

**THE EFFECTS OF STREET LIFE ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF
CHILDREN IN NEBBI TOWN COUNCIL,
UGANDA**

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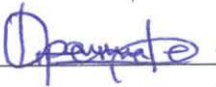
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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF
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PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENT FOR
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DECLARATION

I, KISSAPAMUNGU IRENE, Reg. No. BSW/41588/91/DU hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge, this piece of work, apart from which the authors have been cited in, is truly my own original work and has never been presented to any university for the award of any degree.

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APPROVAL

This research will be submitted to the College of Applied Economics and Management Sciences for examination with my approval as a university supervisor.

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Date: 2nd November 2012.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my beloved parents; the late Alphonse Opar and Mrs. Opar Sidonia Apio and my dear brothers and sisters; Robert, Steve, Emma, Julie and Doris as well as beloved Nourisn, Jeremy and Prissy.

Special dedication goes to mum Hon. Catherine Mavenjina Akumy and her entire family, Mr. Ramah Organ and Rev. Fr. Ogen Richard.

I also dedicate this research to Mr. James of Angal Hospitl, Madam Hellen, Madam Alice Ondoga, Mr. Atom Betin, Mr. Wod Pamora Otim, Mr. Kerunen Gayo Guy and the entire staff member of Angal S.S.

Lastly to uncle Geoffrey and all my dear friends especially Owekmenu Charles, Ocama Frajaja, Omarrwothh Justine, Masendi Rose Cindy, Okello Moses, Agula Lucky, Atimango Innocent, Achan Stella, Okello Betty, Damalyn, Nabur, RItah, Adidas, Baldo, Emma Bole, Kigezi Loise and Jaloka Donald.

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out on the effects of street life on the quality of life of children in Uganda, A case study of Nebbi Town Council, Nebbi District. The report was divided into five chapters.

Chapter one covered the introductory aspects such as background of the study, problem statement, objectives, research questions, scope and significance of the study.

Chapter two was about review of previous literatures on the subject under study. The literatures were got from various text books, journals, reports from ministries, organizations, newspapers among others.

Various methods of data collection were employed in chapter three. Questionnaires, interviews, observation, documentation or review of records were used to get primary data, while review of past literature was used to generate secondary data.

In chapter four, the findings of how street life affects the quality of life were discussed.

Chapter five contained conclusion and recommendations from the findings of the study.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Incest	Sexual relations between individuals who are closely related that they are forbidden to marry by law.
Intrusion	Coming in without invitation.
Molestation	To accost or interfere with sexually.
Fondling	To handle lovingly, caress.
Questionnaire	A formulated series of questions by which information is sought from a selected group.
Participant	A person who takes part in something.
Sample	A portion of population selected for purposes of research to represent the whole population.
Poverty	The condition of having little or no necessities of life and wealth.
Brunt	The main force or violence.
Brutal	Cruel and without feelings.
Excruciatingly	In a way that causes extreme mental anguish up, or torture or very painful or great suffering.
Manipulate	To control, manage or play upon by artful, unfair or insidious means especially to one's own advantage.

Reprisal	An action of retaliation as for injury or attack.
Exacerbate	To make more violent or bitter; to intensify the bad quality of.
Sexual overtures	An initiative looking to an agreement, action, or the establishment of a sexual relationship.
Horrific	Inspiring horror or fear.
Extrapolate	To estimate or predict on the basis of unwarranted assumptions or speculations.

ACRONYMS

N.G.O	Non Governmental Organization
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Funds
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
OSC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
LRA	Lord’s Resistance Army
ADF	Allied Democratic Force
NRM	National Resistance Movement
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
UN	United Nations

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter brought out the background of the study, the research problem, objectives, questions, scope and significance of the study.

1.1 Background

Street children are defined as minors who earn their living by working on the streets or as children who reside on the streets full-time (Peralta, 1995).

Street children are persons 18 years and below who spend most of their active hours of day and night on streets, and for whom the street is a major source of socialization and growth. Located in urban areas with limited or no family ties, these street children are of two categories: non-residents / part-timers who come and work on streets in holidays and the residents / full-timers for whom the street is their home and workplace.

Known in the United States as run-aways or homeless children, as street sparrows in Zaire, Pelone in Mexico, gamine in Columbia, such children are identified by the United Nations as street children.

Street children are victims and victimizers both; they are pushed out of their homes by family poverty and neglect, while pulled into a life on the streets by the availability of work and income. Once attracted and repelled by their lifestyles, these children tend to be boys and the numbers are increasing dramatically worldwide. The UNICEF estimates that over 30 million of children spend their time on streets.

The phenomenon of children on the streets has become a big concern for many people in Uganda. The number of children on the streets has significantly increased, not only on the streets

of Kampala, but also in other towns of Uganda such as Jinja, Mbale, Tororo, Iganga, Busia, Malaba among others. It is estimated that there are more than 500 street children in Kampala alone and over 10,000 street children living in the municipalities of Uganda (ministry of Finance, Planning and Social Development).

The street children phenomenon has been exacerbated by the influx of Karamojong families who come with their children and resort to street begging for survival. In an attempt to attract public sympathy, children as young as 6 months are being used in “supervised” street begging.

In Nebbi district, the problem of street children is not a new development. However, the number of street children has been significantly increasing since 2000. It is estimated that there are over 100 street children in Nebbi Town Council alone.

1.2 Statement of the Research problem

Nebbi Town Council, located in Padyere County, Nebbi District hosts the highest number of street children compared to other sub-counties in Nebbi District. Although clear quantitative data regarding street children in Nebbi District is not yet available, it is qualitatively estimated that there are over 100 streets children habiting Nebbi Town Council alone. According to the qualitative analysis, the number of street children has been increasing over the years since the year 2000.

Problems associated with living on the street including exposure to the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs, inadequate nutrition, poor health, lack of accommodation, economic exploitation, exposure to aggression and physical abuse among others constitute a serious threat to the physical, psychological and emotional development of the children. With the fast growing problem of street children in Nebbi District, specifically Nebbi Town Council, there is therefore urgent need to address the problem by rehabilitating those already living on the streets and addressing the factors that cause children to move and live on the street such as child abuse, domestic violence, civil wars and armed conflicts, poverty among others.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

To assess the effects of street life on the quality of life of children in Nebbi District.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

To examine the factors that cause children to move to streets in Nebbi District.

To assess the effects of street life on the quality of life of street children in Nebbi District.

1.4 Research Questions

What could be the factors that cause children to live on streets?

How could street life affect the quality of life of street children?

1.5 Scope of the Study

1.5.1 Geographical Scope

Due to the requirement of the curriculum and time limit, the study was restricted and limited to a geographical coverage of Nebbi town council comprising of Abindu, Centra, Forest, Jukia, Namthin, Namrwodho, Nebbi Hill, Nyacara and Thatha wards.

1.5.2 Time Scope

The research was carried out focusing on the period between 2000 to 2009.

1.5.3 Content Scope

The study was focused on children that is persons below 18 years both boys and girls living on the streets of Nebbi town council as a category of vulnerable children.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research identified factors responsible for children’s living on streets in Uganda. This would probably lay a platform for actions, both nationally and internationally to address the problem of street children.

The research also assessed the effects of street life on the quality of life of street children in Uganda. This would help to identify the mode of therapy to be employed in improving on the quality of life in situations of street life.

The research work would also help in the field of academic reference and sensitization of the communities on the dangers of domestic violence, abusing and neglecting children on their likely effects on children’s quality of life.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter gave the detailed understanding of the factors that cause children to live on streets and their likely effects on the children's quality of life. Literature for the research was collected from a wide range, most of it was got from the view of related text books, journals, reports from various organizations and the internet. The information from those literatures was presented in a thematic form.

2.2 Factors that cause children to live on streets

2.2.1 Orphan hood

Government's strategy for orphans and other vulnerable children has identified vulnerable groups of children, including the estimated 10,000 street children living in the municipalities of Uganda among others, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Social Development, Poverty Eradication Action Plan 2004/5 – 2007/8).

There are currently over 1.8 million children who have lost one or both parents. Approximately 13% of children less than 18 years of age are orphans and over a half of all orphans are estimated to have lost one or both parents due to HIV/ AIDS and conflicts.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on children is multi-dimensional. Among other impacts, as a result of HIV/AIDS, there is an increasing number of child migrations to urban centres.

The majority of orphans have lost their fathers and are living with their mothers. The social, economic and health needs of orphans and other vulnerable children far exceed the current capacity of NGO programmes and government to provide for them. The majority of Uganda's orphans are being taken care of within households. An estimated 25% of all households in Uganda host at least one orphan. A large number of families taking care of orphans (70%) are

headed by poor, often elderly widows (mothers, grandmothers and aunts). These households struggle to stretch limited resources to meet the increasing financial, psychological, educational and health needs of a large number of dependents. According to the 2002 OVC situational analysis, the added cost of providing for the basic needs of one extra child amounts to about 15% of an average Ugandan household's income.

While most orphans are being cared for by extended family networks, a number live in child-headed households on the streets.

Although quantitative data is not available, recent qualitative studies suggest that many street children in Uganda are AIDS-related orphans. They survive through manual labour, begging, theft, transactional sex and are subjected to rape and other forms of violence and abuses which expose them to HIV/AIDS infection.

(Report on the Situation of Children and Women in the Republic of Uganda, October, 2005).

2.2.2 Civil Wars and Armed Conflicts

For many of us, massive killings, abduction, and torture are things we casually read about and simply leave in the newspaper or in broadcast news bulletins. Civil wars and armed conflicts in Uganda have been witnessed in areas such as Gulu, Pader and Kitgum in Northern Uganda, which have become the brunt of fighting between government forces and Joseph Kony's LRA rebels. The same situation is in the eastern district of Katakwi where Karimojong could attack and kill unarmed people as well as in South Western Uganda by the ADF.

The LRA rebels launched an insurgency against the NRM in 1988, accusing President Museveni of stifling political parties and being dictatorial. They said they wanted to capture power and rule the country along the Biblical Ten Commandments. However, their campaign has been excruciatingly brutal as they have cut off the lips, noses, ears, breasts and limbs of those suspected of supporting the government. They have also carried out massacres of villagers and destroyed schools and abducted over 10,000 children (The Defender, A Quarterly Human Rights Journal of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Vol. 7, Issue No. 2, 2002, Pg. 37).

Consequently, the war victims, including children opt for the street, running away from the brutality against their dear lives.

2.2.3 Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

According to the 1974 Federal Child Abuse Prevention Act, child abuse and neglect is the physical or mental injury, sex abuse or negligent treatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare.

Children are occasionally victims of malicious acts, often leading to death or serious injuries. Many children prefer street life after falling victims of abuse. Child abuse which is a form of domestic violence, is more likely when one or both of the natural parents are missing. Children in a single-parent home, or those with a step parent or those living with other relatives such as aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters or grandparents are more likely to be victims of abuse (Snyder and Sickmond, 1999).

The physical abuse of children is a serious social problem that remains largely hidden unless an incident results in the death or serious injury of a child. Some researchers have found that children are more likely to be assaulted from home if their parents were abused, neglected and deprived as children and if their parents are socially isolated as adults. Parents who lack support network and suddenly face a crisis tend to make their children the targets of the frustration and sometimes their aggression (Kempe and Kempe, 1978).

Physical abuse is defined as hitting a child to a point to which the child sustains some physical damage (Kudshin and Martin, 1988).

The signs of physical abuse include bruises, particularly on the backs of the legs, upper arms and chest, head or genitals. Fractures in infants under 12 months of age are a strong indication of physical abuse, as are head injuries and burns (Tower, 1996). Some children are beaten with sticks and wires at the smallest sign of disobedience.

One of the most disturbing forms of abuse of children is sexual abuse. Unfortunately, there is lack of consensus on how to define sexual abuse.

In one study, sexual abuse was defined in terms of three actions: intrusion, molestation with genital contact or other forms of fondling and inadequate supervision of a child's sexual activity (Tower, 1996). Another study included all behavior ranging from "sexual overtures" to sexual intercourse occurring between a child aged 13 or under or adolescents aged 13 to 16 or and someone ten or more years older. (Finkelhor, 1984). A general definition of child sexual abuse is forced, tricked or manipulated contact with a child by an older person (usually 5 or more years older) for the purpose of the sexual gratification of the older person (Conte, 1995). Child's sexual abuse includes incest, sexual molestation, sexual assault and exposing the child for purposes of pornography or prostitution.

Although it is difficult to estimate the incidence and prevalence of sexual abuse, it appears that between 10 and 15 percent of girls and boys experience some form of sexual contact as children. (Finkelhor, 1984).

At all ages, females are more likely than males to be victims of sexual abuse. Girls are more likely to experience long-term victimization by relatives or family acquaintances in their own home. Both male and female victims are more likely to be abused by male offenders, and offenders are known to their victims in the vast majority of cases. (Knudsen, 1992).

Besides the observable and measurable forms of child abuse, there is considerable amount of supportive failure that is hard to measure. There is the problem of neglect that affects at least a half million children each year in every nation. Neglectful parents do not physically abuse their children but abuse them psychologically by their lack of feeling and caring. They simply do not get involved with their children. They are emotionally distant from them. They may be struggling to retain their own sanity or totally absorbed in their own pleasures. But for whatever reason they provide none of the support that parents normally provide. Neglected children may never learn to trust adults, they may suffer various physical ailments because of inadequate nutrition, clothing and sleep, they are likely to have retarded intellectual development. They are

consequently unable to express their feelings, feel insecure, become withdrawn, dissatisfied with their homes and isolate themselves.

There are other forms of child abuse; some are made to perform extremely tedious and heavy labour. Some are deprived of food and water. (The Defender, A Human Rights Journal of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, vol. 7, Kampala, Uganda).

Others are severely tortured for bed wetting or forgetting to do housework. (Uganda Human Rights Commission, Annual Report, 2000-2001).

When children and adolescents are experiencing abuse or neglect, their reactions may be one or more of the following; run away behavior, delinquent behaviors, aggression, future abusive behavior as parents, sexual promiscuity and maladjustment, school drop-out or difficulties at school. (Pamela D. Mayhall et al, Child Abuse and Neglect, Sharing Responsibility, 1986). Those who develop run-away behavior are most likely to end up on streets if they don't have other places they feel is safer than the abusive environment.

2.2.4 Poverty

In total, about 220 million Africans now live in absolute poverty, unable to meet their most basic needs. The percentage of children who are malnourished has risen to 25 percent in the last decade. (The State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 1995). A vast proportion of Africa's resources and external aid has been diverted to military purposes. At the same time, the continent of Africa has been devastated by debt and annual repayments that are enormously draining on the meager resources! (The state of the World's Children, UNICEF, 1995).

In the words of the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Weller (1990), "poverty, I repeat, is the main enemy of children. Hunger, diseases, illiteracy, despair – these constitute the children's fearful train". There is no way in which issues relating to children can be segregated from the issues of the overall social and economic development.

Poverty warps the lives of young people, even those lucky enough to survive. Perhaps 100 million children in the countries of poor countries beg, steal, sell sex or work for drug gangs to

provide needed income for their families. Such children miss out on schooling and are likely to fall victims to diseases and violence. Many young girls become pregnant, truly a case of children having children. (Ross, 1996).

Another 100 million of the world's children have left their families and are living on the streets doing whatever they must get by. Latin America faces the greatest problem of poor, homeless children, Brazil reports that millions of children are living on their own, underfed and unschooled, often sniffing glue or using other cheap drugs to numb their suffering (Ross, 1996).

Partly because of the higher rates of divorce and single parenthood, many young people today are at a risk of growing up in poverty. The poverty rate among children is increasingly high and is twice as high as poverty rate among the elderly. Unemployment has increased and family incomes have not grown and in many cases have declined. More children today live in single-parent families which have higher poverty rates than two-parent families. These economic circumstances that children confront are troubling. (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1944).

Poverty in Uganda continues to be highly concentrated with North and North East having the largest proportion of the poor. About 37% of the poor live in Northern region, majorly as a result of the political instability that characterized the region, and despite government efforts to eradicate poverty, through the PEAP, the number of Ugandans living below poverty line increased from 34% in 2001 to about 39% in 2005. It is estimated that about 7.1 million Ugandans live in chronic poverty and one third of poor households are in Northern Uganda. Such households hardly are able to afford basic needs such as food, clothings, shelter, medical care and education for their families (Foundations for Human Rights Initiative, Annual Report, 2005).

The Children from such poor households are most likely to abandon home and move to streets where they can do petty jobs and earn a living.

2.2.5 Deviant behaviors and crime at home villages

Juvenile delinquency, sexual variance and drug abuse are common with many adolescents. Drugs or substances commonly abused include cigarettes, marijuana, heroin, opium, aviation fuel

among others. Other criminal acts committed by adolescents may include theft, robbery, rape among others.

Children with disturbed family life are more likely to have higher rates of deviance than other children with intact families. Adolescents from divorced families tend to have higher rates of drug abuse and premarital sexual activities such as rape and or defilement which may also result into impregnation of the teenage girls, poor academic performance and higher rates of dropout from school.

Children with deviant behaviors are likely to have one or more contacts with the law, have been arrested to be a truant, to have problems at school or to be a runaway (Flewelling and Buaman, 1990). They therefore run to the streets as they become social outcasts in their home villages.

2.2.6 Overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction

As Uganda’s population continues to increase while the amount of land available remains the same, plots available for many households become increasingly smaller and smaller while others find themselves having no land to settle or work on.

Already population pressure on land has resulted in serious problems in Southwestern, Southern and South Eastern parts of Uganda with high population densities. In these areas, land holding size declined from about 5.5 hectares to 2.2 hectares between 1970 and 1990s. (A Civil Society Perspective Paper, July 2009).

Because tiny plots of family land cannot support all the family members, young people move to cities where they join the masses of the unemployed slum and or street dwellers. (United State National Security Council’s Report on Population, 1998).

Meanwhile others become homeless after facing an eviction (Daily Monitor, Friday, May 20, 2011, pg. 9). Children who become homeless in most cases opt for the streets as where they can live.

2.2.7 Unexemplary Parents / Bad role models

Teachers, pastors, athletes and rock stars may attract a lot of attention as role models for children, but in reality their influence is minor compared to that of parents.

Our children observe us all day long, at our best and at our worst. They try to follow in our footsteps, copying and mimicking us from the very beginning of their tender lives. Much of what they learn comes simply from living with and observing us. A boy whose father spends the whole day drinking and comes back late is most likely to move to the street in preference to home.

A way of facing reality is also caught in the home environment. Today children learn a lot about the real world but unfortunately they see a lot of distortions. They see people settle their problems by running away from them. They see lives destroyed by careless financial management and homes destroyed by divorce.

Children need to understand that life has its ups and downs. All families have disagreements – this is reality. The way children will face reality depends a great deal on what they observe their parents doing. Are we willing to discuss our concerns in a realistic, open way that the children can understand? When we disagree, do we sit down and settle our disagreements before the day is over? When we don't do these, any disagreements with our children especially the "teenagers" may make them leave home and opt for street life. (Kesler Beers Neff, 1986, Parents and Children)

All families have financial concerns as well. Children need to learn realism of our budgets. Some children request and receive things even though their parents cannot afford them. They learn that everything comes easily. But when it happens later that they cannot support the expensive tastes they have acquired, the children become dissatisfied with what their parents provide them and try to provide for themselves by doing petty jobs and playing dirty games on the streets (Kesler Beers Neff, 1986, Parents and Children, USA).

2.3 Effects of Street Life on the Quality of Life of Street Children

2.3.1 Poor Health

There is a strong link between street life and poor health. This is because the street children cannot afford adequate nutrition and are thus undernourished. In addition, street life is stressful, raising the risk of alcoholism, drug abuse and violence which all have negative and far reaching consequences on human health. Most often, street children live and work in unhealthy environments which expose them to diseases. Street child prostitution practiced to earn a living exposes street children to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, genital herpes, syphilis among others. Furthermore, when sickness or injury strikes, street children have barely any resources to fight back (John J. Macionis, 2005, Social Problems, 2nd Edition).

Research has shown that homeless children are more likely to suffer physical disorders from inadequate nutrition or untreated childhood illnesses than children who are not homeless (Molnar et al, 1990).

Educators, clinicians and researchers who work with homeless children report observing delayed development of language and motor skills, clinical depression, low self esteem and fear. No longitudinal research has been conducted that focuses on the long-term effects of homelessness on children's mental health or on their ability to function in society, however, it is reasonable to extrapolate that many children who experienced periods of homelessness will experience difficulties fulfilling adult roles in our society (Dana Dunn et al, 1997, Analyzing social Problems, 2nd Edition).

2.3.2 Child Poverty

Street children suffer from extremes of poverty, manifested in form of lack of basic human needs such as food, shelter, health care, clothing and education. The street children are often times unemployed. Although sometimes they may be able to engage in paying jobs, the income they earn is too meager to save them out of poverty. These economic circumstances that the street children confront are especially troubling because for the most part, they cannot walk away from

them or work to improve their lives. Poverty simply is something they must live with until they become adults, and often, they face further poverty in adulthood because their poverty-stricken childhood failed to provide them with the resources and the motivation to achieve as adults. Millions of children are living on their own, underfed and unschooled, often sniffing glue or using other cheap drugs to numb their suffering. (Collymore, 2002).

2.3.3 Economic Exploitation

Children in most societies participate in some form of economic productivity, but it is usually by joining with family members in hunting, farming and so on. In some cases, however, children work in non-family settings as wage labourers. (Bequele and Boyden, 1988).

For the case of street children, they often engage in self employment as street traders or in petty jobs as wage labourers in hotels, car wash, and restaurants, people's homes and so on.

In their struggle to earn a living, the children confront terrible economic exploitation; working long hours in potentially harmful environment for relatively little pay. Besides working long hours for substandard wages in conditions that are often unhealthy, child workers are often beaten or otherwise abused. (Thomas J. Sullivan 1996, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, USA).

There are a number of reasons why such child exploitation exists; first, the street children accept the abuse and or exploitation as a means of survival and with time, it becomes a normal thing and they cannot protest the conditions.

Second, their employers find children an easy and profitable group to exploit. Child labourers work in jobs that pay the minimum wage or less and offer few benefits. Food restaurants, fuel and gas stations, grocery stores and farms employ the children as a means of reducing costs and maintaining flexibility in their workforce. Adolescents are less likely than adults to demand pay increases or to view such stringe benefits as retirement pensions and health insurance to be important. They are also less concerned about unionization and long-term job security. The young are more likely to go quietly if dismissed from a job. With the intense competition in the

world economy, some employers find it impossible to resist the temptation to exploit the children. A third reason why street children are exploited is that the public is often indifferent to the issue or, in some cases believe that child labour among the poor is just "the way things are". (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1996, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, USA).

2.3.4 Social Isolation and Lack of Primary Group

The homeless world is an isolated one. Somewhat paradoxically, however, the behavior of the individual who chooses the street contributes to problems stemming from social isolation. By the time an individual is faced with living on the street, more likely than not, they have become disengaged from all or nearly all the social supports they once enjoyed and depended on. (Dana Dunn et al, Analyzing Social Problems, 2nd Edition, 1997, USA).

There are various expectations and values we have for family life. The family is the basic unit of human socialization and plays various functions. The family is responsible for matters such as education, religious training, recreation and providing the necessities of life. The family is an important factor in regulating sexual behavior and reproduction. Another important function of the family is to provide a primary group for individuals which are of enormous importance to them. Human nature itself comes from participation in primary groups like the family. In this, everywhere, human nature comes into existence. Man does not have it at birth, he cannot acquire it except through fellowship, and it decays in isolation. (Robert H. Lauer et al, 2001, Social Problems and the Quality of Life, 8th Ed, US).

Primary groups are important for children. We have a personal status in primary groups, we gain understanding of the kind of people we are and learn the kind of norms by which we are to live. Primary groups in other words are crucial to our wellbeing as functioning humans and the family is the primary group par excellence. (Robert H. Lauer, 2001, Social Problems and the Quality of Life, 8th Edition, US). The street children unfortunately lack this primary group.

2.3.5 Sexual Exploitation

Children and adolescents living on streets are highly susceptible to sexual exploitation in a variety of forms such as fondling, sexual intercourse, indecent exposure, prostitution and child pornography. Street children are susceptible to sexual exploitation for these reasons;

In the first place, they may welcome the abuse as a means to survive and therefore take it normal and useless to report the abuse. The teenage run-aways (street children) find it difficult to support themselves through legitimate jobs, which are likely to be either unavailable or low paying. They are often sought after by pimps and pornographers because they are defenseless and exploitable.

They are afraid to go to the Police and have no other adults to protect them. In large cities such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, prostitutes as young as twelve years old both male and female can be found. There are even organized rings nationwide to provide the services of young prostitutes to those who desire them. (Compagna and Poffenberger, 1998).

Such youngsters typically lack the economic and social resources necessary to extricate themselves from these situations and are likely to continue being exploited until arrested.

Secondly, street children lack protection against such exploitations from responsible adults such as parents and guardians (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1995, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, JSA).

Thirdly, assailants can easily manipulate children with threats of reprisal if the children reveal what has happened (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1996, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, JSA).

Although majority of prostitutes are females, about 10% of prostitutes are men, and almost all sell sex. They too, are of diverse category ranging from well-paid "escorts" to young run-aways trying to survive on the streets (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1996, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, USA).

In global perspective, as many as 100 million children live on streets, selling sex to survive. Worldwide, sex tourism is on the rise with the fastest increase in Africa and Eastern Europe (Thomas J. Sullivan, 1996, Introduction to Social Problems, 4th Edition, USA).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methods and techniques that will be used to obtain data on the problem to be researched. It describes the purpose, study area, sample selection, data analysis and processing.

3.2 Research Design

This study will be a descriptive cross-sectional survey based on the results of questionnaires, interviews and retrospective review of secondary sources of information. Both qualitative and quantitative designs will be used. This will make it easier for the researcher to have an overview of the study project, field procedure, prepare appropriate questions that need to be addressed in the study.

3.3 Area of Study

The study will be limited to geographical coverage of Nebbi Town Council, Nebbi District which comprises of Abindu, Central, Forest, Jukia, Namthin, Namrwodho, Nebbi Hill, Nyacara and Thatha wards.

3.4 Study Population

The research will specifically target children, 18 years and below, both boys and girls who spend much of their time on streets, whether with or without family ties.

3.5 Sample Size and Techniques

3.5.1 Sample Size

50 respondents will be selected to represent the entire population of street children in Nebbi District.

3.5.2 Sample Techniques

Preferably, random sampling will be used to ensure that the representative population that will be selected into the sample caters for all those who were not reached in the study. Purposive sampling will be used so that the researcher will easily identify any respondents who can provide the rightful information.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Data will be collected from a cross section of respondents. To gather adequate and rightful information, a combination of study instruments will be employed. These will include personal interviews, questionnaires, observation and participant observation.

3.6.1 Personal Interview

This will involve the researcher personally and carefully asking the respondents using an interview guide to give their personal and detailed views and information. The interview guide will simply comprise of a list of topics that the researcher will want to discuss with the respondents.

3.6.2 Questionnaire

The questionnaires will have both closed and open-ended questions in a significantly equal proportion. This method will be used because it will ensure uniform question presentation and no middle-man biasness, and the researcher’s own opinion will not influence the respondents to answer questions in a certain way. The questionnaires will be personally administered to targeted respondents.

3.6.3 Participant Observation

Data will be obtained from the researcher’s own observation of the street children during her active participation among them. The method will consist of systematic observation and description of events and behavior among the street children. This method will allow the researcher to hear, see and experience reality thereby yielding sufficient and valid information to her.

3.6.4 Documentation or review of records

The researcher will review his records to confirm whether the information obtained from the respondents are true or not. This will help to produce detailed and right descriptive information.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

Data that will be collected using qualitative method will be used in form of description of respondents' views on the structured interview and recording observation will be made. Quantitative data will be sought and used in form of percentages, tabulating and recording of figures. These data will be edited by the researcher.

3.7.1 Data Analysis

In the data analysis, there will be a verification of research question, problem statement and objectives of the study, presentation of the data findings will be done with references in order to guide the conclusion and recommendation of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, an attempt was made to interpret, analyze and discuss the findings as was conducted in the field. The findings in effect ascertained the effects of street life on the quality of life of street children in Nebbi Town Council, Nebbi District, Uganda.

4.2 Characteristics of the Sample

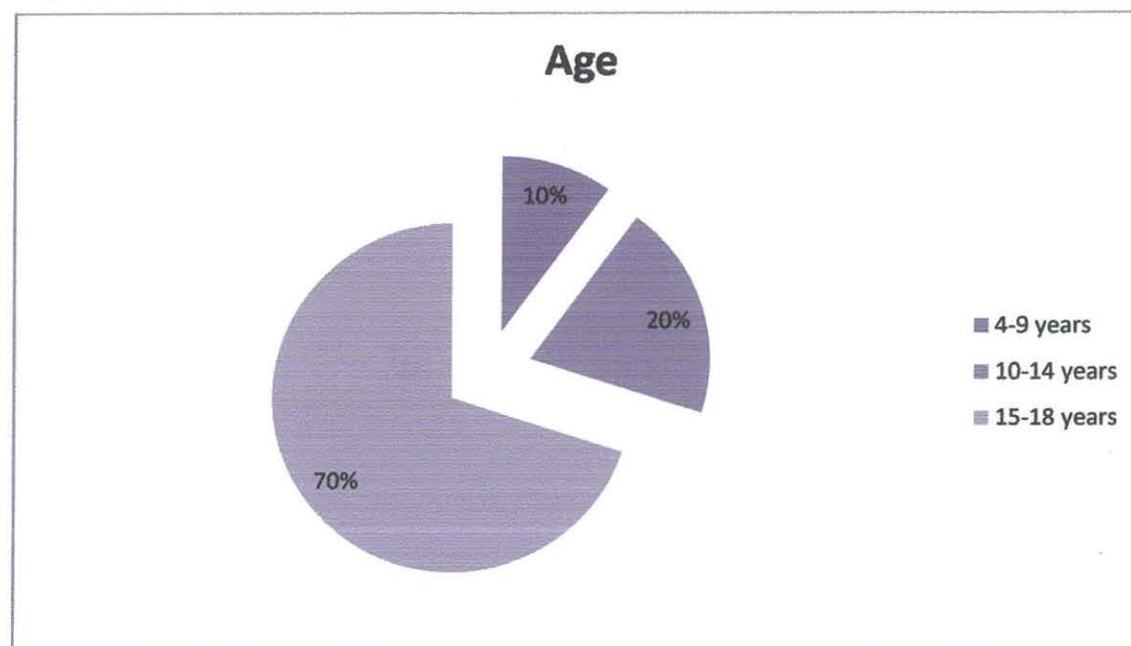
This covered a total of 50 respondents all children of both sexes. Males constituted 80% while females 20%. The children were of different age groups as represented in the table and figure I below.

Table 1: Showing the Age of Respondents

Age	Responses		Rank
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
4-9	5	10	3
10-14	10	20	2
15-18	35	70	1
Total	50	100	

Source: Field Data, 2012

Figure 1: Showing the Age of respondents



Source: Field Data, 2012

According to the above table, children within age group 15-18 had a frequency of 35 (70%). Children in this age group were more vulnerable compared to other age groups because they lacked needs like clothings, food, school fees among others.

Children within age group 10-14 ranked second with a frequency of 10 and percentage of 20. Children between the age of 4-9 ranked third with a frequency of 5 and percentage of 10.

4.3 Factors that cause children to live on streets

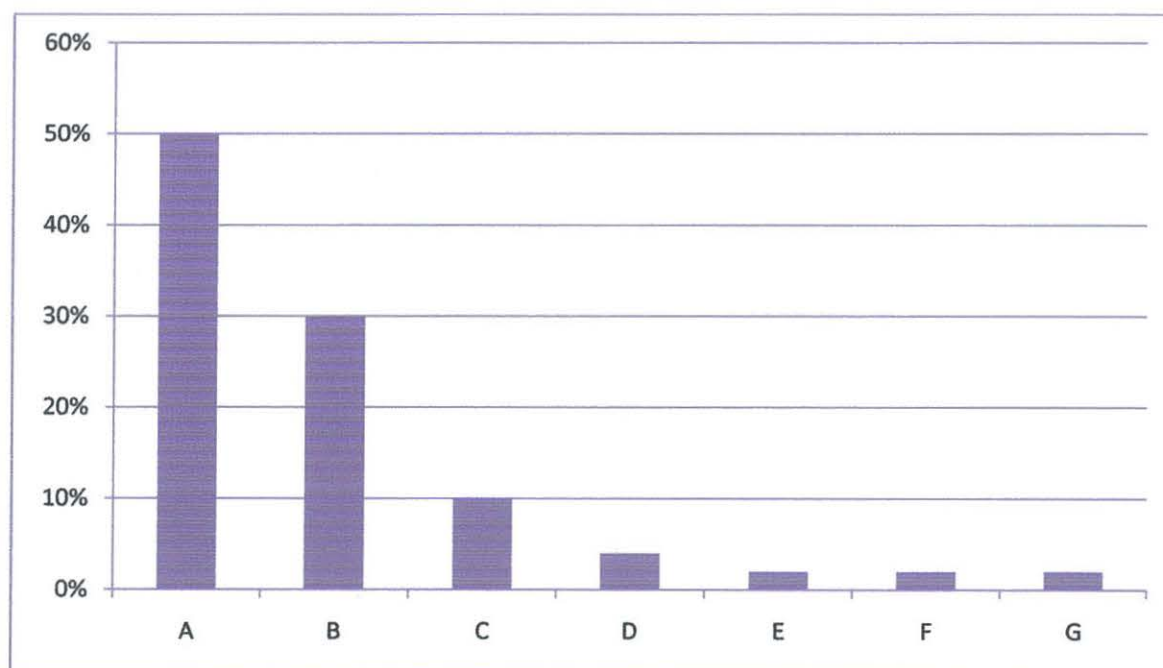
After successfully conducting the research, the following were indicated as some of the factors that lead to children living on streets; orphanhood and HIV/AIDS, civil wars and armed conflicts, domestic violence and child abuse, poverty, deviant behaviours and crime at home, villages, overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction, unexemplary parents / bad role models. The findings are presented in the table and figure as below.

Table 2: Showing the Common factors that cause children to live on streets

Factors	Responses		Rank
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Orphanhood and HIV/AIDS	5	10	C
Civil wars and armed conflicts	2	4	D
Domestic violence and child abuse	25	50	A
Poverty	15	30	B
Deviant behaviours and crime at home villages	1	2	E
Overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction	1	2	E
Unexemplary parents / bad role models	1	2	E

Source: Field Data, 2012

Figure 2: Showing the Common factors that cause children to live on streets



Source: Field Data, 2012

Key:

- A – Domestic violence and child abuse
- B – Poverty
- C – Orphanhood and HIV/AIDS
- D – Civil Wars and armed conflicts
- E – Deviant behavior and crime at home villages
- F – Overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction
- G – Unexemplary parents / bad role models

According to the above table and figure, domestic violence and child abuse took the lead with a frequency of 25 (50%). Many children reported that they left home opting for the streets because they were abused, as a 12 years old boy said, “my aunt could beat me thoroughly even after doing no wrong. She could cane any part of my body with thorny sticks. One day, she tied my hands with polythene ready for burning, accusing me of stealing her 1,000/=. When neighbors rescued me she decided to send me away from home the following day. I had nothing to do but to go and live on the streets”.

Poverty ranked second according to the research findings, with a frequency of 15(30%). Some reported having left home because their parents were poor as a 15 years old boy reported, “my parents can hardly afford for us two meals in a day. At least on the streets with the little money I get, I am able to eat good food”.

Orphanhood and HIV/AIDS followed with a frequency of 5 (10%). As a 16 years old boy reported “I came to the streets two years ago when we lost both of our parents within the same year out of HIV/AIDS. We started living with our grandmother but life was not easy as we lacked many things. I decided to come and do some petty jobs on the streets so that the money I earn can help my younger brothers and sisters”.

Civil wars and armed conflicts ranked fourth with a frequency of 2 (4%). This is because some neighboring districts like Gulu and Lira have for long experienced armed conflicts.

Deviant behaviors and crime at home villages, overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction; and unexemplary parents / bad role models ranked least with each having a frequency of 1 (12%).

4.4 Effects of street life on the quality of life of children

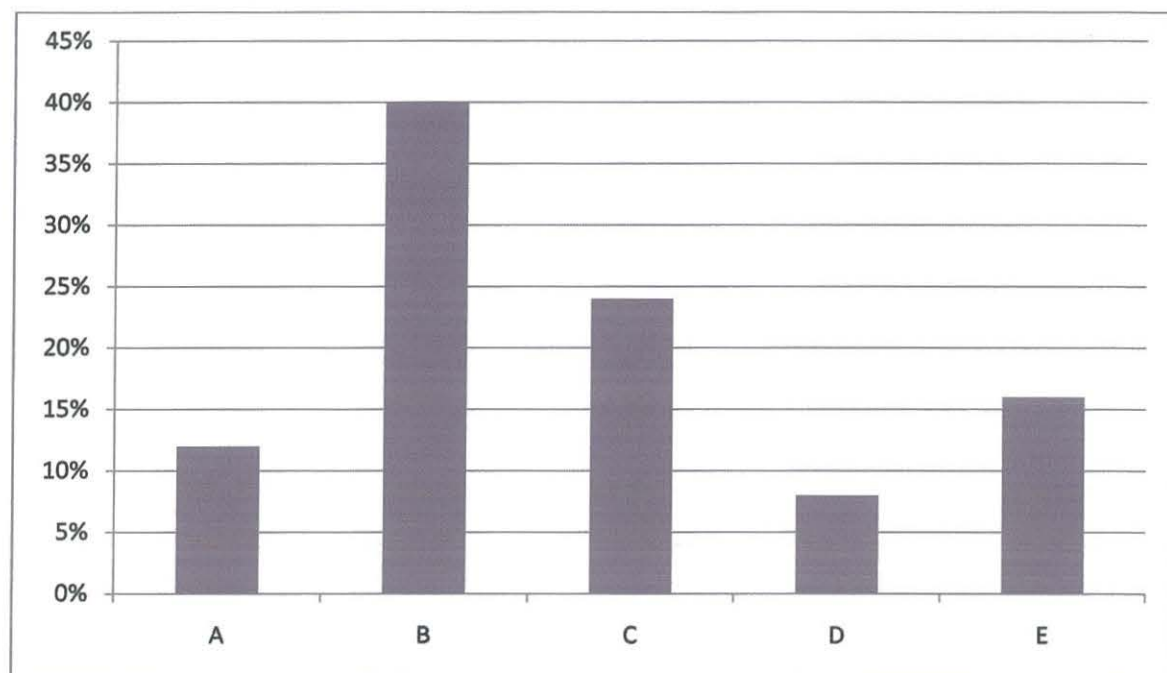
Information on effects of street life on the quality of life of children was obtained from the informants basing on their experiences as they live on the streets. This included poor health, child poverty, economic exploitation, social isolation and lack of primary group and sexual exploitation as presented in the table and figure 3 below.

Table 3: Showing the Effects of street life on the quality of life of children

Effects	Responses		Rank
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Poor health	6	12	3
Child poverty	20	40	1
Economic exploitation	12	24	2
Social isolation and lack of primary group	4	8	5
Sexual exploitation	8	16	4
Total	50	100	

Source: Field Data, 2012

Figure 3: Showing the Effects of street life on the quality of life of children



Source: Field Data, 2012

Key:

A – Poor health

B – Child poverty

C – Economic exploitation

D – Social isolation and lack of primary group

E – Sexual exploitation

According to the research findings, 20 (40%) reported being greatly affected by child poverty which ranked the highest. This is because they lack basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care and so on since they are either unemployed or the jobs they do do not earn them enough income, as a 13 year old boy reported, “I pour away rubbish from people’s homes but the money I get is not enough to feed me twice a day. When I fail to get anything, I inhale glue or gum so that I do not feel the hunger!”.

As per the research findings, economic exploitation ranked second. They are often times overworked but under-paid, as reported by a 14-year old boy, “I fetch water for a hotel owner but

many times she does not pay me at the end of the day but only gives me little food that does not even satisfy me”.

Sexual exploitation ranked third with a frequency of 8 (16%). This seemed to affect girls more than boys. A 16 year old girl said, “since God did not give me other ways of getting money, I have to use what he has given me to get what I need. It is the cheapest way of earning since I don’t need to toil myself. After all, I don’t lose anything for sleeping with men”.

According to the research findings poor health ranked fourth with a frequency of 6 (12%) and social isolation and lack of primary group ranked last with a frequency of 4 (8%).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The research aimed at finding how quality of children's life is affected by street life. It was conducted in Nebbi Town Council, Nebbi District. It constituted a sample of 50 children. Field data was obtained through informal interviews, group discussions, observation and questionnaires.

5.2 Summary

The research generated a number of findings as summarized below:

The most significant factors that force children to live on streets in Nebbi Town Council are domestic violence and child abuse (50%), poverty (30%), orphanhood and HIV/AIDS (10%) and civil wars and armed conflicts. Other factors such as bad role models (1%), deviant behaviours and crime in home villages (1%), overpopulation, landlessness, homelessness and eviction (1%) also contribute to the problem.

During the research, most respondents reported more than one problem being experienced as they live on the streets. Child poverty was noted to be the major problem affecting street children (40%). Other effects included economic exploitation, sexual exploitation, poor health and social isolation and lack of primary group with 24%, 16%, 12% and 8% respectively.

5.3 Conclusion

The future of many children in Uganda appear threatened given the threats street life poses to their lives; child poverty, economic exploitation, sexual exploitation, poor health and social isolation and lack of primary group. Therefore, street life is a social problem that should not be neglected without paying much attention to since in effects every component of children wellbeing is minimized thereby impairing the general capacity of children to contribute to national development as future adults. Addressing the problem of street children requires first

addressing causative factors; domestic violence and child abuse, poverty, civil wars and armed conflicts, overpopulation among others.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 The government

The government, through its National Development Plan should as a matter of priority fully embrace Millennium Development Goal 1: “Eradicate Extremes of Poverty” and 5 “Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases”. The government should also ensure peace and stability in the country and design policies to control the nation’s population.

5.4.2 Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs should fund more projects aimed at creating income generating activities particularly for the youth.

NGOs should develop more institutions such as children’s homes, adoption and rehabilitation centres for children without their parents and or anyone to take care of them.

5.4.3 Local Population and Local Leaders

The local population and local leaders should take up the responsibility of protecting children in their communities. They should check and report any kind of abuse towards children.

5.4.4 Parents

Parents should take full responsibility of providing basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, clothing, education and so on to their children. They should love their children, give them reasonable punishments with the intention of teaching them but not violently abuse them. They should also show good examples in order to serve as the first role models to their children.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF STREET LIFE ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN IN UGANDA

The researcher's remark

Dear respondent,

The researcher is an undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor degree in social work and social Administration at Kampala International University. Your response shall be confidentially and purely for research purpose.

Instruction

Please tick in the appropriate answer box that has been provided or give an accurate but brief answer to structured questions where applicable.

Personal information

a) Age

1-5 ☐

5-9 ☐

9-14 ☐

14-18 ☐

b) Date of birth _____

c) Place of birth _____

d) Sex

Male ☐

Female ☐

e) Nationality _____

Information of family background

f) Are your parents alive or not

Only mother alive ☐

Only father alive ☐

Both mother and father alive ☐

Neither father nor mother alive. ☐

2. Who use to take care of you at home?

Mother ☐ Father ☐ Step mother ☐

Sister/Brother ☐ Aunt ☐ Grand mother ☐

Others ☐ Please specify _____

3. Did you use to go to school?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If No, Why? _____

4. Did you have your own room, bed and bed sheets?

5. How many meals could you have in a day?

5. What type of food did you use to eat?

7. What are the problems that you experienced at home?

Information on life on the street

1) When did you start living on the street?

2) What exactly made you to leave home and come to live on the street?

3) Do you have any relative on the street or any attachment to people at home? If yes, specify

4) Where do you sleep?

5) What do you use for covering yourself at night

- 5) Do you have any other pairs of shoes or clothes

- 7) How many times do you eat in a day and what type of food do you eat?

- 8) Where do you go when you are sick

- 9) How do you earn your living on the street?

- 10) What are the challenges that you face on the street?

- 11) What do you do to overcome these challenges?

- 12) How do you compare life on the street to home life?

- 13) Would you wish to go back home?

- 14) What are your expectations from this discussion?

APPENDIX II
BUDGET /TIME FRAME

S/NO	Item/ Particulars	Quantity/ period	Unit cost (f)	Costs(F)
1	Stationeries, files, papers etc	1,1,1/2 a ream	15000	15000
2	Transport	2weeks	30000	30000
3	Meals	2weeks	25000	50000
4	secretariat, Typing, Printing, Binding			50000
5	Postage			20000
6	Facilitation	2weeks	20000	40000
7	Contingency	2weeks	20000	40000
Total				245000