growing city that needs to rescue the situation of street children

before reaching critical situation. Addition to that, the area selected due presence of large number of street children, and presence of large number of populations that is potential for huge number of street children compared to other district in Dodoma region. For example, according to National Bureau of Statistics (2022) Dodoma City has bigger population of 765,179. Based on this criteria, Dodoma City have characteristics of being the study area.

3.4   Study Population

The researcher selected study population from Dodoma City from sex wards namely Uhuru, Viwandani, Majengo, Madukani, Tambukareli, and Makole. The total population of this study was 120. The population categories included 40 street children aged 8-17 years, 38 parents and guardians, 2 Social Welfare Officers, 5 teachers, 30 community members, and 5 Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental Organization officers dealing with street children in Dodoma. The researcher used population in six categories without considering whether a street child or not because the main objective of the study was to assess the role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena.

3.5   Sampling Procedures

There are many samplings procedure that represents the target population (Korb, 2012) including Probability Sampling and Non-Probability Sampling. In this study used both Probability Sampling and Non-Probability Sampling on selecting respondents.

3.5.1 Probability Sampling or Non-Probability Sampling

Probability sampling is also known as 'random sampling' or 'chance sampling', under this sampling procedure, every item of the universe has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample. Non-probability sampling is also known by names such as deliberate sampling, purposive sampling and judgment sampling whereas organizers of the inquiry purposively choose the units of the universe for constituting a sample (Kothari, 2004). Random sampling used on selecting street children, parent/guardians, and city citizens in this study, and purposive sampling used on selecting Social Welfare Officers, teachers, Ward Executive Officers, and Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental organization officers dealing with street children.

3.5.2 Sample size

According to Kothari (2004) sample size is the number of items to be selected from the universe to constitute a sample. This study used a sample size of 92 respondents basing on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula.

Where:

S = Required Sample size

X = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level)

N = Population Size

P = Population proportion (expressed as decimal) (assumed to be 0.5 (50%)

d = Degree of accuracy (5%), expressed as a proportion (.05); It was margin of err

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2 P(1-P)}$$

$$S = \frac{(1.96)^2 120 \times 0.5 \times (1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2(120-1) + (1.96)^2 \times 0.5 \times (1-0.5)}$$

$$S = \frac{115.248}{1.2579}$$

S=91.6 or S=92

Table 3.1: Distribution of the Study Research Subjects

S/N	Research Subjects	Total
1	Street Children (between 8 – 17 years)	35
2	Parents	15
3	Social Welfare Officer	10
4	School Teachers	15
5	Ward Executive Officer	7
6	NGOs dealing with street children	10

3.6   Research Subject Breakdown

3.6.1   Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

According to Garg (2016) Inclusion and exclusion criteria defines who can be included or excluded from the study sample. In this study included street children above 8 years, parents or guardians, Social Welfare Officers, teachers, Ward Executive Officers, and Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental organization officers dealing with street children. On the other hand, this study excluded street children bellow 8 years because it was difficult to get them on the streets.

3.7   Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are those data which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process (Kothari, 2004.p95). It can be from handbooks, data sheets, books and journals, official publications of the Central government, local bodies, private data services and computer data base (Pandey and Pandey, 2015). In this study, secondary data collected from internet, various reports, newspapers, textbooks, and district social welfare office. The main aim of using this method was that it provided broad understanding of research questions.

3.8   Primary Data Source

Primary data are those data which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character (Kothari, 2004). Primary data collected through observation, interview, focus group discussion, and questionnaires. In this study used Questionnaires and Interviews methods during data collection.

**3.9	Data Collection Methods**

Data collection involving gathering and investigating of information from various sources such as observation, interview, focus group discussion, experiments, and questionnaires. Under this study selected questionnaires, and interviews methods during data collection.

**3.9.1	Questionnaire**

Questionnaire is a tool used to collect information from people by asking them a series of questions (Lindemann, 2023). In this study questionnaire tools used on assessing the factors for prevention of street children and on examine the role of community in helping children living on the streets in Dodoma. However, Questionnaire used to Social Welfare Officers, teachers, Ward Executive Officers, and Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental organization officers dealing with street children. The main reasons for using questionnaire was that it allows large-scale data collection.

**3.9.2	Interviews Guide**

Interview is a two-way method which permits an exchange of ideas and information (Pandey and Pandey, 2015). Interview methods used on assessing the community's awareness on prevention of street children, and in assess the factors for prevention of street children in Dodoma City. Interview method used to the following respondents: street children, parents and guardians. The main purposes of using interview method during data collection was the best tool to use to both type of respondent who were illiteracy and literacy.

3.10   Validity and Reliability of Data

Validity and Reliability are the concepts used to evaluate the quality of research (Middleton, 2019). The following were the Reliability and validity of data in this study:-

3.10.1   Validity of Data

Validity refers to how accurately a method measures what it is intended to measure, if research has high validity, that means it produces results that correspond to real properties, characteristics, and variations in the physical or social world (Middleton, 2019). In ensuring the validity of data this study used appropriate methods of data collection and appropriate sampling methods.

3.10.2   Reliability of Data

Reliability refers to how consistently a method measures something, if the same result can be consistently achieved by using the same methods under the same circumstances, the measurement is considered reliable (Middleton, 2019). To ensure reliability of the data, this study was timely and transparency on data collection.

3.11   Qualitative Data Rigor or Trustworthiness

Ensuring Rigour and Quality in Qualitative Research Design: According to Johnson et al. (2020), this study complied with accepted guidelines for rigour and quality in qualitative research design. The researchers noted uniformity, credibility, and dependability when creating and delivering the interview guide as per the Appendix. Presenting findings to supervisors for confirmation and comment was part of the member checking process, which guaranteed correctness.

3.11.1 Dependability

Janis (2022) states that thorough research log maintenance and careful documentation of all methodological decisions, data collection techniques, and analytical processes are essential strategies for creating reliability to create consistency of findings within the study. This thorough documentation makes audit trails possible and makes it easier for other researchers to replicate the study. Throughout the course of this investigation, the researcher kept a reflective field journal. The researcher's experience, prejudices, and presumptions that affected the gathering and analysis of data were documented in this field journal.

3.11.2 Trustworthiness

In a study on credibility, the researcher asks himself if the data and findings are appropriate for his claim to the research, and he considers the quantity, quality, and variety of data as well as everything he has heard, felt, and seen to have credibility during the study (Ghafouri, 2016). To make sure the results of this study were legitimate, dependable, and credible, member checking was used. The researcher used member checking to communicate key findings and interpretations with a selection of respondents following the administration of semi-structured questionnaires. Participants were able to confirm the researcher's comprehension and spot any possible misunderstandings as a result.

3.11.3   Confirmability

According to Ghafouri (2016), confirmability validates the research findings, and this study is improved by supervisors and colleagues evaluating the researcher's validity, rigour and trustworthiness in qualitative research, a summary of conflicting cases, and a precise explanation of details. By using reflexivity, where the researcher critically examined their own biases and prejudices, confirmability was improved, and the data remained participant driven. A thorough audit trail was produced by the thorough documentation of the study process. Data analysis methods, coding schemes, questionnaires, and interview recordings (with participant consent) were all part of this trail. This makes it possible for outside reviewers to evaluate the research choices and how well they match the results.

3.11.4 Transferability

The degree to which research findings can be applied to different contexts or circumstances is known as transferability. To increase the possibility of transferability, qualitative researchers seek to provide detailed and complex descriptions of the study's setting, participants, and methods. Ahmed (2024). The study's transferability was enhanced by the researcher's thorough and in-depth explanations, which enabled readers to assess how relevant the results was to comparable circumstances.

3.12   Data Analysis and Presentation

In conducting a research it involved data analysis and data presentation as follows: -

3.12.1 Data Analysis

Data analysis involves processing and analyzing the data to derive meaningful insights (Kumar, 2023). In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data coded, cleaned, and edited by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer software version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel software. The community's awareness analyzed by Microsoft excel, the factors contributing to street children's phenomena, and the role of community in helping children living on the streets analyzed by SPSS. The reasons of using this software were that it was easy to compute data and it provided accurate answer in terms of percentage, diagrams and charts.

3.12.2 Data Presentation

Data presentation involves presenting the data concisely to communicate the research findings (Kumar, 2023). In this study data presentation based on research question and objective used tables, graphs and histograms in presenting and numerical data.

3.13 Ethical Consideration

Bhandari (2021) defined ethical consideration are set of principles that guide a research design and practices whereas scientists and researchers must always adhere to a certain code of conduct when collecting data from people. In undertaking this study ethical consideration as follow: -

3.13.1 University Clearance

Before collection of data research filled a clearance Form from the Open University of Tanzania. Furthermore, a researcher obtained an introductory letter from the University before carrying out this study.

3.13.2 Confidentiality

Maintaining the humanity and dignity of research participants requires protecting subject privacy and personal data obtained during studies; all participant information should be handled with the highest confidentiality during the whole research process. Pietilä (2020). In conducting this study confidentiality given priority. No photo or real names of respondents appeared in this study. The main aim of doing it was to protect the privacy of respondents including street children. In this study, all identifying information was removed from the data as soon as possible to protect participant privacy. Data was stored securely in a password-protected location, accessible only to authorized personnel.

3.13.3 Anonymity

According to Favaretto et al. (2020), the second most frequently reported criteria to be considered when conducting research were respect for the privacy of research participants and protection from potential identification, which is typically accomplished through anonymisation of data. To maintain anonymity and confidentiality, no personally identifying information was collected during the data gathering and reporting process.

3.13.4 Assent and Consent

According to Mead et al. (2023), consent is a necessary component of research activities when it is relevant. Researchers supposed to be aware of their knowledge, practices, resources, barriers, and solutions regarding consent and assent. Any incentives offered to participants should not influence their decision to participate and should not compromise their autonomy; participants retained the right to withdraw from the study at any point without repercussions. Research considered informed consent in conducting this study. Before conducting data from respondents, a researcher introduced and educated respondents on the importance of respondent to be involved in this study. In this study, Participants were provided with Informed Consent forms.

3.13.5 Voluntary Participation

In conducting this study, the issues of voluntarily of respondents given priority. Before collecting of information from respondents, the respondent informed about freedom of participation of this study. More, in this study, Participant involvement was strictly voluntary, with informed Consent obtained from all individuals through signed consent forms. Any incentives offered to participants did not influence their decision to participate and should not compromise their autonomy; participants retained the right to withdraw from the study at any point without repercussions.

3.13.6 Do not Harm Principle

To prevent injury, the ethical implications of research studies should be followed, which means that nothing you do in a study should make things worse. By adhering to ethics,

study participants, organizations, and other stakeholders shouldn't suffer any harm. Taylor (2021). Two social workers were enlisted in this study to assist female responders who were having emotional difficulties related to the subject matter. Additionally, the researcher observed, recognized, and reduced the possibility of participant injury, such as psychological discomfort or social stigma, and maintained anonymity by not collecting personal data.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1   Chapter Overview

This study entitled "The Role of Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena in Dodoma City" presents the demographic information of the ninety-two research subjects, with specific information on age, gender and education level. Further, findings from the field, are presented with the guidance of three specific objectives, namely the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena, the reason for prevention of street children, and the challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City. More details were presented on each specific section respectively.

4.2   Demographic Information of the Research Subjects

Demographic data is vital to research to ensure that study findings are representative and applicable to various populations since it offers critical context for comprehending the findings (Babbie, 2020; Bryman, 2016).

Table 4.1 shows the study respondents' crosstabulation of community knowledge of streetism against marital status, gender, age cohort, and education levels. The findings revealed among research who had knowledge of streetism, 30% were single, 25% were married, and 15% were divorced. Further, among research without knowledge of streetism, noted that 11% were single, 15% were married, and 4% were divorced.

Additionally, the findings on community members with knowledge on streetism in relation to gender, noted that 11% were single, 8% were married, and 6% were divorced. Contrary to community members without streetism knowledge in relation to gender, 30% were single, 32% were married, and 13% were divorced.

Further, on relationship between knowledge of streetism of children and age cohorts, the findings indicates that in the category of 10 to 17 age, 25% were single; in the category of of 18 to 30, 5% were single, 8% were married, and 3% were divorced. Still, in the category of 31 to 40, 8% were single, 12%were married, and 10% were divorced. Adding on the category of 41 and 50,3% were single, 20% were married, and 19% were divorced.

Moreover, on education levels, 25% with primary level, were single, college certificate was represented with 6%, 33% were noted with diploma, and 37% was recorded among bachelor's holders.

Table 4.1: Socio-economic Demographic Information

Community Support to Street Children	Marital Status			
	Single	Married	Divorced	Percent (%)
Knowledge of Streetism of children	30	25	15	70%
Without knowledge of streetism	11	15	4	30%
Total	41	40	19	100%
	Gender			
Male	11	8	6	25%
Female	30	32	13	75%
Total	41	40	19	100%
	Age Cohort			
10 - 17	25	0	0	25%
18 - 30	5	8	3	16%
31 - 40	8	12	10	30%
41- 50	3	20	6	29%
Total	41	40	19	100%
	Education Levels			
Primary Level	25	0	0	25%
Secondary Level	0	0	0	0%
College Certificate	1	3	2	6%
Diploma Level	5	20	8	33%
Bachelor's and above	11	17	9	37%
Total	41	40	19	100%

4.2.1 Discussion on the Demographic Information of the Research Subjects

The findings of this study implies that most of the research subjects were informed of the streetism phenomena in the city of Dodoma, as 70% were recorded. In contrary to that, 30% revealed not to have knowledge of streetism. Further, the findings reveal among the study research subjects that 25% were male and 75% were female. On the same note, 25% were noted from the age cohort of 10-17 years, 16% from the age cohort of 18 -30, 30% recorded from 31-40, and 29% noted from the age of 41 -50. On the aspect of education achievement, 25% were primary school leaver, 6% were holding certificate, 33% were diploma holders, and 37% were bachelor's holder. Reflecting on these findings, it can be noted that most research subject are conversant with the phenomena of streetism, which is in line with the education level attainment among the respondents, as most of them were holding diploma and bachelor. Hence as noted by Babbie (2020) and Bryman (2016) that there is a positive relationship between knowledge of unfolding social events and the education achievement among any population.

4.3 The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

The first specific objective intended to assess the awareness initiative within a community about preventing the phenomenon of streetism, and the components of community awareness in preventing the phenomenon. Both qualitative and quantitative data were used to inform the two variables as presented,

4.3.1 The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

One of the most important factors in lowering the number of kids living or working on the streets is raising community awareness about how to stop the phenomena of street children. Gaining insight into the role and expertise of the community on this matter helps build successful actions and policies.
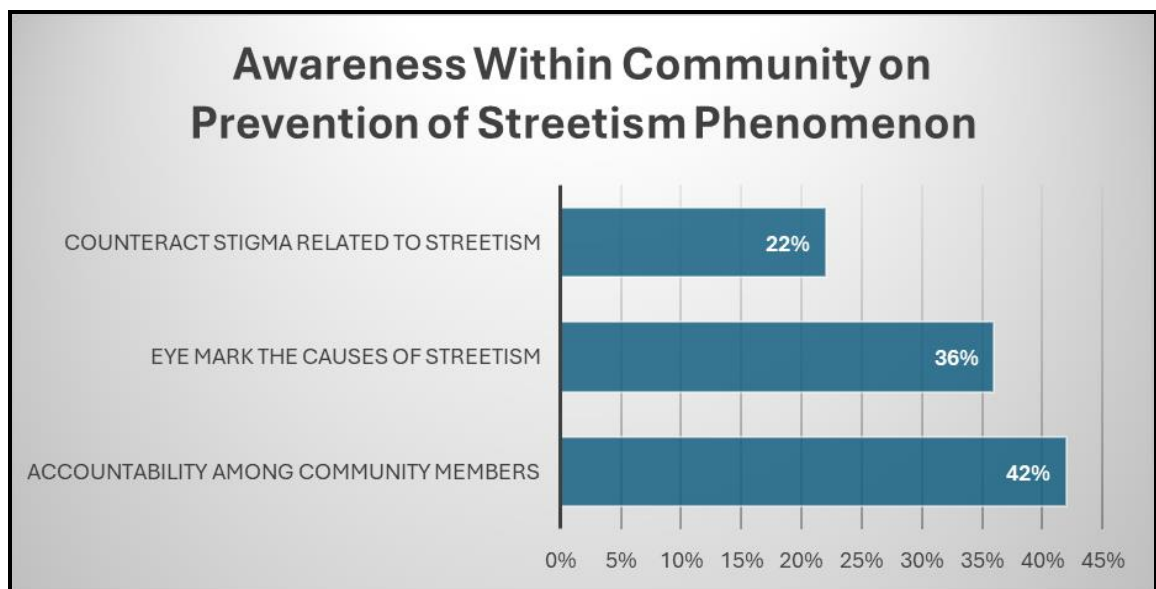
Figure 4.1: Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

Figure 4.1 shows three variables on the awareness within the community which can be used to prevent streetism phenomenon in the study area. The findings identified of the role of the community members to become accountable be acting and becoming pro-active on elements leading to streetism, due to its importance is score 42%. Further, 36% was noted at eye marking the causes of streetism, and 22% was identified with the role of the community to counteract on stigma related to streetism. The quantitative findings

were supported with the qualitative narration as presented below, captured from social welfare and parents,

> *"Despite having good policies and laws in Tanzania, there are still a growing gap related to community members who are knowledgeable about the policies and those who stand passively, and not interested to take any action around child protection"*

The efforts to create awareness of these policies and laws related to child protection, streetism are ruined with community members, who do not act accountable even when they come across a child who can be rescued from going on the street. In agreement with the presented narration, one of the parents noted,

> *"The stakeholders and government should consider investing in family programs, where parents can be imparted with parental skills and becoming in charge of their responsibilities around their children. Some children have gone to street due to lack of parental and caring skills".*

With these observation and assertion presented from the social welfare officer and the parents who were the research participants, it opens an eye on the weakness at the grassroot level, when it is dealt with, the phenomenon of streetism is likely to be counteracted.

4.3.2 The Components of Community Awareness in Preventing the Phenomenon

Understanding, Risk Involved in Streetism, Community Involvement, Community Resource Mobilisation and Community Sensitisation are some of the varied strategies that make up community awareness in the fight against the phenomena of street

children. Together, these elements establish a knowledgeable and engaged community that helps at-risk kids and lessens the causes of street involvement.
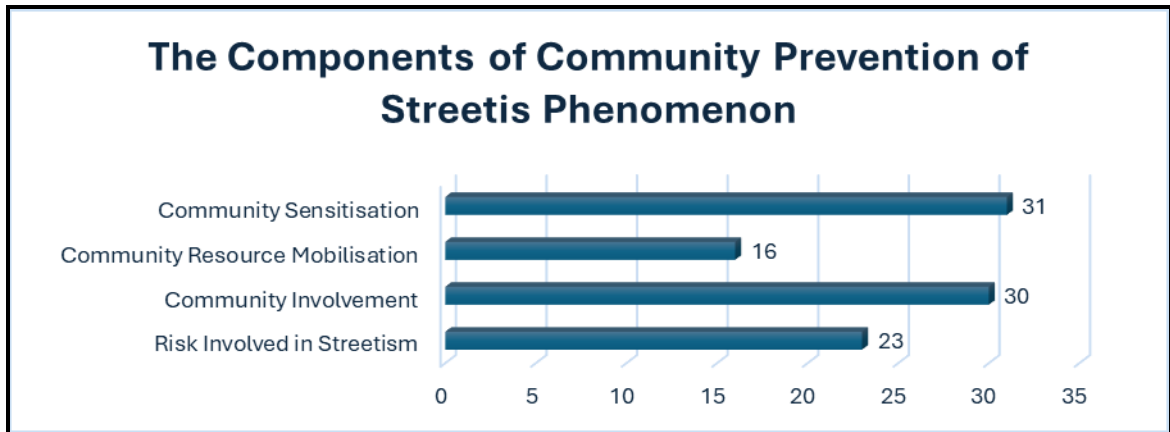
Figure 4.2: The Components of Community Awareness in Preventing the Phenomenon

The components of community awareness in prevention of phenomenon have identified community sensitization, community resource mobilization, community involvement and risk involved streetism. The findings reveal that 31% was noted at community sensetisation, 30% was recorded at community involvement, 23% was noted at risk involved in streetism, and 16% was recorded at community resource mobilization.

The components of community prevention of streetism shows relatively closeness among each other, as none of them scored above 50%. All the identified components can be said to be interconnected to each other. Moreover, the qualitative findings, which was specifically informed by schoolteachers, reveals the following,

> *"The successful of community intervention depends on the grassroot*
> *levels intervention program, which when owned accordingly among the*

> *community members, it significantly reduces the number of children on the street".*

Cementing on the presented narration, another schoolteacher noted that,

> *"Community driven initiatives are instrumental in advancing for the rights of children and their welfare. The driven initiatives are very paramount in advocating for policy support and implementation"*

Hence, the grassroots levels intervention program and advocating for driven initiatives on policy support are very critical in handling the components of community awareness in preventing the phenomenon.

4.3.3 Discussion on the Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

Raising awareness enables communities to identify the root causes of kid involvement in the streets, including family dissolution, poverty, abuse, and limited educational opportunities. According to the findings of this study, community-driven knowledge of these reasons makes it possible to implement focused preventive measures, like giving at-risk families financial support or creating social support networks within the community, as supported by UNICEF (2012). Furthermore, a shared sense of responsibility for vulnerable children is fostered by community awareness.

The findings from this study indicates that communities with high levels of awareness are more likely to set up preventive programs to keep children off the streets, like recreational centres, mentorship programs, or after-school activities, similar findings were highlighted with Consortium for Street Children (2018). This sense of duty

motivates local authorities, corporations, and citizens to actively assist children and families who are at risk. Additionally, raising community awareness will lessen the stigma attached to homeless children, which will facilitate their reintegration into society. It is noted that, stigmatisation frequently causes street children to become isolated, which makes help more difficult. Nonetheless, there is more compassion and support for reintegration initiatives when people are aware of the factors that contribute to children ending up on the streets, the same findings were revealed by Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013). In other words, a community that is aware of the causes of the phenomenon of street children is more likely to support programs that improve families, like parenting classes, economic empowerment efforts, and tools for resolving conflicts. Family-centered support makes the streets a safer place for children who are at risk by reducing some of the main factors that drive them there, this position was also observed by Thomas de Benitez (2007).

Raising awareness enables communities to identify the root causes of kid involvement in the streets, including family dissolution, poverty, abuse, and limited educational opportunities. According to research, community-driven knowledge of these reasons makes it possible to implement focused preventive measures, like giving at-risk families financial support or creating social support networks within the community, this position of the study findings is mirrored with the work of UNICEF (2012). Furthermore, a shared sense of responsibility for vulnerable children is fostered by community awareness. As indicated from the findings of this study that communities with high levels of awareness are more likely to set up preventive programs to keep kids off the

streets, like shelters, mentorship programs, or after-school activities, this same view was noted by Consortium for Street Children (2018). This sense of duty motivates local authorities, corporations, and citizens to actively assist children and families who are at risk. Additionally, raising community awareness will lessen the stigma attached to homeless kids, which will facilitate their reintegration into society. Worth noting, stigmatisation frequently causes street children to become isolated, which makes help more difficult. Nonetheless, there is more compassion and support for reintegration initiatives when people are aware of the factors that contribute to children ending up on the streets, reflecting the work of Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013). In other words, a community that is aware of the causes of the phenomenon of street children is more likely to support programs that improve families, like parenting classes, economic empowerment efforts, and tools for resolving conflicts. Family-centered support makes the streets a safer place for children who are at risk by reducing some of the main reasons that drive them there, these findings were like those of Thomas de Benitez (2007).

The idea that a well-functioning society depends on all its components such as the family, education, and social services working together to address the needs of its members, including vulnerable children, is the connection between structural functionalism theory and community awareness regarding the prevention of the street child phenomenon. Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons created the sociological paradigm known as structural functionalism, which holds that every social institution or

"structure" plays a part in preserving the stability and cohesiveness of society (Parsons, 1951).

4.4   The Reason for Prevention of Street Children

It is crucial to keep children off the streets because of the many dangers and detrimental effects of living on the streets, which not only affect the kids but also the larger community and society. This specific objective is informed by two features, namely the awareness of the reason for preventing street children phenomenon, and the identification of reasons to prevent streetism. More details as presented,
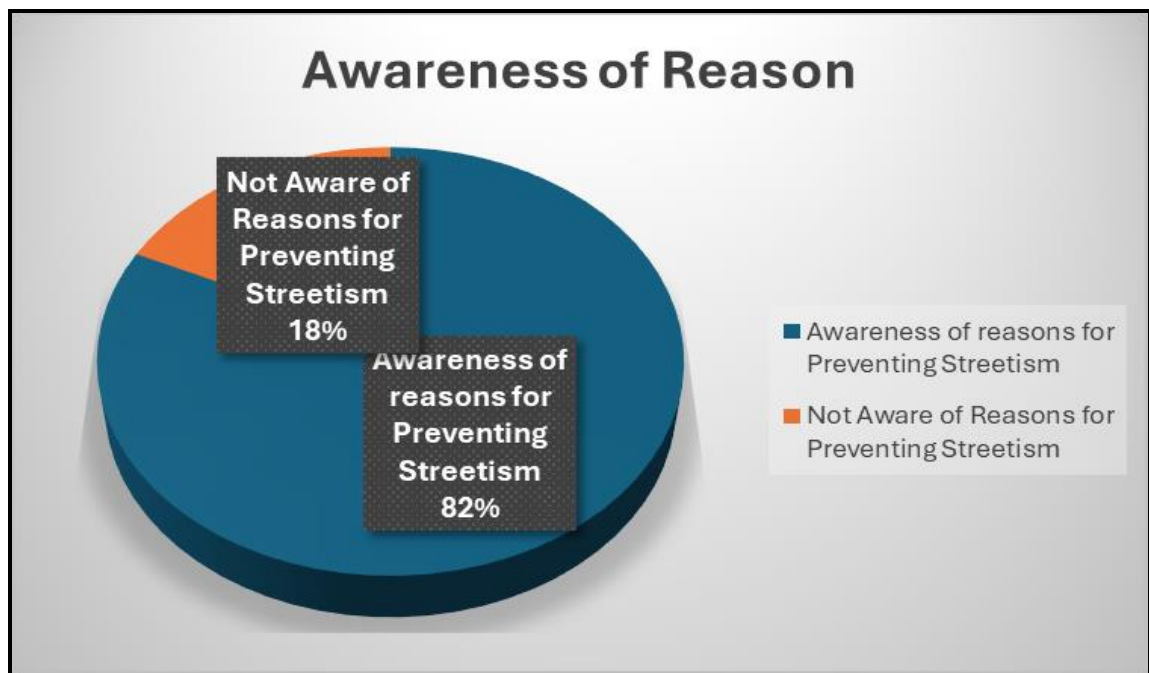
Figure 4.3: Awareness of the Reasons for Prevention of Streetism

4.4.1   Awareness of Reasons for Preventing of Streetism

The findings as presented in figure 4.3 noted that most research subjects were aware of the reasons for preventing streetism. The findings noted of 82% recording of awareness, contrary to 18% who were not aware of the reasons for preventing streetism. It is crucial to keep children off the streets because of the many dangers and detrimental effects of living on the streets, which not only affect the kids but also the larger community and society.
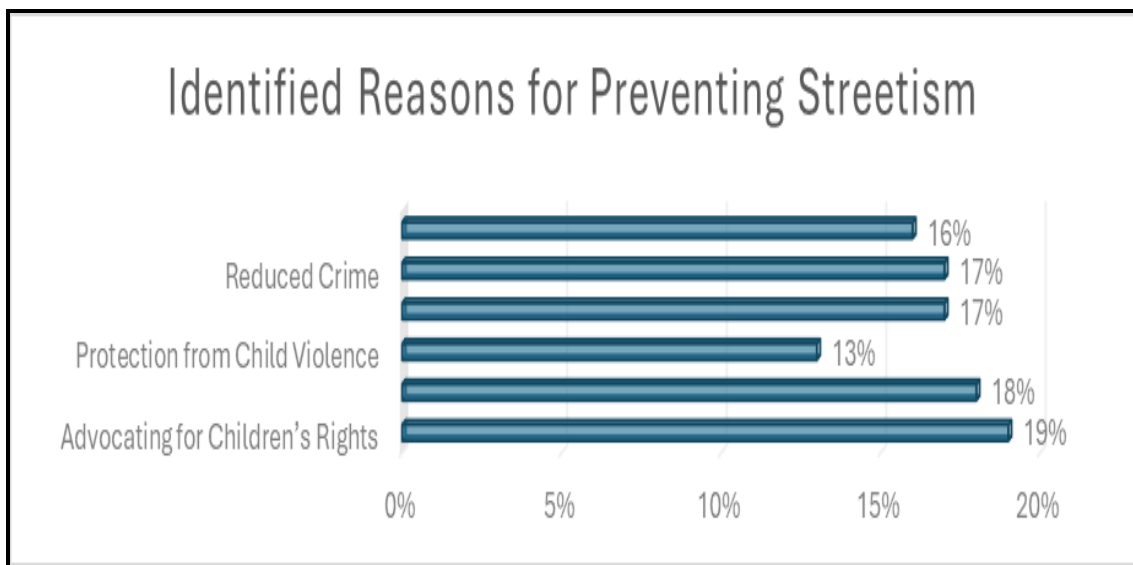
Figure 4.4: Identified reason for Preventing Streetism

The findings of the study identified, 19% with advocating for children's rights, 18% with reduced health risks, 13% at protection from child violence, 17% with provision of child education, 17% with reduced crime, and 16% recorded at Economic Shocks. The findings reveal a situation where these reasons when addressing the welfare of street children which be given equal consideration.

4.4.2   Discussion on the Reason for Prevention of Street Children

Basic rights like safe housing, healthcare, and education are frequently inaccessible to street children. Every child's right to development and protection is emphasised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). By ensuring that children are raised in secure, nurturing situations where their fundamental needs are satisfied, preventing the phenomenon of street children is consistent with these rights (UNICEF, 2012).

In addition, the street kids are more likely to suffer from mental health disorders, substance misuse, infectious disease exposure, and malnourishment. Being homeless frequently results in limited access to nutrition and medical treatment, making one more susceptible to disease and accidents. By offering alternatives and access to necessary resources, preventive strategies aid in shielding children from these health challenges, this is also supported with the work of Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013). Additionally, street children are especially susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and violence. According to the findings of this study, children living on the streets are regularly subjected to numerous forms of violence. By addressing the underlying issues that drive children to the streets, such as poverty, dysfunctional families, and limited access to social services, preventive approaches seek to protect them from these types of violence, these finding were echoed with the work of Thomas de Benitez (2007).

Further, street involvement frequently disrupts schooling, which limits children's chances of finding work in the future and ending the cycle of poverty. A key component

of social and economic mobility is education, and keeping children from dropping out of school to live or work on the streets contributes to brighter prospects. Support networks within the family and community are essential for maintaining children's involvement in school, these findings were supported by Save the Children (2015).

Furthermore, as children on the street are frequently engage in unlawful activities to survive, an increase in the number of street children can put a burden on social services and raise rates of petty crimes and substance abuse. Communities can improve social stability and lower crime rates by preventing street children, which will benefit society. According to the findings of this study, preventive measures help create safer, more stable communities in addition to protecting children, the same observation as held by UNESCO (2016).

From this point of view, tackling the underlying reasons and keeping children off the streets lowers society's long-term financial expenses. Future expenses related to law enforcement, social welfare, and healthcare may result from the phenomenon of street children. It is more economical and produces better long-term social results to invest in prevention, education, and support services. Institutions like the family, healthcare, and education are seen by structural functionalism as crucial to maintaining social order. The fact that children leave these institutions and wind up on the streets indicates that they haven't fulfilled their functional duties, which include offering safety, education, and assistance (Merton, 1968). Reducing the prevalence of street children strengthens these institutions by tackling the root reasons, including broken families or insufficient social

assistance, and making sure they can adequately meet the needs of the kids. Furthermore, meeting the needs of homeless children before they become homeless is also effective for society, according to functionalist theory. According to structural functionalism, when every individual in a society performs tasks that benefit the economy and social structure, the society is more stable and productive. By keeping children in supportive environments (such their families and schools), prevention helps them avoid becoming future welfare, medical, or law enforcement costs and instead prepares them for future economic and social contributions (Dybicz, 2005).

4.5 Identified Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

The third specific objective is informed with two variables, awareness of the community members on the challenges, and the identified challenges facing communities to prevent streetism. More details as presented,
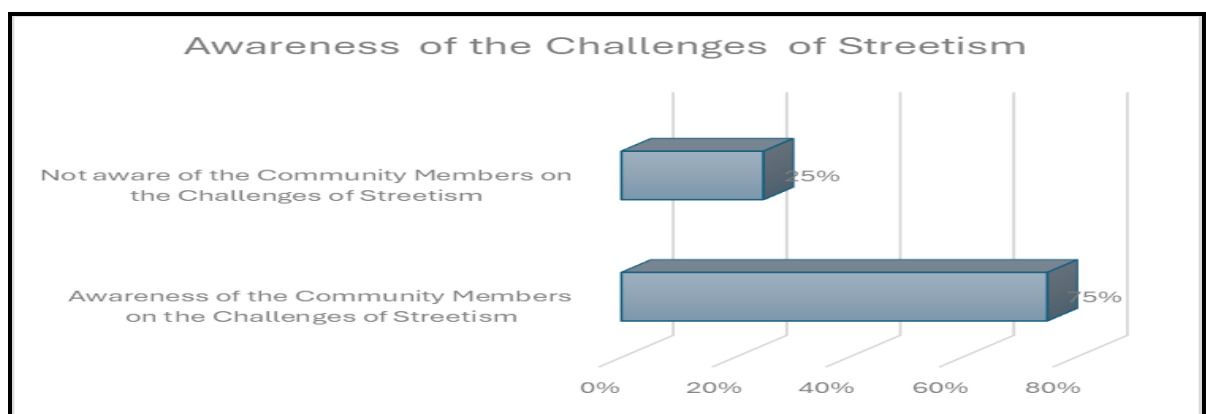
Figure 4.5: Awareness of the Community members on the Challenges of Streetism

Figure 4.5 shows the status of the research subjects on the awareness of challenges of streetism. The findings reveal that 25% were not aware of the challenges, while 75% claimed to be aware of the challenges related to streetism.

4.5.1 Identified Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Streetism

Preventing the occurrence of street children presents several hurdles for communities, including systemic, social, and economic obstacles. These difficulties make efforts to assist children who are at risk more difficult and reduce the efficacy of preventive measures. More details as presented,
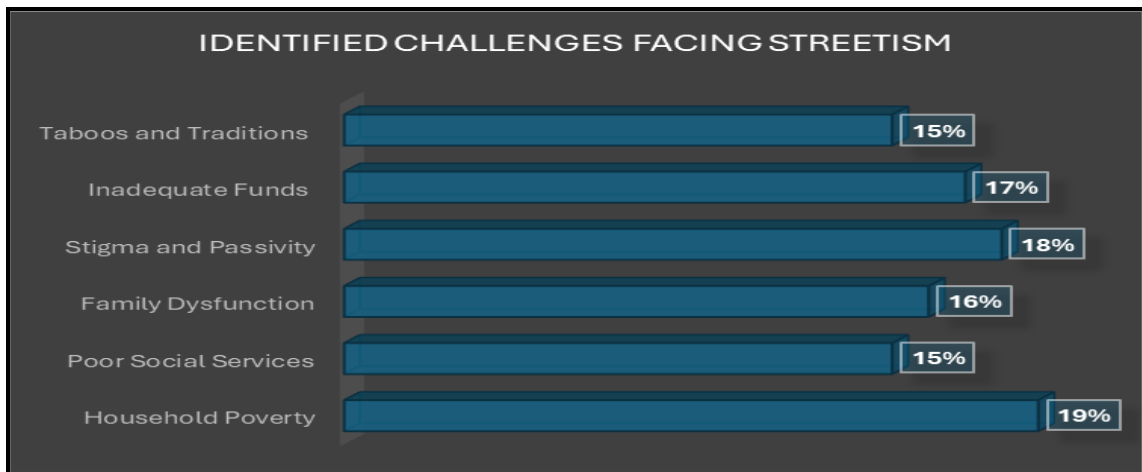
Figure 4.6: Identified Challenges Facing Streetism

The field findings show that 19% was recorded with household poverty, 15% was noted at poor social services, 16% was noted with family dysfunction, 18% was recorded at stigma and passivity, 17% was recorded with inadequate funds, and 15% was noted at taboos and traditions. The findings shows that the identified challenges have equal

threshold around streetism, hence should be handled adequately to end the suffering among street children.

4.5.2 Discussion on the Identified Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

The findings form this study noted that for many communities, economic hardship is a major problem. Resources for families and community initiatives aimed at helping children who are at risk are frequently restricted by poverty. Children may go to the streets in search of money if their families are unable to provide their fundamental necessities. Poverty is a major factor in youngsters leaving home, according to studies, as they look for methods to help themselves or their families, these findings echo the work of UNICEF (2012).

Moreover, the findings revealed that effective intervention programs are challenging to provide since community resources are frequently stretched More, adequate social services, such as child protection, education, healthcare, and mental health support, are lacking in many communities. Effectively preventing street involvement is hampered by this lack of infrastructure since vulnerable families and children might not be able to get the help they require. Because children who encounter family conflict or violence have few options. In support of these findings, Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013) and Save the Children (2015) noted that research shows that a lack of social assistance leads to greater rates of street children.

From findings noted that children frequently leave home due to family instability, abuse, and neglect. Because complicated family difficulties encompass delicate subjects like substance misuse, parental neglect, and domestic violence, communities frequently struggle to handle them. When families are unable or unwilling to participate in supportive interventions, preventive efforts are limited, and children are more susceptible to living on the streets in the absence of family support. These findings mirror the work of Thomas de Benitez (2007). Instead of being considered as human needing help, street children are stigmatised, perceived as delinquents, or seen as a problem in many communities. This stigma can impede the development of successful preventative methods by decreasing community willingness to support street children and their families. Furthermore, communities could not comprehend the underlying reasons for street involvement, which could result in misconceptions and inefficient strategies. These findings were supported by Hulme and Mushi (2005).

On the same note, certain social conventions and cultural beliefs may serve as obstacles to avoiding street involvement in various communities. For instance, children would be expected to support their families financially, which would encourage them to look for work on the streets. Additionally, it could be more difficult to persuade families to keep their children in school and off the streets if society tolerates child labour or doesn't prioritise education. These findings agreed with the work of Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013).

Dybicz (2005) noted that structural functionalism theory offers a framework for analysing how the disintegration or dysfunction of social structures, including families, schools, and welfare services, contributes to social issues like child homelessness, it is pertinent to comprehending the difficulties that communities encounter in preventing the phenomenon of street children. According to Talcott Parsons' expansion of Emile Durkheim's structural functionalism, society is a complex system of interconnected pieces, each of which has a distinct function in preserving social order and stability. Issues like street children emerge when these components malfunction, mirroring larger dysfunctions in society.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter uses the key findings from the three specific objectives, namely the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena, the reason for prevention of streetism, and the identification of challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City to work on the summary, recommendations, and a conclusion. More details as presented,

5.2 Summary

This study entitled "The Role of Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena in Dodoma City" was guided by three specific objectives, namely: the community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena, the reason for prevention of streetism, and the identification of challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena while focusing on the city of Dodoma.

Moreover, considering the nature of the specific objectives, the study was guided by the theory of structural functionalism to investigate the role of community in preventing the occurrence of street children in Dodoma City. The literature review was guided by the identified specific objectives, and references to other regions, including Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Southern African Development Community, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia, and the Pacific Islands, were made to examine the regions in question in relation to other regions. In the context of the current study, variables such as the

community's awareness on prevention of street children's phenomena, the components of community awareness in preventing the phenomenon, awareness of reasons for preventing of streetism, identified reasons for preventing streetism, awareness of the community members on the challenges of streetism, and identified challenges facing community in prevention of streetism in city of Dodoma – Tanzania.

It is worth noting that this study adopted the pragmatic philosophy, and descriptive study design was employed to interrogate the identified variable as per chapter two. Adding on, the sample size of ninety-two (92) research subjects (both participants and respondents) participated in this study. Data was collected from street children, parents, social welfare officers, schoolteachers and representatives from NGOs dealing with street children.

5.2.1 The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena in Dodoma

Due to its significance, the findings on the role of community members in taking responsibility by acting and taking initiative on factors that contribute to streetism received a score of 42%. Additionally, 22% of respondents cited the community's responsibility in combating the stigma associated with streetism, while 36% of respondents noted the reasons of streetism. Community members who fail to take responsibility even when they see a child who could be saved off the streets undermine attempts to raise knowledge of the laws and policies pertaining to child protection and streetism. These observations and claims made by the social welfare officer and the

parents who took part in the study help to highlight the grassroots deficit, which, if addressed, should help to reverse the phenomena of streetism.

5.2.2   The Reason for Prevention of Street Children in Dodoma City

The study found that 16% of respondents experienced economic shocks, 17% experienced reduced crime, 18% had decreased health risks, 13% experienced protection from child violence, and 19% advocated for children's rights. The results show that these factors should be considered equally when addressing the welfare of street children.

5.2.3 The Challenges Facing Community In Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena In Dodoma City.

According to the field data, 19% of households were reported to be impoverished, 15% to have inadequate social services, 16% to have dysfunctional families, 18% to have stigma and passivity, 17% to have insufficient cash, and 15% to have taboos and customs. The results demonstrate that the issues raised have a similar threshold to streetism and should be appropriately addressed to alleviate the suffering of street children.

5.3   Conclusion

Communities were essential in addressing the underlying reasons and offering support networks that keep kids off the streets, as stated in the conclusion of "The Role of Community in the Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena." To create a supportive environment that tackles the institutional, familial, and socioeconomic problems that contribute to child homelessness, the community must take the initiative. Communities

that collaborate to improve family relationships, provide access to social services and education, and cultivate an inclusive and empathetic culture reduce the likelihood that vulnerable children may end up on the streets.

Moreover, communities may play a key role in helping families in need by putting early intervention programs into place, spreading awareness, and actively enlisting the help of nearby resources. To provide a safe environment for children, families, schools, religious institutions, and social services must work together and have strong social networks. Effective prevention also requires community-wide solutions to systemic problems like family dysfunction, unemployment, and poverty.

5.4 Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were proposed.

5.4.1 Recommendation to the Community

The community must establish numerous child support centres that provide at-risk children and families with basic healthcare, educational help, and counselling within the community. This would monitor the number of children and families helped, how often counselling sessions were held, and how much the wellbeing of the children has improved over time. Reductions in the number of children in the serviced community who are involved in the streets can also be used to gauge success.

5.4.2   Recommendation to Government

Collaborate with nearby educational institutions and nonprofits to offer school supplies, mentoring, and scholarships to kids who are at risk of dropping out. Monitor dropout rate decreases, academic progress reports, and school enrolment and attendance rates for kids in these programs to gauge how well the intervention is keeping children in school. Additionally, to reduce poverty, one of the main reasons why children end up on the streets, the government have to offer parents or guardians job placement services, microloans, and skill-building courses. Keep tabs on the number of families that find work, increases in household income, and a decline in the number of children that leave home because of financial difficulties.

5.4.3   Recommendation to the Family

Create initiatives that offer financial literacy instruction, parenting classes, and family counselling to assist families in providing a secure home environment for their children. Evaluate how many families are taking part in these programs, monitor changes in family stability metrics (like fewer family disputes), and monitor child welfare results (such stable households and school attendance).

5.4.4   Recommendation for Further Studies

Future research should examine the long-term socioeconomic effects of streetism and the cost that the government incurs when allowing these children to remain on the street. Further, other studies can be conducted on the impact of parental skills and family functions as the measures to promote child welfare at family level.

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APPENDIX

Appendix I: In English Version

Structured Guided Questionnaire for Street Children

Dear Respondent,

My name is **Diana Joseph Makoye,** a student at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). I am conducting a research on "**The role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City"** as part of fulfillment for the Masters Degree Programme in Social work. The information I would like to collect from you is only for academic purposes and will therefore not be used for any other purposes. Therefore, you are kindly requested to participate in this research by answering all the questions per instructions.

SECTION A

Socio-economic Demographic Information of the Study Respondents

(Mark a 'tick' in a correct answer)

1. Marital status: Single ( )   Married ( )   Divorced ( )

2. Gender: Female ( )   Male   ( )

3. Age cohort: 10- 17 Years ( ) 18- 30 Years ( ) 31- 40 Years ( ) 41- 50 Years

4. Education Levels

i. Primary Level ( ) ii. Secondary Level ( ) iii. College Certificate ( ) iv. Diploma Level ( ) v. Bachelor's and above ( )

SECTION B

The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

5. What is the level of awareness within the community on prevention of streetism phenomena?

    (i)   Accountability among community member ( )

    (ii)   Eye mark the causes of streetism ( )

    (iii)   Counteract stigma related to streetism ( )

6. What are the components of Community Awareness in Preventing the Phenomenon?

    (i)   Community sensitization ( )

    (ii)   Community resources mobilization ( )

    (iii)   Community involvement ( )

    (iv)   Risk involved streetism ( )

SECTION C

The Reason for Prevention of Street Children

7.   What are the levels of Awareness of the reasons for prevention of streetism?

    (i)   Not aware of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

    (ii)   Awareness of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

8.   What are the reason for Preventing Streetism?

    (i)   Reduce crime ( )

    (ii)   Protection from child violence ( )

    (iii)   Advocating for children's rights ( )

    (iv)   Reduced health risks ( )

    (v)   Provision of child education ( )

    (vi)   Recorded at Economic Shocks ( )

SECTION D

Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

9.   What are the Awareness of the Community members on the Challenges of Streetism?

    (i)   Not aware of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

(ii)   Awareness of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

10.   What are the challenges facing Streetism?

(i)   Taboos and traditions ( )

(ii)   Inadequate funds ( )

(iii)   Stigma and passivity ( )

(iv)   Family dysfunctions ( )

(v)   Poor social services ( )

(vi)   Household poverty ( )

Thank you for your Participation

Appendix II: In Swahili Version

Dodoso la Maswali kwa Watoto wanaoishi mitaani

Kwa majina naitwa **Diana Joseph Makoye,** ni Mwanafunzi wa Chuo Kikuu Huria Cha Tanzania (the Open University of Tanzania - OUT). Ninafanya tafiti kuhusiana na "**Majukumu ya jamii katika kuzuia tatizo la uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani Dodoma Jiji**" ikiwa ni sehemu ya kukamilisha masomo ya shahada ya uzamili ya Ustawi wa Jamii. Taarifa inayokusanywa kutoka kwa wajibu maswali itatumika kwa malengo ya elimu tu na si vinginevyo. Kwa hiyo ninayo heshima kuomba ujibu maswali hapo chini ili kukamilisha lengo la dodoso hili.

SEHEMU A

Taarifa binafsi za Mjibu maswali

(Weka alama ya "Pata" kwenye mabano)

1. Hali ya ndoa: Sijaoa/Kuolewa ( )   Nimeoa/Sijaoa ( )   Nimeachika ( )

2. Jinsia: Mwanamke ( )   Mwanaume   ( )

3. Umri: Miaka 10- 17 ( ) Miaka 18- 30 ( ) Miaka 31- 40 ( ) Miaka 41- 50 ( )

4. Kiwango cha elimu:

    i. Elimu ya msingi ( ) ii. Eimu ya Sekondari ( ) iii. Astashahada ( ) iv. Diploma ( ) v. Digrii na kuendelea ( )

SEHEMU B

Uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani

5. Ni uelewa wa namna gani uliopo katika jamii kuhusu watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Uwajibikaji miongoni mwa jamii ( )

    (ii)   Sababu za uwepo wa watoto wa mtaani ( )

    (iii)   Unyanyapaa dhidi ya watoto wa mitaani ( )

6. Ni vipengele gani vinavyoonyesha uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Uhamasishaji wa jamii ( )

    (ii)   Uhamasishaji wa rasilimali za jamii ( )

    (iii)   Ushiriki wa jamii ( )

    (iv)   Hatari inayohusika kwa watoto wa mitaani ( )

SEHEMU C

Sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani

7.   Ni kwa namna gani jamii ina uelewa huhusiana na sababu za kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu sababu za kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

(iii)   Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu sababu ya kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

8.   Nini sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Kupunguza uharifu ( )

    (ii)   Kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya ukatili ( )

    (iii)   Kutetea haki za watoto ( )

    (iv)   Kupunguza hatari za kiafya kwa watoto ( )

    (v)   Kutoa elimu kwa watoto ( )

    (vi)   Misukosuko ya kiuchumi ( )

SEHEMU D

Changamoto za jamii katika kuzuia watoto wa mitaani

9.   Je jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

    (ii)   Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

10.   Ni changamoto zipi zinawakumba watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Imani potofu ( )

    (ii)   Kukosekana kwa pesa ( )

(iii)   Unyanyapaa ( )

(iv)   Kutowajibika kwa familia ( )

(v)   Uhaba wa huduma kwa jamii ( )

(vi)   Umaskini katika familia ( )

Asante kwa Ushirikiano

Appendix III: In English Version

Structured Guided Questionnaire for Community Members, parents and guardians, Teachers, Local leaders and Ward Executive Officers

Dear Respondent,

My name is **Diana Joseph Makoye**, a student at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). I am conducting a research on "**The role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City"** as part of fulfillment for the Masters Degree Programme in Social work. The information I would like to collect from you is only for academic purposes and will therefore not be used for any other purposes. Therefore, you are kindly requested to participate in this research by answering all the questions contained in this questionnaire as per instructions given.

SECTION A

Socio-economic Demographic Information of the Study Respondents

(Mark a 'tick' in a correct answer)

1. Marital status: Single ( )   Married ( )   Divorced ( )

2. Gender: Female ( )   Male   ( )

3. Age cohort: 10- 17 Years ( ) 18- 30 Years ( ) 31- 40 Years ( ) 41- 50 Years

4. Education Levels:

i.Primary Level ( ) ii. Secondary Level ( ) iii. College Certificate ( ) iv. Diploma Level ( ) v. Bachelor's and above ( )

SECTION B

The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

5. What is the level of awareness within the community on prevention of streetism phenomena?

    i. Accountability among community member ( )

    ii. Eye mark the causes of streetism ( )

    iii.Counteract stigma related to streetism ( )

6. What are the components of Community Awareness in Preventing the Phenomenon?

    i.   Community sensitization ( )

    ii.   Community resources mobilization ( )

    iii.   Community involvement ( )

    iv.   Risk involved streetism ( )

SECTION C

The Reason for Prevention of Street Children

7. What are the levels of Awareness of the reasons for prevention of streetism?

    i.   Not aware of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

    ii.   Awareness of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

8. What are the reason for Preventing Streetism?

    i.   Reduce crime ( )

    ii.   Protection from child violence ( )

    iii.   Advocating for children's rights ( )

    iv.   Reduced health risks ( )

    v.   Provision of child education ( )

    vi.   Recorded at Economic Shocks ( )

SECTION D

Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

9. What are the Awareness of the Community members on the Challenges of Streetism?

    (i). Not aware of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

    (ii). Awareness of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

10. What are the challenges facing Streetism?

    (i)   Taboos and traditions ( )

(ii)   Inadequate funds ( )

(iii)   Stigma and passivity ( )

(iv)   Family dysfunctions ( )

(v)   Poor social services ( )

(vi)   Household poverty ( )

Thank you for your participation

Appendix IV: In Swahili Version

Dodoso la Wanajamii, Wazazi na Walezi, Walimu, Viongozi wa Mtaa na Viongozi

wa Kata

Kwa majina naitwa **Diana Joseph Makoye,** ni Mwanafunzi wa Chuo Kikuu Huria Cha Tanzania (the Open University of Tanzania - OUT). Ninafanya tafiti kuhusiana na "**Majukumu ya jamii katika kuzuia tatizo la uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani Dodoma Jiji**" ikiwa ni sehemu ya kukamilisha masomo ya shahada ya uzamili ya Ustawi wa Jamii. Taarifa inayokusanywa kutoka kwa wajibu maswali itatumika kwa malengo ya elimu tu na si vinginevyo. Kwa hiyo ninayo heshima kuomba ujibu maswali hapo chini ili kukamilisha lengo la dodoso hili.

SEHEMU A

Taarifa binafsi za Mjibu maswali

(Weka alama ya "Pata" kwenye mabano)

1. Hali ya ndoa: Sijaoa/Kuolewa ( )   Nimeoa/Sijaoa ( )   Nimeachika ( )

2. Jinsia: Mwanamke ( )   Mwanaume   ( )

3. Umri: Miaka 10- 17 ( ) Miaka 18- 30 ( ) Miaka 31- 40 ( ) Miaka 41- 50 ( )

4. Kiwango cha elimu:

   i. Elimu ya msingi ( ) ii. Eimu ya Sekondari ( ) iii. Astashahada ( ) iv. Diploma ( ) v. Digrii na kuendelea ( )

SEHEMU B

Uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani

5. Ni uelewa wa namna gani uliopo katika jamii kuhusu watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Uwajibikaji miongoni mwa jamii ( )

    (ii)   Sababu za uwepo wa watoto wa mtaani ( )

    (iii)   Unyanyapaa dhidi ya watoto wa mitaani ( )

6. Ni vipengele gani vinavyoonyesha uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Uhamasishaji wa jamii ( )

    (ii)   Uhamasishaji wa rasilimali za jamii ( )

    (iii)   Ushiriki wa jamii ( )

    (iv)   Hatari inayohusika kwa watoto wa mitaani ( )

SEHEMU C

Sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani

7. Ni kwa namna gani jamii ina uelewa huhusiana na sababu za kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu sababu za kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

(ii)   Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu sababu ya kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

8. Nini sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani?

(i)   Kupunguza uharifu ( )

(ii)   Kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya ukatili ( )

(iii)   Kutetea haki za watoto ( )

(iv)   Kupunguza hatari za kiafya kwa watoto ( )

(v)   Kutoa elimu kwa watoto ( )

(vi)   Misukosuko ya kiuchumi ( )

SEHEMU D

Changamoto za jamii katika kuzuia watoto wa mitaani

9. Je jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani?

(i) Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

(ii) Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

10 Ni changamoto zipi zinawakumba watoto wa mitaani?

(i)   Imani potofu ( )

(ii)   Kukosekana kwa pesa ( )

(iii)   Unyanyapaa ( )

(iv)   Kutowajibika kwa familia ( )

(v)   Uhaba wa huduma kwa jamii ( )

(vi)   Umaskini katika familia ( )

Asante kwa Ushirikiano

Appendix V: In English Version

Interview Guide for Social Welfare Officers, Community Development Officers,

Ward Councilors, Municipal Director, and Street Children NGO's Directors.

Dear Respondent,

My name is **Diana Joseph Makoye**, a student at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). I am conducting a research on "**The role of community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City"** as part of fulfillment for the Masters Degree Programme in Social work. The information I would like to collect from you is only for academic purposes and will therefore not be used for any other purposes. Therefore, you are kindly requested to participate in this research by answering all the questions contained in this questionnaire as per instructions given.

SECTION A

Socio-economic Demographic Information of the Study Respondents

(Mark a 'tick' in a correct answer)

1. Marital status: Single ( )   Married ( )   Divorced ( )

2. Gender: Female ( )   Male   ( )

3. Age cohort: 10- 17 Years ( ) 18- 30 Years ( ) 31- 40 Years ( ) 41- 50 Years

4. Education Levels

i.Primary Level ( ) ii. Secondary Level ( ) iii. College Certificate ( ) iv. Diploma

Level ( ) v. Bachelor's and above ( )

SECTION B

The Community's Awareness on Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

5. What is the level of awareness within the community on prevention of streetism

    phenomena?

    (i)   Accountability among community member ( )

    (ii) Eye mark the causes of streetism ( )

    (iii) Counteract stigma related to streetism ( )

5   What are the components of Community Awareness in Preventing the

     Phenomenon?

        (i)   Community sensitization ( )

        (ii)   Community resources mobilization ( )

        (iii)   Community involvement ( )

        (iv)   Risk involved streetism ( )

SECTION C

The Reason for Prevention of Street Children

6 What are the levels of Awareness of the reasons for prevention of streetism?

      (i). Not aware of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

      (ii). Awareness of reasons for prevention streetism ( )

7 What are the reason for Preventing Streetism?

      (i)   Reduce crime ( )

      (ii)   Protection from child violence ( )

      (iii)   Advocating for children's rights ( )

      (iv)   Reduced health risks ( )

      (v)   Provision of child education ( )

      (vi)   Recorded at Economic Shocks ( )

SECTION D

Challenges Facing Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena

8 What are the Awareness of the Community members on the Challenges of Streetism?

      (i). Not aware of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

(ii). Awareness of the community member on the challenges of streetism ( )

9 What are the challenges facing Streetism?

     (i)   Taboos and traditions ( )

     (ii)   Inadequate funds ( )

     (iii)   Stigma and passivity ( )

     (iv)   Family dysfunctions ( )

     (v)   Poor social services ( )

     (vi)   Household poverty ( )

Thank you for your Participation

Appendix VI: In Swahili Version

Maswali kwa Maafisa Ustawi wa Jamii, Maafisa Maendeleo ya Jamii, Waheshimiwa Madiwani, Mkurugenzi wa Jiji, na Wakuu wa Taasisi zisizo za Kiserikali (NGO's)

Kwa majina naitwa **Diana Joseph Makoye,** ni Mwanafunzi wa Chuo Kikuu Huria Cha Tanzania (the Open University of Tanzania - OUT). Ninafanya tafiti kuhusiana na "**Majukumu ya jamii katika kuzuia tatizo la uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani Dodoma Jiji**" ikiwa ni sehemu ya kukamilisha masomo ya shahada ya uzamili ya Ustawi wa Jamii. Taarifa inayokusanywa kutoka kwa wajibu maswali itatumika kwa malengo ya elimu tu na si vinginevyo. Kwa hiyo ninayo heshima kuomba ujibu maswali hapo chini ili kukamilisha lengo la dodoso hili.

SEHEMU A

Taarifa binafsi za Mjibu maswali

(Weka alama ya "Pata" kwenye mabano)

1. Hali ya ndoa: Sijaoa/Kuolewa ( )   Nimeoa/Sijaoa ( )   Nimeachika ( )

2. Jinsia: Mwanamke ( )   Mwanaume   ( )

3. Umri: Miaka 10- 17 ( ) Miaka 18- 30 ( ) Miaka 31- 40 ( ) Miaka 41- 50 ( )

4. Kiwango cha elimu:

i. Elimu ya msingi ( ) ii. Eimu ya Sekondari ( ) iii. Astashahada ( ) iv. Diploma ( ) v. Digrii na kuendelea ( )

SEHEMU B

Uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani

5. Ni uelewa wa namna gani uliopo katika jamii kuhusu watoto wa mitaani?

   (i)   Uwajibikaji miongoni mwa jamii ( )

   (ii)   Sababu za uwepo wa watoto wa mtaani ( )

   (iii)   Unyanyapaa dhidi ya watoto wa mitaani ( )

6. Ni vipengele gani vinavyoonyesha uelewa wa jamii katika kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

   (i)   Uhamasishaji wa jamii ( )

   (ii)   Uhamasishaji wa rasilimali za jamii ( )

   (iii)   Ushiriki wa jamii ( )

   (iv)   Hatari inayohusika kwa watoto wa mitaani ( )

SEHEMU C

Sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani

7. Ni kwa namna gani jamii ina uelewa huhusiana na sababu za kuzuia uwepo wa watoto wa mitaani?

    i.   Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu sababu za kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

    ii.   Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu sababu ya kuzuia uwepo watoto wa mitaani ( )

8. Nini sababu za kuzuia janga la watoto wa mitaani?

    (i)   Kupunguza uharifu ( )

    (ii)   Kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya ukatili ( )

    (iii)   Kutetea haki za watoto ( )

    (iv)   Kupunguza hatari za kiafya kwa watoto ( )

    (v)   Kutoa elimu kwa watoto ( )

    (vi)   Misukosuko ya kiuchumi ( )

SEHEMU D

Changamoto za jamii katika kuzuia watoto wa mitaani

9. Je jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani?

    i.   Jamii haina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

    ii.   Jamii ina uelewa kuhusu changamoto ya janga la watoto wa mitaani ( )

10. Ni changamoto zipi zinawakumba watoto wa mitaani?

(i)   Imani potofu ( )

(ii)   Kukosekana kwa pesa ( )

(iii)   Unyanyapaa ( )

(iv)   Kutowajibika kwa familia ( )

(v)   Uhaba wa huduma kwa jamii ( )

(vi)   Umaskini katika familia ( )

Asante kwa Ushirikiano

RESEARCH CLEARANCE LETTER

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Ref. No OUT/PG2022000729   14th October, 2024

City Director,

Dodoma City Council,
P.O BOX 1249,

DODOMA.

Dear Director,

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MS. DIANA JOSEPH MAKOYE REG NO: PG2022000729

2.   The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1st March 1993 by public notice No.55 in the official Gazette. The Act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania Charter of 2005, which became operational on 1st January 2007.In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

3.   To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you **Ms. Diana Joseph Makoye Reg.No: PG2022000729), pursuing Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW).** We here by

grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **"The Role of Community in Prevention of Street Children's Phenomena in Dodoma.** She will collect her data at your area from 15th October to 30th November 2024.

4.   In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O.Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820.We lastly thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Prof.Gwahula Raphael Kimamala

For*:* VICE CHANCELLOR

RESEARCH CLEARANCE LETTER

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

OFISI YA RAIS

TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA

Unapojibu tafadahli taja:

Kumb. Na. HJD/E.10/4/166

15 Oktoba, 2024

Mtendaji Kata,
Kata ya Uhuru, Viwandani, Majengo,
Madukani, Tambukareli na Makole,
Hamashauri ya Jiji,
S.L.P 1249,
DODOMA.

YAH: KIBALI CHA UTAFITI/KUKUSANYA TAARIFA

Husika na somo tajwa hapo juu.

2.   Namtambulisha kwenu, **NDG: DIANA JOSEPH MAKOYE** kutoka **Chuo Huria Tanzania – Open University** kuja kufanya utafiti katika Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma. Utafiti huo unahusu *"THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN PREVENTION OF STREET CHILDREN'S PHENOMENA IN DODOMA"* Utafiti huo utafanyika kwa muda wa mwezi na wiki mbili kuanzia tarehe **15 Oktoba, 2024** hadi tarehe **30 Novemba, 2024**.

3.   Kwa barua hii, naomba apokelewe na kupatiwa ushirikiano ili aweze kufanikisha utafiti wake kama ilivyoelezwa hapo juu.

4.   Ahsante.

Neema Makinda

Kny: MKURUGENZI WA JIJI

DODOMA

1 Mtaa wa CDA, S.L.P. 1249, 41183 Dodoma, Simu: +255262354817, Nukushi: +255262321550, Barua Pepe: cd@dodomacc.go.tz, Tovuti: www.dodomacc.go.tz

CHALLENGES FACING COMMUNITY IN PREVENTION OF STREET CHILDREN'S PHENOMENA IN DODOMA CITY

Diana Joseph Makoye[1], Dr. Johnas Buhori (PhD) [2] and Dr. Mariana Makuu (PhD)[3]

dianamakooye@gmail.com

Abstract

The study intended to assess challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City. The study recruited 92 subjects as its sample size. The study used a mixed approaches and descriptive research design. Data was collected through questionnaires and interviews methods. The sampling procedure used in this study were both Probability Sampling and Non-Probability. The study showed that among the major reasons for prevention of street children phenomena in Dodoma City were advocating for children's rights, reduced children health risks, protection from child violence, provision of child education, and reduced crime. Furthermore, the findings of this study found that household poverty, stigma and passivity, inadequate funds, family dysfunction, poor social services, and taboos and traditions were the challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

Key Words:

Community

In America, the National Survey conducted by National Center on Family Homelessness shows in the United States of America (USA) have 2.5 million street children, which means 1 in 130 children experiencing homelessness each year where most of them are from single-parent families (Ponio, 2022). In Africa, estimated to have 20 million street children (Shitindi *et al*, 2023). Tanzania, as a part of the global village, is not immune to the problem of street children (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). It estimated to have 437,500 street children living in the streets all over the country (Chingonikaya and Salehe, 2019).

African communities had their own ways to prevent occurrences of street children. Those measures practiced through the application of extend families (McCloskey and Eisler, 2022), provision of education that involving maintaining discipline (Ogutu, 2020), and provision of supportive and inclusive environment that help children grow (Robinson, 2023; Shitindi *et al*, 2023). Though programs and initiative introduced in Dodoma City specifically foster care services, parenting training and family planning still street children exist.

Literature Review

There is African proverb say "it takes a village to raise a child" which means it takes many people or community to provide safe and healthy environment for children (Reupert *et al*, 2022). Unfortunately, children in the street situations are at high risk of suffering violence, particularly torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (UN, 2012). Physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental and emotional abuse, health problem, sleeping on pavement, child labor, juvenile delinquency and children

trafficking are among the most complex challenges that street children are facing (Hassen, 2019). Street children frequently suffer from tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, coughs, flue and sexually transmitted diseases (Shitindi et al, 2023).

On the other hand, it is the role of community to prevent street children phenomena worldwide. According to Yangwe (2016) study argue that, the traditional history of Tanzania, the responsibilities of raising a child belonged to the community. But the community facing a lot of challenges that hindering the prevention of street children in Dodoma. Thus the study intended to assess challenges facing community in prevention of street children. Furthermore, the empirical literature reviewed provided a wide range of community awareness on the challenges facing community in prevention of street children.

Theoretical Review

This study adopts Structural Functionalist Theory developed by Emile Durkheim (1858-1917). The theory views community as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability (Ossa *et al*., 2023). Durkheim argued that all these parts must work efficiently and effectively so that society remains stable (Milton, 2007). Stability of future community depends how community prepares children in early age to be future community member. Street children are viewed as a result of failure of different structures to function properly (Waziri and Fundi, 2019). In the context of community in prevention of street children's phenomena, the theory analyzed how community needs to work together as a team so as prevent street children phenomena.

Furthermore, the theory enabled the researcher to identify challenges facing community in prevention of street children's phenomena in Dodoma City.

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIAL

Study area and Population

This study conducted in Dodoma City in Tanzania. The justification of the area was that Dodoma is a highly growing city that needs to rescue the situation of street children before reaching critical situation, and presence of large number of street children. This study conducted in six wards named Uhuru, Viwandani, Majengo, Madukani, Tambukareli, and Makole. The total population of this study was 120.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

According to Garg (2016) Inclusion and exclusion criteria defines who can be included or excluded from the study sample. In this study included street children above 8 years, parents or guardians, Social Welfare Officers, teachers, Ward Executive Officers, and Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental organization officers dealing with street children. On the other hand, this study excluded street children bellow 8 years because it was difficult to get them on the streets.

Study Design

A research design is the framework or plan for a study that is used as a guide in collection and analyzing the data, and it is a blueprint that is followed in completing a

study (Pandey and Pandey, 2015). This study adopted descriptive research design because it was compatible with both quantitative and qualitative data.

Sampling Procedure

In this study used both Probability Sampling and Non-Probability Sampling on selecting respondents. Probability sampling is also known as 'random sampling' while Non-probability sampling is also known by names such as deliberate sampling, purposive sampling and judgment sampling. Random sampling used on selecting street children, parent/guardians, and city citizens in this study, and purposive sampling used on selecting Social Welfare Officers, teachers, Ward Executive Officers, and Rehabilitation or Non-Governmental organization officers dealing with street children.

Data Collection

In this study selected questionnaires, and interviews as a methods of data collection. Questionnaire is a tool used to collect information from people by asking them a series of questions (Lindemann, 2023), while Interview is a two-way method which permits an exchange of ideas and information (Pandey and Pandey, 2015). The main reasons for using questionnaire was that, it allows large-scale data collection. The main purposes of using interview method because it was the best tool to use to both type of respondent who were illiteracy and literacy.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis involves processing and analyzing the data to derive meaningful insights (Kumar, 2023). In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data coded, cleaned, and edited by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer software version 28.0, and Microsoft Excel software. According to Kumar (2023) Data presentation involves presenting the data concisely to communicate the research findings. In this study data presentation based on research question and objective used tables, graphs and histograms in presenting and numerical data.

Findings and Discussion

The study found that, community in Dodoma city faced a lot of challenges which hinder the prevention of street children phenomena. These challenges were household poverty 19%, stigma and passivity 18%, inadequate funds 17%, family dysfunction 16%, poor social services 15%, and taboos and traditions 15% as shown in table 1.1. The findings from this study noted that many communities economic hardship is a major problem in Dodoma City. The finding related to study conducted by UNICEF report (2012), Friberg and Martinsson (2017) and Shitindi *et al* (2023) showed that, Poverty is a major factor in youngsters leaving home.
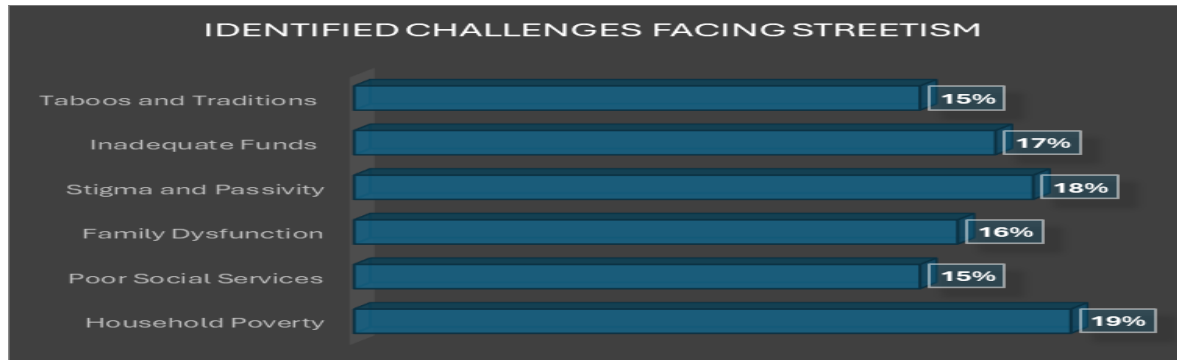
Figure 1.1: Challenges facing community in prevention of street children

Conclusion

Communities may play a key role in helping families in need by putting early intervention programs into place, spreading awareness, and actively enlisting the help of nearby resources. To provide a safe environment for children, families, schools, religious institutions, and social services must work together and have strong social networks. Effective prevention also requires community-wide solutions to systemic problems like family dysfunction, unemployment, and poverty.

Recommendations

The community must establish numerous child support centers that provide at-risk children and families with basic healthcare, educational help, and counselling within the community. This would monitor the number of children and families helped, how often counselling sessions were held, and how much the wellbeing of the children has improved over time. Reductions in the number of children in the serviced community who are involved in the streets can also be used to gauge success.

Suggestion for Further Study

Future research should examine the long-term socioeconomic effects of streetism and the cost that the government incurs when allowing these children to remain on the street. Further, other studies can be conducted on the impact of parental skills and family functions as the measures to promote child welfare at family level.

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