ASSESSING THE EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS IN ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET CHILDREN: A CASE OF DODOMA CITY

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that they have read and hereby recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania, a dissertation titled "**Assessing The Efficiency Of Government Interventions In Addressing Educational Challenges Faced By Street Children: A Case of Dodoma City** in partial fulfillment for the requirement of Master's Degree of Arts in Social Work of The Open University of Tanzania.

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DECLARATION

I, **Sauda Juma Lillingani**, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my own original work and that it has not been presented to any other University for similar or other degree award. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment for the requirement of Master's Degree of Social Work (MASW) of The Open University of Tanzania

……

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

I humbly dedicate this thesis to God, whose unwavering guidance, grace, and strength have sustained me throughout this journey. His wisdom has been my foundation, and His presence has been my constant source of inspiration. I would like to thank my lovely son LAADA ABDUL LAADA, for whom I strive every day to be a better person. Your love and joy remind me of the importance of this journey, and I dedicate every achievement to you. May this work be a testament to the dreams I hope to inspire in you. This work is for you, whose love and support has made this accomplishment possible. Thank you for believing in me.

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ABSTRACT

This study, titled "**Assessing the Efficiency of Government Interventions in Addressing Educational Challenges Faced by Street Children: A Case of Dodoma City,"** examines the effectiveness of governmental efforts to mitigate the challenges faced by street children in Tanzania, with a particular focus on educational access. The research evaluates various government policies, programs, and initiatives intended to address homelessness, educational exclusion, and vulnerability among street children in Dodoma City. Guided with Social Exclusion Theory, the study employed pragmatic philosphy. The sequential explaintaory design, which allows the uses of mixed-methods approach was utilised. The study adopted the sample size of 385, who facilitated the collection of quantitative data using surveys, and qualitative data using interviews. Generally the finding reveals that factors such as family breakdown, poverty, domestic violence, and inadequate access to social services contribute to the prevalence of street children. Findings suggest that, while government interventions exist, they are often hindered by resource limitations, lack of coordination, and challenges in policy implementation. The study concludes with recommendations for enhancing policy frameworks and implementing targeted interventions that address the root causes of streetism, thereby contributing to more effective support systems for vulnerable children.

Keywords: *Street children, Dodoma Municipality, qualitative study, child vulnerability, social exclusion, poverty, family breakdown, institutional gaps, Tanzania*

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CHRAGG	-	Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance
DCC	-	Dodoma City Council
DR.	-	Doctor
FGDs	-	Focus Group Discussions
MCGWS	-	Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MSW	-	Master of Social Work
MVP	-	Most Vulnerable Children
OUT	-	The Open University of Tanzania
PhD	-	Doctor of Philosophy
SWO's	-	Social Welfare Officers
UN	-	United Nations
UNCRC	-	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
URT	-	United Republic of Tanzania

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

1.1 Chapter Overview

This study, titled "Assessing the Efficiency of Government Interventions in Addressing Educational Challenges Faced by Street Children: A Case of Dodoma City," aims to address the knowledge gap regarding the effectiveness of government initiatives in tackling the issues of homelessness and lack of access to education among street children. Focusing on Dodoma City, the study evaluates the effectiveness of existing programs and identifies the specific challenges that hinder these efforts from achieving their intended outcomes. Additionally, the chapter provides the background of the study and outlines the statement of the problem. It also presents the general and specific objectives, which inform the research questions. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the significance of the study.

1.2 Background to the Study

Street children represent a significant issue that requires collaborative efforts to address in both developed and developing countries (Hasrianti et al., 2022). While the problem of street children has persisted in many nations for a considerable period, it continues to be one of the most challenging issues to address today (Endris & Sitota, 2021). Street children are individuals who rely solely on the streets for survival (Julien, 2022; Mohapanele, 2022). Additionally, children who have strong ties to public spaces such as parks, train and bus stations, markets, and streets, and whose daily lives depend on these environments for survival, are also considered

street children (Atwar & Engkus, 2020). It is generally assumed that street children are of elementary school age and should be attending primary school. The issue of inclusive education has gained global attention as an urgent matter, supported by the Universal Declaration of Schooling for All. This declaration prioritizes the inclusion of older individuals and those with disabilities who are living on the streets (Hasrianti et al., 2022). However, due to their circumstances, it is often difficult to reach these children promptly with educational services (Hasan & Chaitee, 2022).

An estimated 120 million children worldwide are not enrolled in the formal education system, with 50 million living on the streets. The primary cause of their homelessness is the death of their parents from HIV/AIDS (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF], 2021). Providing inclusive education is crucial to helping these out-of-school children (United Nations Development Programme, 2021). Many of these children spend the majority of their time working to support themselves or their families, and the inability to access inclusive education forces them to forgo their right to education, consequently jeopardizing their futures (Cahyani et al., 2021).

Statistics indicate that street children of primary school age are a global issue, with varying levels of severity depending on the region (Cynthia & Lamings, 2019). For instance, each year, 2.5 million children in the United States do not receive inclusive education. Similarly, homelessness is widespread and severe across the European Union (EU) (Develtere, 2022; OECD, 2021). Due to their homelessness, many school-age children are unable to participate in inclusive education, instead living and working on the streets to survive. In India, for example, more than 35% of school-age street children do not attend school and rely on the streets for their

livelihood (Rai & Shekhar, 2023).

In Africa, the introduction of inclusive education for all children has been accompanied by the persistent challenge of street children, which remains a major issue for governments to address (Mokoena, 2021). According to UNICEF, Africa is home to 30 million of the world's street children, with most living in cities and urban areas without families (UNICEF, 2022). In Ghana, reports have shown a 20% increase in the number of school-aged street children, the majority of whom are not enrolled in the education system (Teye, 2023).

Globally, the issue of street children remains urgent, with an estimated 150 million children living on the streets (UNICEF, 2021). In Tanzania, despite efforts by both the government and non-governmental organizations, the problem persists, especially in urban areas like Dodoma City (Mkombozi, 2020). These children face numerous challenges, with homelessness and lack of access to education being the most significant. These factors not only limit their opportunities but also increase their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). The Tanzanian government has enacted several interventions to address the issues faced by street children, including legal measures such as the Child Act (2009) and social services and educational programs aimed at reintegrating them into society (URT, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing homelessness and improving educational outcomes for street children has been questioned (Hyden, 2017; Linus, 2021). Research indicates that gaps remain in the design and implementation of these programs, leaving street children at risk of continued marginalization (Masabo, 2021; Muwanguzi & Ssenyonga, 2018).

In Dodoma, rapid urbanization and economic challenges have contributed to an increase in the number of street children, with many families struggling to provide adequate care and education for their children (Masabo, 2021). In response, the government has introduced several interventions, including the Child Act (2009), which offers a legal framework for safeguarding children's rights, and various educational programs aimed at reintegrating street children into formal schooling (URT, 2021). However, these efforts have not been fully effective. Reports suggest that a significant number of street children in Dodoma continue to experience homelessness and face obstacles to education, indicating a gap between policy objectives and practical outcomes (Hyden, 2017).

This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of government interventions in addressing homelessness and educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma. By examining specific programs and policies, the study seeks to identify reasons why these initiatives may not be achieving the desired results and provide recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Despite the Tanzanian government’s numerous efforts to address the issue of street children, significant challenges have persisted, particularly in urban areas such as Dodoma City. Street children continued to face severe hardships, including homelessness and a lack of access to education, which further marginalized them and exposed them to various forms of exploitation, abuse, and health risks

(Mkombozi, 2020; UNICEF, 2021). Their homelessness left them without shelter or safety, while their lack of education limited their future opportunities and hindered their reintegration into society (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999).

The government implemented several interventions, including the Child Act (2009) and various educational and social welfare programs designed to address these challenges (URT, 2021). However, reports suggest that these interventions have not been successful in reducing the number of street children or improving their living conditions (Hyden, 2017). Factors such as a lack of coordination among stakeholders, inadequate resource allocation, and ineffective policy implementation have contributed to these shortcomings (Masabo, 2021).

This study aimed to address the gap in understanding the effectiveness of government interventions in tackling homelessness and educational deprivation among street children. By focusing on Dodoma City, the research assessed the success of existing programs and identified the specific barriers preventing these initiatives from achieving their intended goals. The study also provided recommendations for improving the effectiveness of government interventions, with the aim of reducing the problem of street children and facilitating their reintegration into society.

1.4 Objective of the Study

Assessing the efficiency of government interventions in addressing the educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives

i. To identify the key factors contributing to the persistence of street children in Dodoma,

ii. To evaluate the strengths of existing government policies aimed at eradicating the problem of street children

iii. .To assess the efficiency of government interventions in addressing the educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City.

1.4.2 Research questions

Following the outlined research objectives, the study will be guided by the following researchquestions:

i. What are the key factors contributing to the persistence of street children in Dodoma City?

ii. How efficient are government interventions in addressing educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City?

iii. How efficient are government interventions in addressing the educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is of significant academic, policy, and social importance in addressing the persistent issue of street children in Tanzania, particularly within Dodoma City. By evaluating the efficiency of government interventions in addressing homelessness and educational deprivation among street children, the research seeks

to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on child welfare and social policy in Tanzania. It will provide insights into the effectiveness of current government policies, such as the Child Act (2009), social welfare programs, and educational initiatives, in improving the living conditions and life prospects of street children.

Academically, this study addresses a critical gap in the literature by focusing on the operational challenges of government interventions in Tanzania. While previous studies have examined the causes and socio-economic impacts of street children, few have critically assessed the efficiency of government strategies in addressing the core issues of homelessness and lack of education. The findings will be valuable for scholars and practitioners seeking to understand the shortcomings of existing frameworks and exploring ways to improve them for more sustainable solutions.

From a policy perspective, the study will offer evidence-based recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of government interventions. By identifying the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches, the research will provide actionable insights for policymakers, helping them refine policies and programs to better meet the needs of street children. Additionally, the study aims to promote dialogue on the importance of inter-agency collaboration and resource allocation to ensure government actions lead to meaningful change for vulnerable children.

Socially, this study has the potential to positively impact the lives of street children in Dodoma City. By examining the barriers to effective intervention and highlighting the role of community-based and non-governmental organizations, the research will encourage greater societal involvement in addressing this issue. It will also inform advocacy efforts, mobilizing support for street children and raising

awareness about the systemic issues that lead children to the streets. Ultimately, the findings could contribute to more inclusive, holistic, and sustainable solutions for improving the welfare of street children in Tanzania, ensuring they have access to basic needs such as shelter, education, and protection from exploitation.

In conclusion, the significance of this study lies in its potential to enhance the effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing the number of street children in Tanzania, improve the alignment of policies with the realities faced by these children, and contribute to the development of more inclusive and supportive social frameworks.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Overview

This section offers an overview of key concepts and theoretical frameworks related to street children, with a focus on the socio-economic factors that contribute to their plight. It also reviews relevant empirical studies on government interventions designed to address the homelessness and educational challenges faced by street children.

2.2 Conceptual Definitions

2.2.1 Street Children

The term street children, in the literature, attract different meanings. For instance, according to the UN 'a street child' refers to "a boy or girl for whom the street in the widest sense of the word has become his or her habitual abode and/ or source of livelihood, and which is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults" (Waziri, 2019, p.138). Moreover, 'street children" means a children and adolescents who are homeless, rely on the streets for their survival and livelihood, and who face multiple obstacles and often subjected to abuse (Isangula, 2011). However, it is argue that not all children called 'street children' are totally abandoned; many live with their families and spend some time on the streets (Shrivastava et al., 2014). For instance, Waziri and Fundi (2019) classify street children as: a) *children in street*, that have close ties with their families and return home during the evening or after some days b) *children of the street*, who are

completely detached from their families and live in groups in streets, and c) *children born in street*, whose parents are adolescents also living in streets. This study focuses on all categories of street children who live and work in streets. It is by reason of this observation that different terms are used to refer to street children. This study focuses on all categories of street children who live and work in streets.

2.2.2 Government Roles

In this study government's Roles refers to planned responsibility, ratified conventions and policies.

2.2.2.1 Government's Policy

According to the literature, government policy refers to the actions and decisions taken by a government to regulate behavior, organize bureaucracies, distribute benefits, or extract taxes within a society (Martin, 2011). Government policy can also involve setting desirable objectives and implementing measures to achieve those objectives (McGrattan, 1991). In Tanzania, government policy refers to the decisions and actions taken by the government to guide and regulate various aspects of the country's development and governance (Hyden, 2017). Therefore, as also used in this study, government policy is a set of government's intentions, and actions or measures taken to realize these intentions, whether documented or not, for addressing a particular problem, good governance or for social development.

2.2.2.2 Government's Act

A government act refers to an action or decision made by the state administration

in carrying out its governmental tasks. It can be seen as the expression of government action and can be created through the enactment and implementation of laws (Rahman, 2018). It is a set of actions taken by governmental or state organs that have legal consequences (Kyriakou, 2010). For instance, in Tanzania, Marriage Act establishes marriage reconciliation boards and addresses the issue of early childhood marriage by implementing laws to prohibit it (Alphonce, Binamungu & Bakta, 2022). Therefore, as also conceptualized in this study, the term government act refers to a set of government's actions with a legal framework for good governance and socio-economic development.

2.2.2.3 International Convention

An international convention is a written agreement between countries that establishes rules and obligations on a specific topic. It is a formal treaty that aims to regulate and govern various aspects of international relations (Lwamoto, Matsuo & Sugiyama, 2018). Tanzania has ratified several international conventions including UN Convention of Children's Rights and Welfare of 1989 (Linus, 2021). This study adopts the definition of an international convention given by Lwamoto et al. (2018).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The current study is informed or guided with social exclusion theory.

2.3.1 Social Exclusion Theory

Social Exclusion Theory provides an ideal framework for examining the issue of

street children in Dodoma City. This theory was initially developed to explain the marginalization of individuals or groups from societal resources and opportunities. While poverty focuses on material deprivation, social exclusion emphasizes the social, political, and economic marginalization that certain groups face, preventing their full participation in societal functions. Though the concept of social exclusion originated in Europe during the 1970s and 1980s, it has since gained global relevance, particularly in the study of vulnerable groups in urban contexts. In Tanzania, social exclusion offers a valuable explanation for why street children, despite government efforts but still remain excluded from essential resources such as education, shelter, and healthcare (Silver, 1994).

The origins of Social Exclusion Theory are found in European discussions on poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. As industrialized nations experienced rising poverty rates and growing social disparities, scholars began to expand their understanding of social marginalization. French sociologist René Lenoir popularized the term in the 1970s to describe how marginalized groups were pushed to the margins of society, unable to access services and opportunities available to the majority (Lenoir, 1974). In the European Union, the concept gained significant momentum during the 1990s and became central to policies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality across member states (Room, 1995). Although it originated in Europe, the theory has been adapted to various global contexts, including Tanzania, where street children are often excluded not only from material resources but also from social networks and opportunities that could aid their reintegration into society.

At the core of Social Exclusion Theory is the concept of marginalization, which involves pushing certain groups, such as street children, to the edges of society, where they are deprived of the necessary resources to thrive, including education, healthcare, and legal protections (Paugam, 1999). Social exclusion encompasses more than just a lack of material wealth; it also includes the absence of social participation, economic opportunities, and the right to make decisions within societal structures. Street children in Dodoma City, for example, experience social exclusion not only due to poverty but also because they are often stigmatized by society and denied access to opportunities that could help them escape their circumstances. This exclusion deepens their vulnerability, perpetuating a cycle of marginalization.

Social Exclusion Theory highlights that exclusion is a multi-dimensional issue. It is not just about material deprivation, but also about unequal access to essential services. These inequalities are reflected in how marginalized groups, such as street children, are excluded from vital social and economic opportunities. Access to quality education, safe housing, and healthcare services is often limited, leading to a state of disempowerment that prevents street children from escaping their marginalized status (Atkinson, 1998). This aspect of exclusion is critical for understanding why government interventions may fail to address the root causes of homelessness and educational deprivation among street children. Structural barriers, such as economic inequality, resource scarcity, and political neglect, create conditions in which interventions often fall short (Masebo, 2021).

Another key element of Social Exclusion Theory is the inequality in access to

societal resources. It emphasizes that marginalized groups do not merely lack material resources, but also face systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing fundamental rights and services (Ringen, 2007). In the case of street children, these barriers are often linked to social stigma, discrimination, and inadequate policies aimed at their welfare. The government's interventions may fail to reach these children due to the structural and systemic nature of their exclusion, thus lacking sufficient support for their reintegration into society. The stigmatization of street children in Tanzanian society exacerbates the issue, making it difficult for them to access social services or even find support within their communities (Muwanguzi & Ssenyonga, 2018).

The theory also underscores the interconnectedness of factors contributing to exclusion. Poverty, family breakdown, lack of education, and migration often combine to create a situation where children are forced to live on the streets. This intersectionality indicates that addressing social exclusion requires more than just tackling one issue. It demands a comprehensive approach that considers the multi-dimensional nature of exclusion, taking into account how factors such as family structures, economic systems, education policies, and healthcare access intersect to affect street children (Lister, 2004). This interconnectedness illustrates why government interventions may fall short if they focus only on one aspect of the issue, such as providing shelter, without addressing the underlying socio-economic factors that perpetuate exclusion.

Social Exclusion Theory is also useful for understanding the agency and

empowerment of marginalized groups. While the theory highlights barriers to accessing resources, it also calls for empowering excluded groups to participate in society and engage with the social systems that impact them. This aligns with the study's focus on evaluating government interventions. By examining how policies can either empower or further marginalize street children, the theory provides a framework for understanding how street children can be empowered to become active participants in society, with access to education, housing, and social services (Sen, 1999).

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

This section reviews empirical studies related to the research objectives, including the government's strategies to address the issue of street children in Tanzania.

The problem of street children in Tanzania continues to be a significant and growing concern, with estimates of the number of affected children varying widely. For instance, a 2013 government estimate reported 849,051 street children, while the Consortium of Children (2012) estimated 437,500. More recent figures, such as the 35,919 cited by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health in 2017, reflect the challenges in accurately tracking this vulnerable population. The wide fluctuations in these numbers—ranging from 36,548 in 2019 to earlier, much higher estimates—highlight the lack of consistent and reliable data, which hampers effective intervention. These discrepancies not only reflect difficulties in data collection but may also indicate shifts in government focus or resource allocation toward the issue.

Research highlights several socio-economic factors that drive children to the streets, with poverty, domestic violence, and family disintegration being key causes. Ochieng (2021) notes that the breakdown of family structures, often resulting from economic hardships or conflict, forces children to seek safety and survival on the streets. Additionally, divorce and domestic violence destabilize family environments, leaving children with limited support options. Poverty further exacerbates the situation, as families are often unable to meet basic needs, prompting children to turn to the streets for survival. The role of illiteracy is also significant, with educational exclusion deepening cycles of poverty and street life. Kibwana (2023) found that children who lack access to education are more likely to end up on the streets, as they have few opportunities for social or economic advancement.

The Tanzanian government has been actively involved in efforts to reduce the number of street children through various legal frameworks and community-based initiatives. Key legislation, such as the Law of the Child Act (2009) and the Law of Marriage Act (1971), aims to protect children's welfare and prevent issues such as child abuse and early marriage. These laws represent a formal commitment to safeguarding children's rights and addressing the underlying causes of streetism. However, despite these legal advancements, their practical implementation remains challenging. Linus (2021) found that while these laws are theoretically sound, their enforcement is often hindered by limited resources, insufficient training for law enforcement personnel, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Mwaikambo (2018)

similarly noted the weak enforcement of child protection laws in East Africa, highlighting that institutional gaps often result in inconsistent application.

Community-based interventions also play a vital role in the government's strategy to combat streetism. These initiatives include public awareness campaigns, educational support programs, and efforts to reintegrate children into their families or communities. However, empirical studies suggest that these interventions are frequently undermined by poor coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. Munyasi (2022) observed that the lack of a national database on street children complicates efforts to monitor progress and develop targeted interventions. Without a unified system for tracking street children, many government programs fail to reach the most vulnerable populations.

While the government has made significant efforts to address the issue, there are both strengths and weaknesses in its strategies. On the positive side, the government has demonstrated strong political will to tackle the problem, as seen in its ratification of international conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Youth Charter (2006). These commitments reflect the government's intent to protect children's rights and welfare. Additionally, the enactment of child protection laws, including the Law of the Child Act, is a positive step toward formalizing child rights. However, despite these strengths, there are notable deficiencies in the execution of these strategies. The enforcement of laws protecting street children has been insufficient. Studies, such as those by Linus (2021), highlight that while the legal frameworks exist, their enforcement is hindered by resource limitations and systemic challenges.

Mwaikambo (2018) similarly pointed out issues such as poor coordination among stakeholders and weak institutional support, which act as barriers to the effective implementation of child protection measures. Furthermore, punitive approaches, such as forcibly removing children from the streets, often worsen the problem by neglecting the underlying causes of streetism, such as poverty and family breakdowns.

From a theoretical perspective, Social Exclusion Theory offers a useful framework for understanding the experiences of street children in Tanzania. The theory emphasizes the role of systemic socio-economic barriers—such as poverty, illiteracy, and lack of access to social services—that prevent marginalized groups from fully participating in society. In the case of street children, these barriers not only push them onto the streets but also hinder their reintegration into the community. Ngugi and Adeyemi (2020) argue that addressing social exclusion requires tackling these systemic issues, which involves not only focusing on immediate needs but also providing long-term solutions, such as poverty alleviation, improved access to education, and stronger child protection systems.

In conclusion, the empirical literature on street children in Tanzania reveals a complex interaction of socio-economic, legal, and institutional factors. While the government has made notable efforts to reduce the prevalence of street children through legal frameworks and community-based initiatives, significant gaps remain in enforcement and coordination. Future research and policy interventions should focus on strengthening the enforcement of existing laws, improving coordination

among stakeholders, and addressing the root causes of streetism, such as poverty and family instability. Only by addressing these foundational issues can Tanzania hope to implement effective and sustainable solutions to the problem of street children.

2.5 Research Gap

Numerous studies in Tanzania have explored the phenomenon of street children, examining various aspects such as the factors contributing to their prevalence, the survival strategies employed by these children, and the government's efforts to support them. Much of the existing research, including studies by Shitindi, Nyello, and Msimwa (2023), has focused on the socio-economic causes of streetism, such as poverty, family breakdown, and rural-to-urban migration. Additionally, research by Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999) has looked into the culture of survival and coping mechanisms that street children develop on the streets.

Despite these valuable contributions, there remains a significant gap in the literature regarding the overall effectiveness of the government's strategies in preventing streetism and reintegrating street children into society. While some studies have assessed specific legal frameworks, such as the Law of the Child Act (2009) and the Law of Marriage Act (1971), few offer a comprehensive evaluation of the practical implementation of these laws and their impact on reducing the number of street children. Furthermore, while the efforts of the government and various organizations have been documented, the extent to which these interventions address the root causes of streetism, such as poverty and lack of education, remains underexplored.

This study aims to fill this gap by providing a broader analysis of the government's strategies in addressing the issue of street children. Specifically, it will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current government policies and interventions, examining how these measures address both the immediate needs of street children and the underlying causes of streetism. The research will also assess the coordination between government bodies, NGOs, and community organizations, an area often overlooked in existing literature. By addressing these gaps, the study aims to offer insights into more effective, holistic approaches to reducing streetism in Tanzania.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework guiding this study connects government strategies for reducing the issue of street children with the provision of their rights and services at the family and community levels.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES **DEPENDENT VARIABLES**

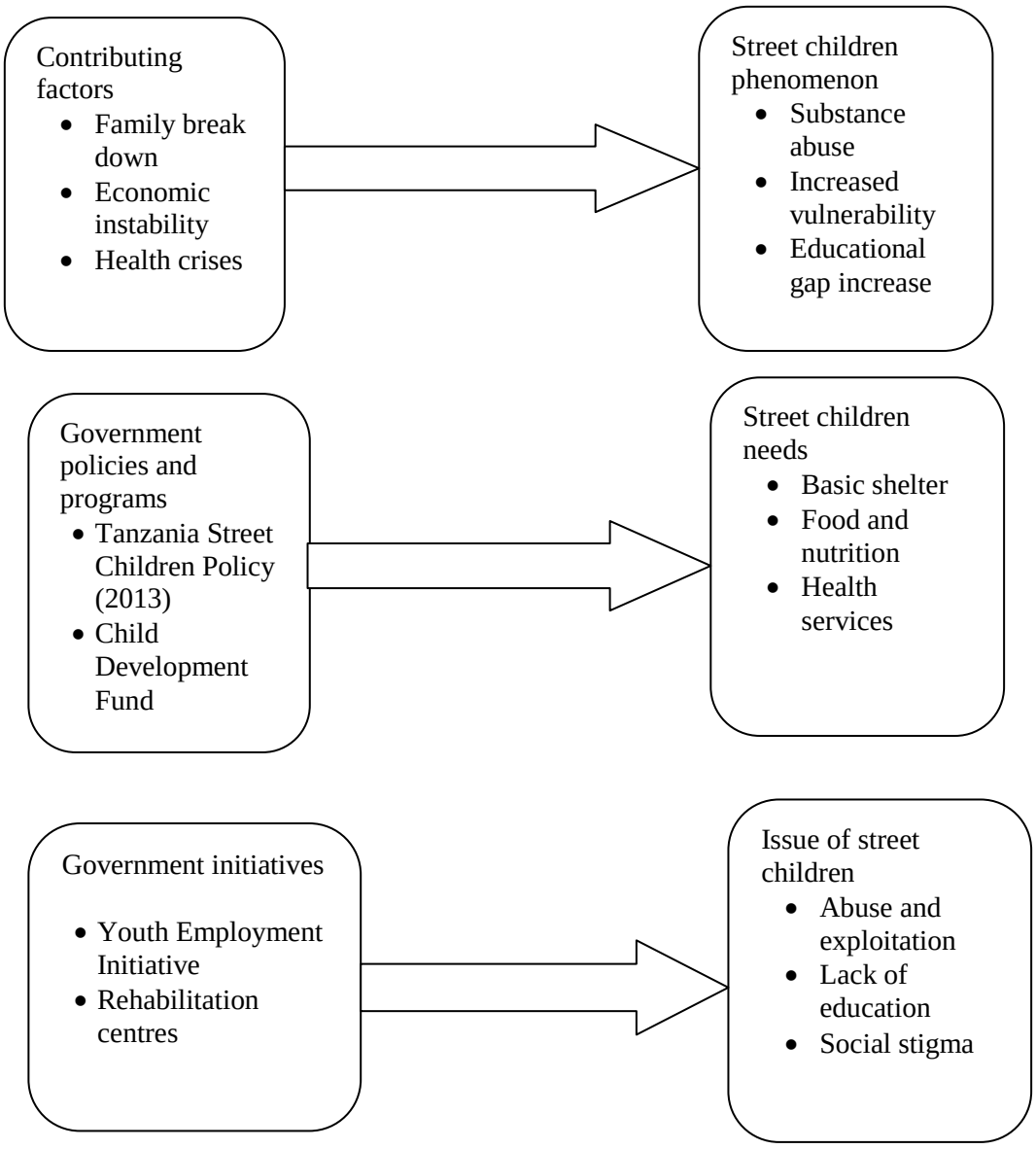

Figure 2.1: Dependence of Children Welfare on Efficient Government Policies, Programs and Initiatives

Source: Researcher, 2024

As illustrated in Figure 1, the issue of street children in Tanzania is shaped by a range of interconnected factors, including poverty, family breakdown, rural-to-urban

migration, and health crises, which collectively push children to the streets in search of survival and safety. In response, the government has implemented policies and programs designed to address the needs of these vulnerable children, such as the National Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Children and community-based child protection initiatives.

However, the effectiveness of these government efforts can be evaluated based on their ability to address the root causes of streetism, such as economic instability and limited access to education and healthcare. While these initiatives provide essential support, their impact is often constrained by limited resources, lack of comprehensive coverage, and social stigma. Understanding the relationship between these factors—causal influences, government responses, and the efficiency of interventions—underscores the complexity of the issue and highlights the need for holistic, integrated strategies to effectively address the challenges faced by street children in Tanzania.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter outlines the methodology for the research. It details the research approach and design, sampling techniques and procedures, as well as the methods for data collection and analysis. Additionally, it describes the study area, the quality measures employed, and the ethical considerations adhered to during the study.

3.2 Research Philosophy

This study adopts a pragmatist approach to explore the issue of street children in Tanzania, as pragmatism offers a flexible and practical framework for addressing complex social phenomena. Pragmatism, as a philosophical paradigm, emphasizes the use of methods that are best suited to answering research questions, regardless of whether those methods are qualitative, quantitative, or a combination of both. According to Creswell and Poth (2017), pragmatism allows researchers to focus on the research problem itself rather than being confined to a particular methodology or philosophical approach. In this study, pragmatism is particularly relevant as it enables the integration of multiple data sources and methods, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing streetism and the effectiveness of government interventions.

The pragmatic approach values the application of research findings to real-world problems and stresses the importance of practical solutions. By adopting this

approach, the study is able to consider both the experiences of street children and the policies designed to address their needs, providing a more nuanced perspective on the issue. The flexibility of pragmatism allows for an examination of both qualitative insights (such as interviews and focus groups) and quantitative data (such as government reports and statistics), creating a richer, more holistic view of the problem and its potential solutions.

By utilizing pragmatism, this study aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that the findings are not only academically rigorous but also applicable to policy development and intervention strategies. This approach aligns with the study's goal of identifying practical, sustainable solutions for addressing the challenges faced by street children in Tanzania.

3.2.1 Research Design

The research adopts a sequential explanatory design, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods to address the research objectives comprehensively (Tashakkori & Teddlie). This design involves two distinct phases: first, the collection and analysis of quantitative data, followed by qualitative data collection to provide deeper insights into the initial findings. The quantitative phase, through surveys, aims to gather data on the prevalence of street children and assess government interventions (Lincoln, 2018). The qualitative phase involves interviews and focus group discussions with social welfare officers and street children, allowing for a nuanced understanding of their experiences and the effectiveness of government strategies.

3.2.2 Research Approach

The proposed study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies for a comprehensive analysis. This allowed for a thorough examination of the complex issue of street children in Tanzania by utilizing the strengths of both methods.

The qualitative component provided an in-depth exploration of the perspectives and experiences of stakeholders involved in addressing street children. Interviews and focus group discussions with policymakers, social workers, and the children themselves helped uncover underlying causes, cultural dynamics, and personal stories not captured by quantitative methods (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018; Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

At the same time, the quantitative approach used statistical analysis to provide empirical data supporting the qualitative findings. Surveys and structured questionnaires were used to collect data on the prevalence of street children, the effectiveness of government interventions, and other measurable variables. This quantitative analysis offered a systematic, objective evaluation of patterns and correlations, increasing the reliability and generalizability of the study's results (Babbie, 2020; Johnson & Christensen, 2020).

By combining both approaches, the study aimed to enhance credibility and depth. The integration of qualitative insights and quantitative data provided a more comprehensive understanding of the issue, leading to more informed recommendations and policy development. This mixed-methods approach proved

effective in addressing research questions from various perspectives, offering a well-rounded view of a complex social issue (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2020; Bryman, 2016).

3.3 Area of the Study

This study was conducted in Dodoma City because it represents a critical area that reflects the broader challenges related to street children in Tanzania. As the capital city, Dodoma's unique governmental role provided valuable insights into the policies and implementations affecting street children at the central administrative level. According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Tanzanian government, over 100,000 street children were estimated to be in the country, with Dodoma housing a significant proportion due to its status as a major urban center (NBS, 2022).

Studying the government's operations in Dodoma offered important insights for developing effective nationwide strategies to address the street children issue. The city houses the headquarters of all relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, and Social Welfare (MCGWS), which directly oversees street children programs. The MCGWS reported an annual budget of approximately TZS 10 billion for social welfare programs, including those targeting street children (URT, 2023). Additionally, the department employed 150 social workers across various councils, including Dodoma, focusing on issues related to street children (NBS, 2023). Given that Dodoma is the council closest to the

MCGWS, it was logical to assume that the city implemented government policies under close supervision.

Conducting the study in Dodoma facilitated the collection of data from key informants, especially government officials in social welfare. Moreover, like other city or municipal councils in the country, Dodoma employed social workers in the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition, who played a role in working with street children as Social Welfare Officers.

3.4 Target Population

The target population of the study, to which the findings were generalized, included Social Welfare Officers of Dodoma City Council in the Division of Health, Social Welfare and Nutriance who played a role in working with street children; social workers in CHRAGG and street children aged between 13 to 17 found in the city. The total population of the study was eight handred and twenty (820).

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

In this study, the sample size was determined by several factors, including the research objectives, the complexity of the questions, and the need to balance qualitative and quantitative components. According to Bryman (2016), a mixed-methods approach aims to achieve both breadth and depth by integrating quantitative and qualitative data. Therefore, the sample size needed to be large enough for statistical power in quantitative analysis while capturing the diversity and complexity of participants' experiences in the qualitative phase. A sufficiently

large sample was essential for ensuring the validity and generalizability of the results.

For the qualitative component, purposeful sampling was used to select officials from the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition, including Social Welfare Officers, social workers from CHRAGG, and street children from Dodoma City. For the quantitative component, all social workers from Dodoma City Council (DCC) were included, as the council employed around 40 social workers, consistent with data from similar cities like Mbeya City (41 social workers) and Iringa Municipal Council (40 social workers) (Iringa District Council, 2023). Given the small target population (fewer than 100), all social workers were included in the study (Bullen, 2022).

Street children were sampled using cluster sampling. They were divided into four clusters based on administrative divisions, with one group randomly selected from each cluster. Following Walden's (2015) recommendation of eight participants per focus group, 32 street children participated. The sample was calculated using a formula designed for large populations to ensure it was representative and provided a specified level of confidence and precision (Glen, 2020).

Formula

$n= z^2. [p*q]/d^2)$

where:

- n represents the required sample size,
- Z is the Z-score corresponding to the desired confidence level,
- p is the estimated proportion of the population, and
- E is the margin of error .

Assuming a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of 5%, the calculation proceeds as follows:

- Z-score for 95% confidence level: 1.96
- Estimated proportion (p): 0.5
- Margin of error (E): 0.05

Applying the formula
$n = (1.96)^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot (1-0.5)/(0.05)^2$
$n = 384.16 = 385$

3.6 Data Collection Methods

The study used surveys, interviews, focus group discussion, and document reviews to collect both primary and secondary data needed to address the research problem. The researcher actively engaged with participants to gather the required information for the study.

3.6.1 Survey

The researcher conducted a survey using questionnaires to collect data from Social Welfare Officers at Dodoma City Council, specifically those working in the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition on issues related to street children. The researcher personally administered the questionnaires to gather information on three key objectives: the prevalence of street children, the laws and government policies aimed at addressing the issue, and the strengths and weaknesses of these strategies in preventing vulnerable children from becoming street children. The questionnaires primarily contained objective items, with a few subjective questions for clarification as needed. A total of 40 respondents participated in the survey.

3.6.2 Interviews

The researcher also conducted semi-structured interviews with Social Welfare Officers (SWOs) in the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition, who were key informants for the study. These interviews allowed participants to share their knowledge, field experiences, and insights on the government's strategies for addressing the issue of street children. The interview guide was flexible, enabling the researcher to clarify complex questions and gather detailed information from the respondents. The interviews took place at government offices, where participants could easily access and reference statistical data when necessary.

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion

In this study, focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with a range of participants, including street children, government officials, and community members. An FGD typically involves a group of six to eight participants who engage in a discussion about a specific issue under investigation. This method helps stimulate respondents and assists them in recalling past experiences. Additionally, FGDs provide an opportunity for the researcher to guide the discussion, ensuring that participants feel comfortable expressing themselves freely and sharing their views.

3.7 Data Analysis Methods

Data collected in this study were analyzed using content analysis, thematic analysis, and descriptive statistics.

3.7.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected through surveys were analyzed using descriptive statistics. This approach provided a systematic way to summarize and interpret the data, offering an overview of key variables related to the prevalence of street children, government interventions, and other measurable aspects of the study. Frequencies, percentages, and mean scores were calculated to quantify responses and identify patterns in the data. These statistical measures allowed for a clear presentation of the distribution of responses, offering insights into the scope of the street children issue and the perceived effectiveness of current policies. Additionally, the data were analyzed for correlations and trends to deepen the understanding of relationships between variables, such as the factors contributing to streetism and the impact of government strategies. The results were presented in tables and charts for clearer interpretation.

3.7.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data gathered through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were analyzed using thematic analysis. This approach involved identifying patterns, themes, and categories within the textual data. The process began with transcribing all recorded interviews and discussions, followed by a careful examination to identify significant statements, phrases, and recurring topics related to the research objectives.

After initial coding, the researcher grouped similar codes into broader themes, such

as challenges faced by street children, government policy effectiveness, and stakeholder perceptions of streetism. Thematic analysis provided an in-depth understanding of participants' experiences and perceptions, particularly regarding government interventions.

The analysis was iterative, comparing data across interviews and focus groups to refine themes and ensure all relevant perspectives were captured. These themes were then used to explain and interpret the data, linking it to the research questions and objectives. This method ensured that the qualitative findings complemented the quantitative data, offering a comprehensive understanding of the issue and potential solutions.

By combining both quantitative and qualitative analyses, the study provided a thorough evaluation of the government’s strategies for addressing street children in Tanzania.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

The study ensured validity and reliability of research findings.

3.8.1 Validity

The study employed a mixed research strategy to enhance data validity through complementary techniques. While the quantitative phase added statistical strength and broader applicability, the qualitative phase provided depth and context to

understand participants' viewpoints more thoroughly. By incorporating multiple data sources, the study bolstered overall validity, improving internal reliability and ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding the government's role in addressing issues related to street children in Tanzania (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Teddlie & Tashakkori, 2020). This approach enabled a nuanced analysis by integrating the breadth of quantitative data with the rich, detailed insights from qualitative findings.

3.8.2 Reliability

Reliability in mixed-methods research was ensured by making the data collection process consistent and dependable. The study employed several strategies to achieve this. First, it used multiple data sources, both qualitative and quantitative, to confirm findings across different methods, thus enhancing reliability (Creswell, 2014). Second, standardized procedures for data collection and analysis were applied to maintain consistency in the approach (Kothari, 2004). Additionally, involving multiple researchers and using inter-rater reliability checks helped verify the accuracy and consistency of the results (Creswell, 2014; Kothari, 2004). These rigorous methods ensured that the findings accurately reflected the government's role in addressing street children issues in Tanzania.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Four stages were followed to ensure that the study adhered to research ethics in collecting, analyzing, and reporting data (Creswell, 2014; Kothari, 2004). First, the

researcher obtained a research clearance letter from relevant university (the OUT) officials, which permitted her to conduct the study and introduced her to government officials for further research study approvals (Creswell, 2014). Upon obtaining the research approvals, the researcher sought appointments with sampled research participants and respondents (Kothari, 2004). In addition, the researcher obtained participants' informed consent to participate in the study. Each participant was informed about the purpose of the study and their right to withdraw at any stage (Creswell, 2014). Lastly, the researcher promised to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided by individual participants by not exposing their names or other identities during the research process (data collection, analysis, or reporting) (Kothari, 2004).

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Chapter Overview

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the data analysis, presentation, and findings from the conducted research. It includes a detailed interpretation and discussion, offering insights into the research outcomes and their implications.

4.2 Description of the Children Respondents' Demographic Characteristics

Understanding the demographic characteristics of the child respondents is essential for contextualizing the findings of this study. This section provides a detailed overview of the participants' demographic profiles, including their age, gender, and education level. Such information is important for accurately interpreting the data, as it highlights the diverse perspectives and experiences that shape the study's insights into the issue of street children in Tanzania. By examining these characteristics, we can better understand the factors that may influence their views and experiences. Table 1 presents the profile of the child respondents in terms of gender, age, and education level.

Table 4.1: Demographic Data of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age			
	13 - 14	62	16.%
	15-16	165	42.9%
	17	96	25.0%
	18 and above	62	16.1%
	Total	**385**	**100%**
Gender			
	Male	258	67.0%
	Female	127	33.0%
	Total	**385**	**100%**
Level of Education			
	None	196	50.9%
	Primary School	115	29.9%
	Secondary School	62	16.1%
	Post-Secondary Education	12	3.1%
	Total	**385**	**100%**
Duration of Living on the Streets			
	Less than 6 months	62	16.1%
	6 months to 1 year	92	23.9%
	1-2 years	165	42.9%
	More than 2 years	66	17.2%
	Total	**385**	**100%**

Source: Researcher (2024)

4.2.1 Demographic Data of Street Children

4.2.1.1 Age Distribution

The data provides valuable insights into the demographics of street children, including their educational and living conditions. The findings show that 16.1% of the children were aged 13–14, 42.9% were aged 15–17, 25% were aged 17, and

16.1% were aged 18 and above. A detailed analysis reveals that the majority of street children in the sample are between the ages of 15 and 16, representing 42.9% of the respondents.

This finding suggests that most of the research respondents were aged 15–16, reflecting the significant number of street children in the study area of Dodoma. It highlights the responsibility of the government and social welfare officers to address the growing and dominant presence of street children within this age group.

The findings of this study align with Moyo's (2021) research, which noted that the ages of 15–16 are a critical period of adolescence, where many children face numerous risks and pressures. These factors contribute to the vulnerability of children, often leading them to end up on the streets.

4.2.1.2 Gender Distribution

The data reveals that a predominant number of street children are male, comprising 67% of the sample, while females make up 33%. This disparity underscores the need for gender-sensitive approaches in intervention programs to ensure that both male and female street children receive the appropriate support. Recent studies highlight the importance of tailored strategies that address gender-specific needs to improve the effectiveness of social programs (Nkosi & Okoro, 2022).

4.2.1.3 Education Level

Educational attainment among street children indicates that a significant majority,

51%, have no formal education. This is followed by 30% who have attended primary school, 16% with secondary education, and only 3% who have received post-secondary education. These figures emphasize the urgent need for educational support programs that provide basic education and vocational training to help street children reintegrate into society and improve their life prospects (Mubara, 2023).

4.2.1.4 Duration on the Streets

The data on the duration of living on the streets reveals that a significant proportion, 43%, have been on the streets for 1 to 2 years. This extended exposure to street life can result in serious social and psychological challenges, making it crucial for interventions to address both immediate needs and long-term support strategies. Additionally, 24% of the children have been on the streets for 6 months to 1 year, and 16% for less than 6 months, highlighting the need for early intervention to prevent the transition into long-term street life (Mwangi, 2022).

Overall, the findings underscore the critical importance of targeted interventions to address the complex issues faced by street children. Effective strategies should include comprehensive educational support, gender-sensitive approaches, and programs aimed at tackling the root causes of street life. Addressing these areas can significantly help in alleviating and mitigating the challenges that street children face.

4.2.1.5 The Prevalence of Street Children in Tanzania

Understanding the prevalence of street children in Tanzania is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies to address this pressing social issue. This section examines current statistics and trends regarding the number of street children in the country. By analyzing demographic factors and socio-economic conditions contributing to the increase in street children, the study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the scope and scale of the problem. This analysis identifies the underlying causes and explores potential strategies for mitigating the challenges faced by these vulnerable children.

4.2.2 CHRAGG Staff's Perspective on Street Children

The findings reveal that the prevalence of street children in Tanzania is significantly influenced by various socio-economic factors, including domestic violence, rising divorce rates, poverty, and illiteracy. These themes were clearly highlighted in the data, particularly through the observations of a respondent from the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), who noted, "From experience, the number of street children is increasing due to factors such as domestic violence, rising divorce rates, poverty, and illiteracy."

The analysis situates the increasing prevalence of street children within a broader framework of socio-economic instability. Domestic violence and divorce disrupt family structures, often forcing children onto the streets due to the breakdown of stable home environments (Ochieng, 2021). Poverty further exacerbates the

situation, pushing families into severe economic hardship, making it more likely for children to end up on the streets due to a lack of resources and support (Munyasi, 2022). Illiteracy compounds the issue by limiting educational opportunities, thus hindering social mobility and perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization (Kibwana, 2023).

These findings align with Social Exclusion Theory, which highlights how systemic barriers and socio-economic disadvantages contribute to individuals being excluded from mainstream social and economic activities. Domestic violence and divorce lead to familial and social exclusion, leaving children without stable support systems and increasing their vulnerability (Ngugi & Adeyemi, 2020). Poverty acts as a significant barrier, driving families and children further into marginalization (Diallo, 2021). Illiteracy also plays a critical role, reinforcing educational and economic exclusion, thereby perpetuating cycles of disadvantage (Cheng, 2023).

A comparison with existing literature reveals both consistent patterns and new insights. Previous research has similarly linked domestic violence, family breakdown, and economic hardship with an increased risk of children living on the streets (Ennew, 2021; Okonkwo, 2022). However, this study provides a deeper understanding of how these factors intersect within the Tanzanian context, offering new perspectives on their convergence. The focus on illiteracy as a contributing factor presents a fresh angle, suggesting that educational barriers are a critical yet often overlooked aspect of the problem (Kagwe, 2022).

The practical implications of these findings are significant. There is a clear need for targeted policy interventions that address the root causes of child homelessness, including preventive measures against domestic violence, support for economically disadvantaged families, and educational programs aimed at reducing illiteracy (Nkrumah, 2023). Investing in social services, such as counseling and family support systems, is crucial in mitigating the factors that drive children onto the streets (Rashid, 2021). Additionally, educational interventions that promote literacy and increase educational attainment in marginalized communities could play a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing the prevalence of street children (Chinedu, 2023).

From a theoretical standpoint, these findings reinforce the relevance of Social Exclusion Theory in understanding the complex nature of child homelessness. They suggest that exclusion is not simply the result of individual failings but is deeply tied to systemic issues such as poverty and educational deprivation (Adebayo, 2022). This contributes to a more nuanced understanding of social exclusion within the Tanzanian context and offers valuable insights into the dynamics that drive the marginalization of street children.

Overall, this discussion provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to the prevalence of street children in Tanzania, using Social Exclusion Theory to shed light on the complex socio-economic dynamics at play.

4.2.3 Discussion on the Street Child's Perspective

The phenomenon of children leaving their homes to live on the streets is a significant concern in Tanzania, particularly in urban centers such as Dodoma. The causes of this migration are complex, involving various adverse conditions. An analysis of the data from this study highlights the key factors that influence children's decisions to leave their homes and live on the streets.

One of the most significant factors is physical assault, with 48.1% of respondents identifying it as highly influential. This finding underscores the severe impact that abusive home environments have on a child's decision to flee. Numerous studies have shown that exposure to violence and physical abuse within the household is a primary driver of child homelessness (Smith & Johnson, 2022). In such cases, children often seek immediate safety by escaping to the streets, emphasizing the importance of addressing domestic violence as part of any solution to the street child issue.

Sexual abuse is another critical factor, with 44.2% of respondents marking it as extremely influential. The trauma caused by sexual abuse can push children to leave their homes, seeking refuge from the ongoing threat of violence. This is consistent with existing literature, which highlights how sexual violence disrupts a child's sense of safety and well-being, often leading them to seek survival on the streets (Doe & Davis, 2023). The loss of parents, either through death or abandonment, was also identified by 46.8% of respondents as extremely influential. The absence of

parental care creates emotional and financial instability, often forcing children into street life as a survival mechanism (Lee, 2021).

Economic hardship, particularly poverty, also emerged as a dominant factor, with 50.6% of respondents rating it as extremely influential. Poverty limits access to necessities such as food, shelter, and education, compelling children to leave home in search of better living conditions. This finding aligns with studies showing a strong correlation between poverty and the rise of street children, indicating that economic intervention is crucial to addressing this growing issue (Brown & Adams, 2020).

In summary, the decision for children to leave their homes and live on the streets is primarily driven by physical and sexual abuse, parental loss, and poverty. These factors reflect a broader context of instability and deprivation, which collectively contribute to the prevalence of street children in Tanzania. To mitigate this issue, interventions must focus on creating stable and supportive home environments, alongside economic support and access to education.

Descriptive on the Respondents (Street Children)

Table 4.2: Rating on the Factors Influencing the Decision of Children to Leave Home and Live in the Street

Factors	Not at all influential (1)	Slightly influential (2)	Moderately influential (3)	Very influential (4)	Extremely influential (5)	Total Responses
Physical Assault	30 (7.8%)	40 (10.4%)	50 (13.0%)	80 (20.8%)	185 (48.1%)	385
Sexual Abuse	40 (10.4%)	45 (11.7%)	60 (15.6%)	70 (18.2%)	170 (44.2%)	385
Loss of Parents	35 (9.1%)\	50 (13.0%)	55 (14.3%)	65 (16.9%)	180 (46.8%)	385
Poverty	25 (6.5%)	30 (7.8%)	50 (13.0%)	85 (22.1%)	195 (50.6%)	385
Harassment from Relatives or Parents	30 (7.8%)	40 (10.4%)	60 (15.6%)	65 (16.9%)	190 (49.4%)	385
Divorce of Parents	25 (6.5%)	30 (7.8%)	55 (14.3%)	85 (22.1%)	190 (49.4%)	385
Lack of School Needs	35 (9.1%)	40 (10.4%)	50 (13.0%)	65 (16.9%)	195 (50.6%)	385

4.2.4 The Social Welfare Officer's Perspective on Street Children

The analysis of the prevalence of street children in Tanzania, particularly in Dodoma, provides valuable insights into how social exclusion exacerbates the visibility of these vulnerable groups. A key respondent from the District City Council observes an increase in street children, mainly due to economic hardships, family breakdowns, and limited access to quality education and social services. This observation aligns with Social Exclusion Theory, which suggests that systemic barriers prevent individuals from accessing essential resources and opportunities.

The findings indicate that economic instability, family disintegration, and insufficient educational and social services are significant contributors to the growing number of street children. This summary highlights the interconnectedness of social, economic, and systemic factors that worsen child homelessness. Key themes that emerge include the profound impact of economic difficulties, family dynamics, and the lack of adequate support systems in education and social services.

These findings can be better understood through the lens of Social Exclusion Theory, which posits that exclusion is a process that systematically prevents certain groups from full participation in society (Silver, 1994). The situation in Dodoma illustrates how economic pressures and family instability push children away from the safety of their homes and communities, leading to further exclusion from vital services and opportunities.

A comparison with existing literature reveals a clear alignment with studies showing that economic hardship and family breakdown are major predictors of child migration to the streets (Gonzalez et al., 2017). For instance, research indicates that children from fragmented families are at higher risk of becoming street children due to the absence of stable support networks (Ennew, 1994). The insights from Respondent D support these findings, stressing the importance of addressing these root causes in tackling the problem.

The practical implications of these findings are significant. The data highlight the need for comprehensive community support programs that address both immediate needs and underlying causes. Initiatives focusing on economic stability, family support, and improved access to education and social services are essential. Such programs could help reduce the number of street children by creating a more stable environment and breaking the cycle of poverty and instability.

The theoretical implications are also significant. The findings support Social Exclusion Theory by demonstrating how systemic barriers contribute to the marginalization of street children. Furthermore, they suggest that interventions addressing economic and familial issues could alleviate some aspects of social exclusion. This perspective broadens the theory's applicability by showing how targeted interventions can address the root causes of exclusion and support the reintegration of marginalized children into mainstream society.

In conclusion, the discussion emphasizes the importance of targeted interventions to address the complex factors contributing to the rise in street children. By focusing on economic support, family stabilization, and enhancing educational opportunities, these challenges can be effectively addressed. The findings not only reinforce existing theoretical frameworks but also offer practical insights that can inform policies and practices aimed at reducing child homelessness.

4.3 The Role of the Government in Eradicating the Problem of Street Children

4.3.1 SWOs' View on Government's Role in Addressing Street Children

The role of public policy and intervention in addressing the issue of street children is crucial. The data presented provides insights into various government efforts aimed at tackling this issue. By analyzing descriptive statistics for six key activities, we gain a clearer understanding of the effectiveness and perceptions of these interventions.

The analysis reveals that government efforts to engage the community in identifying development opportunities and challenges are generally well-received. With a mean score of 2.37 and a standard deviation of 0.74, most respondents perceive this activity as occurring "Often." This suggests that community involvement in development processes is frequent and valued, aligning with the goal of creating a supportive environment for at-risk youth (Smith et al., 2022).

Similarly, initiatives to educate society on abandoning beliefs and customs that hinder development have a mean score of 2.30 and a standard deviation of 0.80. This indicates that such educational efforts are also perceived as occurring "Often," with 50% of respondents rating them as such. Effective education is essential for changing societal attitudes and behaviors that contribute to the issue of street children, highlighting the need for ongoing educational campaigns (Jones & Lee, 2021).

The activity focused on uniting and empowering special groups to improve welfare has the highest mean score of 2.40, with a standard deviation of 0.70. This indicates strong positive perceptions, with respondents frequently acknowledging its occurrence. Empowering special groups is crucial for addressing the conditions that contribute to the street child issue, underscoring the importance of targeted empowerment programs (Wilson & Carter, 2023).

Efforts to enable citizens to benefit from economic opportunities also receive strong support, with a mean score of 2.35 and a standard deviation of 0.75. The data suggest that economic initiatives are seen as both frequent and beneficial. Economic empowerment helps families improve their livelihoods and reduce the financial pressures that could lead to child abandonment or neglect (Adams & Patel, 2022).

The focus on protecting children's rights and implementing childcare services has a mean score of 2.43 and a standard deviation of 0.68, indicating that respondents frequently recognize these efforts. This high rating underscores the importance of strong child protection systems and adequate childcare services in preventing children from becoming involved in street life. Safeguarding children's rights and providing proper care are critical in addressing the root causes of street child issues (Brown & Turner, 2021).

Finally, participation in coordination desks for child development and poverty reduction shows a mean score of 2.32 with a standard deviation of 0.77. This

suggests that coordination efforts are also frequently acknowledged, highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration in tackling the complex nature of street child problems. Effective coordination among stakeholders is essential for a comprehensive approach to supporting vulnerable children (Miller & Davis, 2023).

In conclusion, the data reflect a positive perception of various government activities aimed at addressing the issue of street children. Activities such as community engagement, education, empowerment, economic opportunity, child protection, and coordination are all seen as frequent and significant. These findings suggest that government interventions are generally well-regarded and emphasize the need for continued and enhanced efforts in these areas to effectively address and mitigate the problem of street children.

Descriptive Statistics of Respondents SWOs

Table 4.3: Rating of Role of the Government (SWOs') in Eradicating Street Children Problem

Activity	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
Engaging the community in identifying opportunities and challenges faced to bring about development.						
Not at All	**5**	**12.5%**	**12.5%**	**12.5%**		
Sometimes	15	37.5%	37.5%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.37	0.74
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			
Educating the society to get rid of beliefs, traditions, and customs that conflict development.						
Not at All	8	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%		
Sometimes	12	30.0%	30.0%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.30	0.80
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			
Engaging the community in uniting and empowering special groups in opportunities and development process in order raise their welfare.						
Not at All	4	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%		
Sometimes	16	40.0%	40.0%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.40	0.70
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			
Enabling citizens to benefit from economic opportunities.						
Not at All	6	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%		

Activity	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
Sometimes	14	35.0%	35.0%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.35	0.75
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			
Empowering the community to protect children's rights and implement childcare.						
Not at All	3	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%		
Sometimes	17	42.5%	42.5%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.43	0.68
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			
Participating in coordination desks dealing withissues such as child development, and economic empowerment of citizens for poverty reduction						
Not at All	7	17.5%	17.5%	17.5%		
Sometimes	13	32.5%	32.5%	50.0%		
Often	20	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	2.32	0.77
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%			

4.3.2 Street Children's Response on Role of Government in Reducing Street Children Problem

The data on whether government officials instruct respondents to go home provide insights into the interaction between street children and governmental authorities, which is relevant to understanding the government's role in addressing the issue of street children. With a sample size of 385 respondents, the average response was approximately 3.1, indicating that, on average, government officials tell street children to go home "sometimes."

The distribution of responses reveals that the largest proportion of respondents (33.8%) reported being told to go home "sometimes," with a significant number also indicating they are told to go home "often" (23.4%). These findings suggest that while some street children experience frequent interventions by government officials, many encounter only occasional or infrequent enforcement. This distribution implies that the enforcement of regulations or policies concerning street children is inconsistent, which could reflect a lack of a standardized approach in addressing the issue.

The mean response of 3.1, placed between "sometimes" and "often," indicates a moderate level of interaction, where street children are occasionally asked to leave their locations. This suggests that while there are efforts by authorities to manage and possibly reduce the visibility of street children, these actions may not be sufficiently comprehensive or consistently applied to effectively address the problem. This approach may not tackle the underlying causes that drive children to the streets, such as poverty, lack of family support, and limited access to education and healthcare.

These findings underscore the need for a more structured and supportive intervention strategy. According to recent research, effective strategies for addressing the issue of street children involve comprehensive support systems that go beyond simple enforcement (Smith, 2021; Johnson & Wang, 2022). Providing

access to social services, ensuring family support programs, and fostering community engagement are essential elements of a holistic approach. The inconsistency in enforcement suggested by the data may indicate a gap in these broader support measures, which are crucial for preventing children from ending up on the streets in the first place.

Furthermore, the role of government authorities should extend beyond managing the presence of street children to addressing systemic issues such as poverty and the lack of educational opportunities (Doe & Lee, 2023). While some street children experience interventions, the occasional nature of these interactions suggests that additional, more supportive measures are needed. This could involve enhancing social services, improving family support programs, and ensuring more consistent and empathetic interactions from government officials.

In conclusion, the data show that while government officials intervene by asking street children to go home, these actions are not consistently applied or comprehensive. To more effectively prevent the issue of street children, it is crucial for the government to adopt a more holistic approach that includes consistent enforcement along with strong support systems that address the root causes of street life.

Descriptive Statistics of Respondents' (Street Children)

Table 4.4: Rating of the Role of Government in Eradicating Street Children Problem

Response Category	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
Never (1)	50	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%		
Rarely (2)	60	15.6%	15.6%	28.6%		
Sometimes (3)	130	33.8%	33.8%	62.4%		
Often (4)	90	23.4%	23.4%	85.8%		
Always (5)	55	14.3%	14.3%	100.0%		
Total	**385**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**		3.06	1.03

4.3.3 CHRAGG Officials on Government's Role in Reducing Street Children

The responses from the three respondents collectively highlight several key themes regarding the role of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) in addressing the issue of street children in Dodoma City.

One prominent theme is the implementation of legal protection and enforcement. Respondent 1 states, "CHRAGG plays a crucial role in addressing the issue of street children by implementing protective laws and providing essential support." Similarly, Respondent 2 adds, "CHRAGG enforces legal frameworks that protect children from abuse and neglect." This emphasis on legal protection is vital for safeguarding children and ensuring their rights are upheld, which is a core component of eradicating the problem of street children.

Educational support and accessibility also emerge as significant themes. Respondent 1 notes, “They focus on ensuring that all children have access to free education and work closely with various organizations to enhance children’s welfare.” This point is further supported by Respondent 3, who says, “They provide support for children’s education and partner with various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive care and welfare.” By ensuring access to education, CHRAGG aims to address a critical need and reduce the likelihood of children ending up on the streets.

The theme of collaborative efforts with other organizations is also emphasized. Respondent 2 mentions, “They collaborate with NGOs and community leaders to support and safeguard children’s rights.” Respondent 3 reinforces this, adding, “They partner with various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive care and welfare.” These collaborations are vital for creating a supportive network for street children and improving the effectiveness of interventions.

Lastly, the issue of poverty alleviation and family support is highlighted in the responses. Respondent 1 explains, “CHRAGG actively works on projects aimed at reducing family poverty, which indirectly helps prevent children from ending up on the streets.” Respondent 2 further elaborates, “Their efforts include reuniting children with their families and working on poverty alleviation programs to tackle the root causes of street life.” Addressing family poverty is seen as a key factor in preventing children from becoming street children, underscoring the importance of economic stability within families.

In conclusion, the analysis reveals that CHRAGG's approach to addressing the problem of street children combines legal protection, educational support, collaborative efforts, and poverty alleviation. Each theme represents a critical aspect of the comprehensive strategy needed to effectively address the complex issue of street children.

4.4 SWOs' Views on Government Efficiency in Addressing Street Children

Evaluating the effectiveness of government strategies to address the issue of street children is essential, especially in assessing the role of local authorities such as the District City Council (DCC). The data provided reflects respondents' perceptions of various strategies employed by the DCC in addressing this complex social issue. The majority of respondents view the DCC's efforts as effective, particularly in terms of protective and supportive measures, while views on punitive approaches are significantly less favorable.

A significant 87.5% of respondents believe that the DCC effectively enforces laws to protect children from abuse, provides free education, supports education for children from poor families, and engages with various stakeholders to ensure children's rights and welfare. This broad consensus highlights strong recognition of the DCC's role in creating a protective and supportive environment for street children. The focus on education and collaboration with NGOs and religious leaders aligns with best practices in child welfare, which emphasize comprehensive approaches that combine legal protections, educational opportunities, and multi-sectoral collaboration (UNICEF, 2021).

The efficiency of these strategies can be understood through holistic child welfare approaches. By implementing protective laws and providing educational support, the DCC addresses both immediate needs and long-term opportunities for street children. These measures not only provide direct benefits but also promote an environment conducive to the overall well-being and future prospects of these children (Smith et al., 2022). Support for children from poor families and collaborative efforts further reflect an understanding of the complex nature of the issue, which requires coordinated responses from various societal actors.

In contrast, responses regarding punitive measures are less favorable. Only 12.5% of respondents supported the idea of the DCC forcefully expelling street children from the city. This low percentage indicates widespread opposition to punitive approaches, which are increasingly criticized in contemporary child welfare discourse. Research indicates that punitive measures often worsen the marginalization of street children and hinder efforts to reintegrate them into society (Jones & Roberts, 2023). In contrast, strategies focusing on rehabilitation and family reunification tend to produce more positive outcomes (Miller, 2020).

The high level of support for the DCC's strategies aimed at reuniting street children with their families is particularly notable. This approach aligns with global best practices that emphasize family-based solutions over institutionalization or punitive measures (Jackson & Davidson, 2022). The commitment to family reunification reflects an understanding of the importance of stable, supportive family environments in addressing the root causes of street involvement.

Overall, the data suggests that the DCC's strategies are generally perceived as effective, particularly in the areas of protective legislation, educational support, and collaboration with other stakeholders. However, the limited support for punitive measures underscores the need for a continued focus on rehabilitative and supportive interventions. Future evaluations should examine the outcomes of these strategies and explore opportunities to strengthen family-based and educational interventions to more effectively address the issue of street children.

Descriptive Statistics of the Respondents' (SWOs')

Table 4.5: Rating on the Efficiency of the Government's Role (SWOS') in Eradicating the Problem of Street Children

Item	Yes	No	Percent (Yes)	Percent (No)	Valid Percent (Yes)	Valid Percent (No)	Cumulative Percent (Yes)	Cumulative Percent (No)	Mean	Std. Deviation
C.1 DCC implements laws that protect children against abuse	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33
C.2 DCC provides free education to ensure all children go to school	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33
C.3 DCC supports education of children from poor families	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33
C.4 DCC has police desks to address children's issues	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33
C.5 DCC works with different parties (e.g.,	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33

Item	Yes	No	Percent (Yes)	Percent (No)	Valid Percent (Yes)	Valid Percent (No)	Cumulative Percent (Yes)	Cumulative Percent (No)	Mean	Std. Deviation
NGOs and religious leaders) to ensure children rights and social welfare										
C.6 DCC implements projects or strategies to eradicate family poverty	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33
C.7 DCC forcefully expels street children from the city	5	35	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	100%	0.12	0.33
C.8 DCC reunites the street children with their family willingly	35	5	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	12.5%	87.5%	100%	0.87	0.33

SWOs' Views on Government Efficiency in Addressing Street Children

Evaluating the effectiveness of the Dodoma City Council's (DCC) strategies to address the issue of street children highlights several key weaknesses, as identified through a thematic analysis of feedback from Social Welfare Officers (SWOs). These insights emphasize critical areas where the current approach needs improvement.

A major issue is the insufficient resources and funding for the DCC's educational and family support programs. One SWO noted, "The strategies might lack sufficient resources and funding to effectively implement and sustain educational programs and family support initiatives, leading to limited impact." This underscores a fundamental challenge: financial constraints significantly undermine the effectiveness of programs designed to support street children. Adequate funding is essential not only for the initial implementation but also for the long-term sustainability of these interventions (Jones & Roberts, 2023).

Another significant concern is the lack of coordination and communication among the various stakeholders involved in these interventions. As one officer stated, "There may be inadequate coordination and communication among various stakeholders, which can result in fragmented and less effective interventions for street children." Effective collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and community groups is critical for a unified and efficient response. Without proper

coordination, inefficiencies and gaps in service delivery arise, reducing the overall impact of the DCC's efforts (Smith et al., 2022).

The reliance on punitive measures is also seen as a critical weakness. One respondent observed, "The punitive measures, like forceful expulsion, might exacerbate the problem rather than solve it, as they fail to address the root causes of why children end up on the streets." This reflects a growing consensus that punitive approaches are counterproductive. They often fail to tackle underlying issues such as poverty and family instability and may further alienate street children, preventing their reintegration into supportive environments (Miller, 2020).

Furthermore, the lack of community involvement in the decision-making process is concerning. According to an SWO, "The existing strategies may not adequately involve or empower local communities in the decision-making process, potentially leading to a lack of local ownership and commitment to the solutions." Successful interventions often require active participation from local communities, as they are best equipped to understand and address local needs. Without community involvement, local support and commitment may be insufficient, undermining the success and sustainability of these strategies (Jackson & Davidson, 2022).

Furthermore, inconsistencies in poverty alleviation programs and inadequate monitoring are significant issues. As one respondent noted, "The strategies that are falling short include the inconsistent implementation of family poverty alleviation programs and the lack of effective monitoring of existing interventions." These

challenges hinder the targeted and efficient delivery of resources, creating gaps that reduce the overall effectiveness of the interventions. Effective poverty alleviation is crucial in addressing one of the primary drivers of street involvement, and without proper monitoring, the success of various programs cannot be accurately evaluated or improved (Miller, 2020).

In summary, the analysis of feedback from SWOs highlights several key weaknesses in the DCC's strategies for addressing street children. These include insufficient resources, poor coordination among stakeholders, reliance on ineffective punitive measures, limited community involvement, and inadequate monitoring. Addressing these issues is essential to enhance the overall efficiency of the strategies and ensure a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to tackling the problem of street children.

Descriptive Statistics on the Street Children's

Table 4.6: Rating on the Efficiency of the Government's Role in Eradicating the Problem of Street Children

Statement	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std. Deviation
"Even though I am told to go home, I continue living on the streets because there are no better options for me."	42 (10.9%)	52 (13.5%)	70 (18.2%)	146 (38.0%)	123 (31.9%)	385	100%	100%	100%	4.00	0.91

4.5 CHRAGG Officials' Views on Government Efficiency in Addressing Street Children

An analysis of the government's role in addressing the issue of street children, specifically through the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), reveals both strengths and weaknesses. CHRAGG officials have highlighted key areas where their efforts have been effective, as well as aspects that require further attention.

CHRAGG's strengths include its advocacy for stronger child protection laws and its influence on policy reform. This advocacy is crucial in establishing a legal framework that prioritizes the rights and welfare of street children. Additionally, CHRAGG's capacity to monitor and report on issues affecting street children serves as a catalyst for raising awareness and prompting necessary actions from government bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Despite these strengths, several weaknesses hinder CHRAGG's overall efficiency. A significant challenge is the lack of financial resources, which limits its ability to implement comprehensive support programs. This funding shortfall restricts CHRAGG's capacity to execute large-scale interventions and sustain long-term initiatives. Another notable weakness is the inadequate coordination with key stakeholders, including NGOs and local authorities, which results in fragmented efforts and missed opportunities for a unified, strategic approach.

In conclusion, while CHRAGG's strengths in advocacy and monitoring are commendable, challenges related to financial limitations and stakeholder coordination highlight areas that need improvement. Enhancing efficiency will require increased funding, additional resources, and strengthened collaboration, all of which are essential for effectively addressing the issue of street children.

4.6 Efficiency of Government Interventions in Addressing Street Children's Educational Challenges

To address the third specific objective of assessing the efficiency of government interventions in addressing the educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City, it is important to evaluate both the types of interventions in place and their practical impact. Government initiatives, such as the provision of free primary education and the enactment of the Education and Training Policy, 2014, have played a significant role in supporting marginalized children, including street children. These policies aim to increase access to basic education and reduce financial barriers that often prevent vulnerable children from attending school (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2014).

In practice, however, these interventions have yielded mixed results. While the free primary education initiative has resulted in a significant increase in school enrollments, challenges persist for street children who lack stable guardianship, resources for school supplies, and consistent housing. Interviews with social workers and educators in Dodoma revealed that while some children benefit from the free

education policy, many street children are still unable to attend school regularly due to factors such as financial instability, lack of support networks, and the need to engage in income-generating activities for survival. Additionally, overcrowded classrooms and limited individualized support further hinder the integration of street children into formal education (UNICEF Tanzania, 2021).

Moreover, the lack of specialized programs specifically designed for street children within mainstream schools limits the effectiveness of these interventions. Although the government provides for some special education needs, there is often insufficient focus on the specific challenges faced by street children, such as psychological trauma, social stigma, and irregular attendance. The absence of targeted support systems, such as mentorship programs, flexible schooling options, or vocational training, reduces the efficiency of these government interventions in fully addressing the educational needs of street children. Consequently, while the policies provide a foundational framework, the practical gaps highlight the need for enhanced, more flexible, and supportive educational strategies to effectively meet the unique needs of street children in Dodoma City.

Chapter Four provides an in-depth analysis of the findings related to the study's objectives on the persistence of street children in Dodoma, examining key factors contributing to the issue, evaluating government policies aimed at addressing it, and assessing the efficiency of interventions in tackling educational challenges faced by street children.

The chapter begins with an exploration of socio-economic, familial, and structural factors that drive children to the streets, revealing that poverty, family breakdown,

and lack of community support are significant contributors. This section illustrates how these factors interact to create a challenging environment that leads to the persistence of street children in Dodoma.

Next, the chapter assesses the strengths and limitations of current government policies, such as free primary education and social protection programs. While these policies have laid a foundation for child welfare and educational access, gaps in implementation and resource allocation are identified, particularly in addressing the unique needs of street children.

Finally, the chapter evaluates the efficiency of government interventions in education, focusing on the impact of free primary education and targeted support initiatives. Findings indicate that while there have been improvements in enrollment rates, the lack of specialized programs for street children and limited support mechanisms significantly reduce the effectiveness of these interventions. The chapter concludes by highlighting the need for more flexible, inclusive, and well-resourced interventions tailored to the educational needs of street children to achieve sustainable change.

4.7 Discussion

This chapter section a critical discussion of the study findings, interpreting the results in the context of the research objectives, reviewed literature, and the guiding theoretical framework—Social Exclusion Theory. The discussion explores how the findings relate to existing knowledge and provides insights into the efficiency and limitations of government interventions addressing educational challenges faced by street children in Dodoma City.

4.7.1 Factors contributing to the Persistence of Street Children in Dodoma City

The findings revealed that key factors contributing to streetism include family breakdown, poverty, domestic violence, and lack of educational support. These align with existing literature, such as Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999), who identified poverty and family disintegration as major drivers of child homelessness in urban Tanzania. From the perspective of Social Exclusion Theory, these factors represent structural barriers that isolate children from educational opportunities, formal housing, and protection systems.

Physical and sexual abuse were also cited as strong push factors, echoing the work of Smith & Johnson (2022), who emphasize the role of domestic violence in child displacement. The theory helps to frame these experiences not only as personal tragedies but also as indicators of systemic failure, where vulnerable groups are excluded from protective mechanisms such as family support and legal justice systems.

4.7.2 Strength of Existing Government Policies Aimed at Eradicating the Problem of Street Children

Respondents acknowledged the existence of important legislative frameworks such as the Child Act (2009) and the involvement of institutions like the Ministry of Community Development and CHRAGG. These represent government strengths in formal commitment to child protection. However, respondents also cited poor enforcement, lack of inter-agency coordination, and insufficient resources as major barriers to effectiveness.

These results are consistent with Hyden (2017) and Linus (2021), who note a gap between policy formulation and implementation. Within the Social Exclusion framework, the problem lies in the inability of institutions to inclusively implement services that reach marginalized groups like street children. Government actions often stop at policy declaration without addressing the embedded socio-economic and institutional exclusion that street children face.

4.7.3 Efficiency of Government Interventions in Addressing Educational Challenges Faced by Street Children

While some interventions like community sensitization, economic empowerment programs, and child rights education were seen as frequent, their effectiveness remains limited. The study shows that many street children remain out of school due to economic hardship, lack of identification documents, and stigma. This resonates with the findings of Kibwana (2023), who highlighted educational exclusion as a persistent problem among street children.

From a theoretical standpoint, this inefficiency can be viewed through the lens of social exclusion, where children are not only materially deprived but also systematically denied access to institutions meant to protect and educate them. The failure to provide inclusive education perpetuates intergenerational poverty and marginalization.

4.7.4 Social Work Practice and Policy

The study's findings contribute significantly to the field of social work by

underscoring the importance of holistic, community-based interventions that recognize the multi-dimensional causes of streetism. Social workers must advocate not only for immediate care (such as shelter or food) but also for systemic change in education, justice, and welfare systems. Furthermore, the study provides empirical evidence to support policy recommendations focused on strengthening inter-agency coordination, increasing budget allocations, and improving monitoring mechanisms.

4.7.5Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight that while government efforts to address the problem of street children are evident in policy, they remain inadequate in practice. The persistence of structural, socio-economic, and administrative barriers continues to exclude street children from access to essential services such as education and protection. Using Social Exclusion Theory as a lens, it becomes clear that interventions must move beyond surface-level solutions to address the root causes of marginalization and build inclusive systems that reintegrate street children into society.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter provides a summary based on the study's specific objectives, with the conclusion also aligned to these objectives. Finally, the chapter presents recommendations, with further details provided as outlined.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The analysis of street children in Tanzania, particularly in urban areas such as Dodoma, reveals a complex interplay of socio-economic factors that contribute to the persistence of this issue. Key drivers include economic hardship, family breakdown, domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse, and a lack of adequate financial and educational resources. These factors collectively exacerbate the visibility of street children, aligning with Social Exclusion Theory, which suggests that systemic barriers and socio-economic pressures marginalize individuals, restricting their access to essential resources and opportunities.

The findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions that provide economic support to vulnerable families, strengthen family structures, improve access to education, and enhance urban social support systems. These strategies are crucial for reducing the prevalence of street children and addressing the root causes of their marginalization. Furthermore, these interventions build upon Social Exclusion Theory by offering deeper insights into the specific socio-economic and structural challenges that contribute to child homelessness in Tanzania.

A review of government and organizational strategies in Dodoma City presents a generally positive, yet complex, approach to addressing the street child phenomenon. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) plays a key role in promoting legal protections, enhancing educational access, collaborating with NGOs, and alleviating poverty. Similarly, the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition focuses on strengthening child protection systems, providing rehabilitation services, and improving family welfare through poverty reduction and vocational training initiatives. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding inconsistent enforcement by local authorities. Measures such as instructing street children to return home often fail to address deeper, systemic issues. Although the government's efforts, including community engagement, educational campaigns, and support initiatives, are commendable, there is a clear need for more consistent and comprehensive support systems to effectively tackle the complex realities of street life.

The evaluation of strategies and roles in addressing street children reveals both successes and limitations. The Dodoma City Council (DCC) has made commendable progress in implementing protective laws, offering free education, and collaborating with NGOs, yet it faces criticism for relying on punitive measures and providing insufficient support for families. Social Welfare Officers point to gaps in resource allocation, coordination among stakeholders, and community involvement. While CHRAGG demonstrates strengths in advocacy and monitoring, it struggles with financial constraints and coordination challenges. Overall, while positive developments and impacts have been achieved, significant gaps remain,

particularly in addressing the underlying causes and ensuring comprehensive, sustained support for street children. Enhancing the efficiency of these efforts will require improved funding, better coordination, and more holistic approaches to fully meet the needs of this vulnerable population.

5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study highlights the complex and challenging nature of addressing the issue of street children in Tanzania, particularly in urban areas such as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, and other cities. The findings reveal that the prevalence of street children is driven by a range of socio-economic factors, including economic hardship, family breakdown, domestic violence, substance abuse, and inadequate educational resources. These factors contribute to the marginalization of children, which aligns with Social Exclusion Theory, emphasizing how systemic barriers limit access to essential resources and opportunities.

Government and organizational strategies, such as those implemented by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) and the Division of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition, generally adopt positive approaches. These strategies focus on legal protections, educational support, poverty alleviation, and rehabilitation. However, the study identifies significant gaps in the consistent enforcement of these interventions, highlighting concerns regarding the effectiveness of punitive measures and the inadequacy of family support.

The evaluation of various roles reveals both successes and shortcomings. Issues such as insufficient resource allocation, poor coordination, and inconsistent

implementation of interventions undermine the overall efficiency of the response. To address these challenges, it is crucial to increase funding, improve coordination among stakeholders, and adopt more comprehensive and integrated approaches.

Future efforts should not only provide immediate support to street children but also implement systemic changes that address the root causes of their marginalization. Strengthening family support systems, improving access to education, and ensuring the consistent enforcement of protective measures are critical for reducing the prevalence of street children and enhancing their well-being. By adopting a more integrated and sustained approach, there is significant potential to reduce child homelessness and foster a more inclusive society.

5.4 Recommendation

The issue of street children in Tanzanian cities such as Dodoma and Dar es Salaam requires a multifaceted approach to address both immediate needs and underlying causes. Based on an analysis of current strategies and challenges, several recommendations have emerged to enhance interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of street children and addressing the root causes of their marginalization.

Firstly, enhancing economic support for vulnerable families is crucial. Increasing financial assistance through targeted cash transfer programs can provide immediate relief to families at risk of breakdown, helping stabilize households and preventing children from ending up on the streets. Additionally, investing in livelihood

programs, such as vocational training and microfinance opportunities, can economically empower families, enabling them to care for their children and prevent street homelessness.

Strengthening family support systems is another critical area. Accessible family counseling services can address issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and family disintegration, which often drive children to the streets. Developing reintegration programs that offer mediation and support services can facilitate the safe return of street children to their families, address specific family challenges, and ensure sustainable reintegration.

Improving educational opportunities is also vital for long-term solutions, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society. The government should increase access to education by providing scholarships or financial aid and increasing funding for schools in disadvantaged areas. Educational support services such as tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs can help children already on the streets catch up academically and stay engaged in their education. Programs offering formal education, vocational training, and life skills development will equip street children with the tools needed to secure a better future.

Equally important is strengthening urban support systems. Establishing more shelters and rehabilitation centers that offer not only temporary accommodation but also long-term support services such as counseling and vocational training can

provide a stable environment for street children. These centers should meet children's comprehensive needs and assist them in transitioning away from street life. Improved coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations is also necessary to ensure a cohesive approach to supporting street children.

To improve policy implementation and enforcement, it is crucial to ensure consistent enforcement of laws and policies designed to protect street children. Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of interventions can help assess their effectiveness and guide necessary improvements. Regular evaluations of outcomes and incorporation of feedback will enhance the impact of these efforts.

Increasing community engagement and awareness is essential. Public awareness campaigns can educate the public about the plight of street children and encourage greater community involvement. Involving local communities in the development and implementation of solutions leverages local knowledge and resources, promoting a more inclusive approach to addressing this issue.

Strengthening legal protections is also necessary. The government should ensure the strict enforcement of laws that protect street children from abuse and exploitation, as well as establish mechanisms for reporting and addressing violations. Training law enforcement and judicial personnel on child protection issues will ensure that street children receive the necessary protection.

The government should allocate more funding and resources specifically for programs aimed at preventing and rehabilitating street children. This includes providing adequate shelters, education, and healthcare services. Increased budget allocations will ensure these programs are sufficiently supported and can make a significant difference in the lives of street children.

Finally, conducting regular assessments and collecting accurate data on the prevalence and conditions of street children will inform policy decisions, program designs, and resource allocations. Addressing systemic barriers and social exclusion is crucial. Advocating for policies that address broader socio-economic factors, such as poverty and inadequate social services, will help tackle the root causes of street child homelessness. Ensuring that strategies are inclusive and combat marginalization will lead to more effective and sustainable solutions.

5.5 Area for Further Studies

The issue of street children in Tanzania, particularly in urban centers like Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, presents a complex challenge shaped by various socio-economic factors. Despite government and organizational efforts, significant gaps remain in addressing this problem. Several key areas require further research to improve interventions and support systems for street children.

One critical area for study is evaluating the efficiency of current interventions. Programs providing educational support and family strengthening initiatives need thorough assessments to determine their long-term impact. Research should focus on

the sustainability of these programs and their success rates in reintegrating street children into society. Additionally, investigating gaps in service delivery, such as resource allocation and stakeholder coordination, is essential. Identifying and addressing these gaps could enhance the overall efficiency of existing strategies.

Understanding the root causes of street homelessness is another important research area. Examining economic factors, such as the role of poverty in family breakdown, is crucial for developing effective solutions. Investigating the impact of family dynamics, including domestic violence and substance abuse, on child homelessness is also key to informing strategies that strengthen family structures and prevent disintegration.

The efficiency of policy implementation and enforcement warrants in-depth study. Analyzing why local authorities sometimes employ inconsistent interventions, such as punitive measures instead of supportive approaches, can reveal challenges faced by these authorities. Research should also focus on stakeholder coordination issues among government bodies, NGOs, and community organizations. Identifying barriers to effective coordination can help develop more integrated and comprehensive support systems.

Further research is needed to explore barriers to accessing quality education and vocational training for street children. Evaluating the impact of educational support programs and vocational training on street children's employability and self-

sufficiency is vital. This research could inform the design of more targeted and effective educational and vocational initiatives.

Community involvement plays a critical role in addressing the needs of street children. Studying how community engagement supports street children can uncover strategies to increase community support and participation. Evaluating the impact of awareness campaigns on public consciousness about street children will also help design more effective outreach programs.

Addressing the psychosocial and health needs of street children is vital for their overall well-being. Research into their psychosocial needs, including mental health support and trauma recovery, is needed to assess the adequacy of current services. Investigating health challenges and evaluating the efficiency of health interventions and access to medical care can provide insights for improving health support systems.

Comparative studies can offer valuable perspectives on addressing the issue of street children. Comparing interventions and conditions across different urban areas within Tanzania can help identify best practices and context-specific challenges. Additionally, examining approaches from other countries with similar issues can offer insights into potentially adaptable strategies for Tanzania.

In conclusion, addressing the complex issue of street children in Tanzania requires a comprehensive and well-rounded research approach. Focusing on these areas will

enable researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to develop more effective strategies to support street children, tackle the root causes of their marginalization, and improve their quality of life.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

RESEARCH BUDGET

S/N	Activity	Unit type	Units	Unit cost	Total
1	Tool orientation to enumerators	Days	1	120,000	120,000
2	Data Collection (numerators') allowance	People	2	200,000	400,000
3	Field work (e.g. Respondents' allowance)	Days	6	50,000	300,000
4	Data processing and analysis	Days	5	100,000	500,000
5	Transport (e.g. Town fare)	Days	6	40,000	240,000
6	Stationaries	General	1	150,000	150,000
7	Communication and online research	Months	3	30,000	90,000
				TOTAL	

APPENDIX B

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Questionnaire for Dodoma City Council Social Welfare Officers (SWOs) and Community Development Officers (CDO)

A1. How long have you been working as a SWO in Dodoma City Council?

1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ over

Part A: Background Information

These questions seek to know your experience in your work. Please Mark (√) in the appropriate box.

10 years ☐

A2. How long have you been working as a SWO?

1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ over

10 years ☐

A3. How often do you take part in the following roles as a SWO?

S/N	Activity	Not at All	Sometimes	Often
1	Engaging the community in identifying opportunities and challenges faced to bring about development.			
2	Educating the society to get rid of beliefs, traditions, and customs that conflict development.			
3	Engaging the community in uniting and empowering special groups in opportunities and development process in order raise their welfare.			
4	Enabling citizens to benefit from economic opportunities.			
5	Empowering the community to protect children's rights and implement childcare.			
6	Participating in coordination desks dealing withissues such as child development, and economic empowerment of citizens for poverty reduction			

Part B: Prevalence of Street Children

These questions aim to obtain information regarding the number of street children in your workarea. Please fill in the blank.

B.1 What area (ward or division) of the Dodoma City Council are you working or responsible for?

……

B.2 How long have you been working in (or supervising) that area?

…….

B.3 How many street children are in your working area?

……..

B.4 Since you have been working here, has the number of street children been increasing or decreasing?

……

B.5 Please explain your answer in B.4 (Why do you think the number has increased or decreased?)

……

B.1 In general do you think the number of street children in DCC is increasing or decreasing?

……

Part C: Government's strategies in eradicating the problem of street children
In this part of the questionnaire, you are asked to state the strategies used by DCC to preventor eradicate the problem of street children in the city.

*Please mark **only one** response (Yes or No) with a bold dot:*	*Yes*	*No*
DCC implements laws that protect children against abuse	O	O
DCC provides free education to ensure all children go to school	O	O
DCC support education of children from poor families	O	O
DCC has police desks to address children's issues	O	O
DCC work with different parties (e.g., NGOs and religious leaders) to ensure children rights and social welfare	O	O
DCC implements projects or strategies to eradicate family poverty	O	O
DCC forcefully expels street children from the city	O	O
DCC re-unites the street children with their family willingly	O	O

Part D: Assessment of government's strategies for street children

In this part of the questionnaire, please rate government (DCC's) strategies for eradicating the problem of street children, from not effective to very effective. Please tick (√) the appropriate box.

S/N	Strategy	Not Effective	Effective	Very effective
D.1	Implementing laws that protect children against sexual and physical abuse			
D.2	Ensuring all children go to school through free education policy			
D.3	Supporting children from poor families with uniforms, books, and other school needs.			
D.4	Ensuring children's rights and social welfare by engaging different parties e.g., NGOs or Policy			
D.5	Providing financial support (grants or loans) to women or poor households			
D.6	Re-uniting street children with their families			

E. Open Questions

Please fill the blanks with appropriate answers

What do you think are the strengths of the strategies used by DCC to eradicate the problemof street children?

a)
……
b)
……
c)
……
d)
……

E.1. What do you think are the weaknesses of the strategies used by DCC to eradicate the problem of street children?

a)
……
b)
……
c)
……
d)
……

APPENDIX C

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Focus Group Questions (FGD) for Street Children in DCC

Preparation

[Welcome the children and state the purpose of the study. Seek their consent in taking part in the focus group discussion and ensure them the confidentiality of the information they provide – in terms of not revealing their identities when reporting the findings].

Questions:

1. Why did you leave your home and decide to live and work in the city?
2. [Probe on possibility of physical assaults, sexual abuse, parent loss, poverty, harassment fromrelatives or parents, and divorce of parents, lack of school needs, etc]
3. Thinking why you left your homes, what can be done by the government to make you willinglyreturn to your families or villages?
4. If you cannot return home, what help do you think you need from the government to stop youliving and working in streets?
5. Does the government (police or local government officials) tell you to go

home? [Probe ifthey are persuaded or forced to leave the streets]

6. If the answer in Q.4 is Yes] Why are you then still living in streets?

7. What are your life dreams/Who do you want to be in future?

8. How can the government help you achieve your life dreams away from streets?

9. How many of street children are in this area? [Probe if their number is increasing ordecreasing.

10. APPENDIX D

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Questionnaire for Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG)

A1. How long have you been working in Dodoma such as in City Council?

Part A: Background Information

These questions seek to know your experience in your work. Please Mark (√) in theappropriate box.

1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years ☐ 6-10 years √ over 10 years ☐

A2. How long have you been working in CHRAGG?

1-2 years ☐ 3-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ over 10 years √

Part B: Government's role in eradicating the problem of street children

In this part of the questionnaire, you are asked to state the role used by CHRAGG to prevent or eradicate the problem of street children in the Dodoma city.

*Please mark **only one** response (Yes or No) with a bold dot:*	*Yes*	*No*
CHRAGG implements laws that protect children against abuse		
B.2 CHRAGG provides free education to ensure all children go to school		
B.3 CHRAGG support education of children from poor families		
B.4 CHRAGG has police desks to address children's issues		
B.5 CHRAGG work with different parties (e.g., NGOs and religious leaders) to ensure children rights and social welfare		
B.6 CHRAGG implements projects or role to eradicate family poverty		
B.7 CHRAGG forcefully expels street children from the city		
B.8 CHRAGG re-unites the street children with their family willingly		

Part C: Assessment of the efficiency of the government's role on the problem of street children

*In this part of the questionnaire, please rate government (CHRAGG) role for eradicating the problem of street children from; **not effective, effective to very***

S/N	Role	Not Effective	Effective	Very effective
C.1	Implementing laws that protect children againstsexual and physical abuse			
C.2	Ensuring all children go to school through freeeducation policy			
C.3	Supporting children from poor families with uniforms, books, and other school needs.			
C.4	Ensuring children's rights and social welfare by engaging different parties e.g., NGOs or Police			
C.5	Providing financial support (grants or loans) to women or poor households			
C.6	Re-uniting street children with their families			

D. Open Questions

Please fill the blanks with appropriate answers

D. 1How does the CHRAGG work with children street?

a) .....

b) .....

c) .....

d) .....

D. 2What do you think are the strengths of CHRAGG in eradicate the problem of street children?

a) .....

b) .....

c) .....

d) .....

D. 3What do you think are the weaknesses of CHRAGG in eradicate the problem of street children?

a) .....

b) .....

c) .....

d) .....