

RESEARCH PROJECT

**. STUDY OF FACTORS THAT DRIVE CHILDREN OUT OF THEIR
HOMES TO THE STREET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KISII
TOWN.**

PRESENTED BY: EVANS MORARA NYANG'ONGO

ADM NO. BED 13842/61/DF

**THIS RESEARCH REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE
OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (IODL) KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AS PART OF A FULFILMENT IN
THE AWARD OF DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
SCIENCE WITH GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING.**

DATE: AUGUST 2008.

DECLARATION

This research report is my own work and has not been presented to any institution or any examination body for the award of Degree or any other award.


Students Name: Evans Morara Nyang'ongo

Signature 

APPROVAL

I hereby present my report for approval.

By Supervisor: Lecturer Mrs. Mutumba

Signature.....

Remarks.....

DEDICATION

To my dear wife Eunice Kemunto for her unparalleled input and support in finalizing this document.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank very sincerely all those who contributed to the success of this work. It was through the assistance both materially, orally and morally that enabled me to collect all the needed information and put together for the success of this work. I also thank my supervisor Dr. Mitumba for her guidance and good instructions that led to the completion of this satisfactory work.

I also thank all the lecturers who worked tirelessly to make sure that the course was a success and especially Mr. Maki who during his teaching I was able to understand the way forward. I am also very grateful to my colleagues in campus whom we shared a lot about my research work.

Finally I could wish to thank Josephine Onchonga for good typing services all of which went to the enhancement of the completion of my course work.

ABSTRACT

Many children have left their homes and are now living in the streets. At the beginning many people saw it not being their problem as long as it did not affect them directly. This is particularly so in Kisii town where the phenomena is not very old. But as the number swelled the problem has become a big issue for every caring citizen of this country and particularly to people in a town like Kisii.

It has now come to the notice of everybody that the problem is very serious and unless addressed it will soon cause a big security risk for every one who is prone to these children. This is because the street children grow in an indisciplined environment and nobody prepares them to become good citizens of tomorrow by providing any type of education or guidance.

It is therefore vital for everybody in the society to be initiated and use every available opportunity at his or her disposal to curb the problem from escalating further in the midst of the society.

The researcher intends to establish, what the existing organizations for example churches, non-governmental organizations and the government are doing to arrest the (situation) problem.

The researcher expects to highlight whatever information will be collected that might assist to solve the problem.

The research was carried in Kisii Municipality, Kisii District Nyanza Province of Kenya. The researcher choose this town because street children are concentrated here. During the research the researcher involved many institutions for example Children's Department in the Municipality, churches and NGOs.

Many children who join the street do it not because they don't like to live in their homes, but every one of them is driven from his/her home by one reason or another. The researcher believes that if the problem can be investigated, identified and then addressed then children would not come to live in the streets.

While we agree that the relevant department has not done much to address the problem we agree one cause of their in ability to do so is lack of enough funds and materials.

During his research the researcher aimed at collecting information through interaction interviews from street children parents and guardian of the street children, churches and children welfare institutional (leader) managers.

If enough correct information is given and implemented, them the problem of street children will be solved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Title.....	i
Declaration.....	ii
Dedication.....	iii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Abstract.....	v
Table of Contents.....	vi
Abbreviations.....	xi
CHAPTER ONE	
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Geographical area of Study.....	4
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.4 Justification/Significance of the Study.	5
1.5 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.6 Limitation of the Research.....	7
1.7 Hypothesis.....	8
1.8 Operational Definations.....	8
CHAPTER TWO	
2.1 Literature review related to Children.	10
2.2 Children and armed conflict.....	11

2.3	Street Children Plead with African States.....	12
2.4	Kenya Pledges Bright Future for Children	13
2.5	Adults have failed children.....	13
2.6	The Family and the Children.....	14
2.7	Children and Education.....	14
2.8	Children in Difficult Circumstances.....	15
2.9	Children and Morality.....	16
2.10	Democracy and Children.....	17

CHAPTER THREE

3.1	Research Methodology.....	19
3.2	Research Design.....	19
3.3	Target Population.....	19
3.4	Instruments used for Research.....	20
3.5	Data Collection.....	21
3.6	Experience in the Field.....	22
3.7	Treatment of Data.....	23

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1	Data Analysis and Interpretation.....	24
4.2	Personal Data.....	24
4.3	Age distribution of the Children In the streets	25

4.4	The composition of the street children	
	In terms of sex.....	26
4.5	Why did the children come to live in	
	the streets.....	27
4.6	Other causes for children to go in the	
	Streets.....	28
4.7	Number of Children in the family from	
	Which the street children comes from.....	29
4.8	Problems faced by children in the streets	
	glue.....	30
4.9	How many of the street children	
	Snif glue.....	31
4.10	Common factors observed by children	
	welfare Officers driving them to	
	streets.....	32
4.11	Marital status of parents/guardians	
	of the Street children.....	33
4.12	Future plans for children by their	
	parents/Guardian.....	34

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1.1	Findings and Recommendations.....	35
5.1.2	Unwanted Children by parent.....	35

5.1.3	Orphanage.....	35
5.1.4	Home disfunctioning.....	35
5.1.5	Poverty.....	36
5.1.6	Poor parenting.....	36
5.1.7	Poor government policies Implementation.....	37
5.1.8	Peer group influence.....	37
5.2	Recommendation.....	37
5.3	Conclusion.....	39
	References.....	40
Appendix A-	Questionnaire for street Children.....	41
Appendix B -	Questionnaire for parents/ Guardians.....	42
Appendix C -	Questionnaire for children Officers Probation Officers and any other Child Welfare Management Officer.....	42
Appendix D -	Two brothers in the street....	43
Appendix E -	Children wasting their time Playing in the street.....	44

ABBREVIATIONS

- UNICEF - United Nations International Children
Emergency Fund
- N.G.O. - Non Governmental Organization
- U.N. - United Nations
- ANPPCAN - African Network for Prevention and
Protection
Of Child Abuse and Neglect
- UNCF - United Nations Children Fund
- G.O.K. - Government of Kenya
- UNICEF - United Nations International Children
Education Fund
- U.P.E. - Universal Primary Education

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Several children have been driven out of their homes to go and live in the streets by factors beyond their control. Many of these children end up in the streets of towns, slums and even in very poor habitats that are not fit for human living.

Most of these children are spread and sprawl in many towns and cities of the world. This trend of children leaving their homes and living in bad places is increasing at a very high rate. According to a report released in London by the UNCF the cause of the increase of the street children all over the world is a combination of factors such as wars, and poverty in the poorest sections of the society. The disfactioning of families, break down of families and also orphanage caused by disease and road accidents.

Unicef says over one hundred million children worldwide grow up without parental care, love and security of their parents or guardians.

In Africa especially in Kenya people had not been adopting children outside their kinsmen. This phenomena just came recently. For this reasons many children who lacked kinsmen eventually ended up in the street.

Due to the menace and nuisance caused by the big number of street children; it is reported in a country like Brazil the vigilant group have been killing these children un

abated. This vigilante are the employees of rich people and businessmen in the country of Brazil.

According to history, the problem of street children started way back after the second world war. It is after this war that it was discovered many children had become victims of the war. It happened many of them had participated in war, others had been orphaned by this war, and due to poverty afflicted by this war. Many families had disintegrated hence causing a lot of suffering to children who fled to the streets where they thought life could be bearable.

This event led to the realization by the world and specifically the U.N. General Assembly to set up some funds to assist the children under United Nations Children Emergency Fund to take care of children who were victims of the second world war in Europe.

Later it was discovered that suffering were not only in Europe but were all over the world. The U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution to include the children from even the third world. In 1951 the United Nations General Assembly did therefore set up a body which encompassed all children in the world. It was agreed that it will always work in partnership with the host government. The body came to be known as UNICEF.

In Kenya today many rehabilitation homes for children have come up in the country and specifically in Eldoret. The problem here is that some have been established as private rehabilitation centres which are more of business

than assisting children. This happens when proprietors establish homes with a hope to solicit money from donors for the sake of enriching themselves. To us this should be discouraged.

However, not all rehabilitation homes have bad motives and intention and for this we congratulate and encourage them to continue with their noble work. These bodies are many and are affiliated to NGO's, churches, private homes, remand homes and approved schools run by government, all these run differently.

Though all these many children are still going out of their homes to go and live in the streets.

In Kenya we have a bigger children population than that of adults. And when the government is drawing its Development Plan they always focus on the anticipated population at a given time. According to one such plan i.e. Government of Kenya Development Plan 1994 page 245 it was projected that by the year 2000 we could have had ten million children aged less than 15 years.

The street children under which the study is being carried falls under these anticipated to be and planned for. For this reason we call upon our honorable government to implement the policies they had set so that the said children can also benefit from the resources set aside to benefit children.

The problems which are the most cause of this children going to live in street should therefore be addressed

Without any delay so that the problem will be a story of the past.

1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF STUDY

The research was carried in Kisii town. It did not cover all the street children and homes from where these children come from.

This is because some children's parents lived far away from where the research was being carried.

Secondly, the research was not sponsored hence forcing the researcher to limit his research in Kisii town.

Some respondents were also not co-operative for fear that the information could be used against them. Others argued that many research had been carried and no tangible solution had ever been witnessed to the problem.

All in all the researcher managed to collect enough information to help him compile his report. This was partly because he had lived in the area for more than thirty years and street children phenomena came up as he witnessed.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Many children are leaving their homes to go and live in the streets of Kisii town. Hence the term STREET CHILDREN. They have gone further to generate street families. This trend is worrying to the dwellers of Kisii town and Kenya at large.

If this problem is not checked now before it gets out of hand then the mentioned group of children might breed criminals. They also do not attend school and they grow up being illiterates hence increasing the number of illiterates in the country. This number becomes difficult to train and cannot exploit their full potential due to lack of adequate education. Today's world is a competitive world and skills and knowledge of competitive degree must be portrayed before one can get employment or occupation. We also need the skills and knowledge for development and generation of national wealth from every citizen of this country street children included.

1.4 JUSTIFICATION / SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1. The study's result will help establish whether the street children could be constructive and could contribute positively towards growth of Kisii contrary to the public belief that they are only a nuisance and an eye sore.
2. The study is likely to change the public's view specifically Kisii Municipality residents who have been having a negative attitude over the street children.
3. The study will convince many that the problem affects all the Kisii Municipality in one way or the other, hence it needs to be addressed by all members of the community.

4. The study will assist the law enforcers see where they have not addressed the problem in order to reduce the increment of the street children.
5. The root causes of the street children will be established hence it will be easy to stop children from leaving their homes to live in the streets if the causes are addressed satisfactorily.
6. The study will help the researcher to recommend appropriate measure that would help arrest the going of children to the street.
7. The study will help inform the institutions dealing with street children some of the causes that need be addressed so that children already in the streets can be taken back to their homes other than rehabilitation centres.
8. The study can also become reference document on matters related to street children's problem management.
9. Important findings by the study can be used when new policies on children are being made.
10. The study would also remind the government of its very important role in managing the problem of street children.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. The study will investigate causes of children leaving their homes to go and live in the streets.

2. Find out whether there is any relationship between family management and going to the street of the children.
3. Examine whether there are any economic causes contributing to escalating of the problem.
4. Find out whether lack of education opportunities for the children can drive them to live in streets.
5. Establish whether drug abuse is a major cause of street children problem.
6. Establish whether peers, living environment contribute to problem of street children.
7. Explore to what extend has this problem affected the concerned families.
8. Investigate the effects of street children to the affected families and communities.

The study will focus on the factors that push children from their homes to live in the streets.

1.6 LIMITATION OF THE RESEARCH

1. Some of the responses were not co-operative enough and they may decide to hind some information.
2. Time limit of researcher. The study duration was too short.
3. Lack of enough finances to support the research.
4. The delayance in filling and returning of the questionnaires by the informants handling them.

5. Demand of (Kitu kidogo) bribes by the street children before they accepted to talk freely.
6. Some people were reserved and not willing to give any information on demand until you first established relationship.

1.7 HYPOTHESIS

- a. Children go to live in the streets due to home mismanagement.
- b. Drug abuse influences children to live in streets.
- c. Loss of both parents drive the orphaned children to move to the streets.
- d. Lack of parent care, guidance and counseling force children to live in the streets.
- e. Peers influence children to become street children.

1.8 OPERATIONAL DEFINATION

Child - A young human being who is Biologically not mature. That human who legally is not yet a adult.

Street Children - Young human being a girl or a boy who lives in the street.

Institutional Rehabilitation Home Managers - These are people who have been bestowed with the responsibility of organizing, directing and operate rehabilitation homes for neglected children in order to help them live the standard expected life by the society.

Children Officer - The person who has been given the

authority by virtue of his office to find out
cause s of the suffering of children and hence
recommend a plan of action to solve the problem of
the child.

Researcher - A person who is investigating into the
problem.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW RELATED TO CHILDREN

The world over there exist a number of written materials on children. The Bible being one of the oldest literature that exist talks on the subject of children and says:

Parents, do not treat your children in such way as to make them angry. Instead bring them up with Christian discipline and instructions.
EPHESIANS 6: 4

This being one of authority clearly tells us of the need to take the role of children rearing and caring very seriously.

Apart from the Bible there exist many other writings based on many researches that have been done by various people in the world. In Africa, and many third world states there exist little literature in comparison to the developed world. However, the phenomena of street children in the world is relatively the same. In Brazil which is a third world the problem of street children went out of control. According to Kingori C. M. the authority portrayed inability to address and solve the problem. Because of this business people decided to employ vigilante groups to kill the street children whom they regarded as a nuisance. This was a bad picture of the authority's inability to control

been deviled many African countries. An example of these wars that were there in Mozambique and Angola. In these countries many children have fallen victims land mines. They have also been orphaned and displaced from their homes by the effects of the war. Land clashes which beared the name tribal clashes also took its toll. All these caused a lot of suffering to children. Some of them have suffered terrible malnutrition due to the same.

Presently many children are crying for help in Somalia. Democratic Republic of Congo and even in SiriLanka due to the serious war conflict that is going on which is denying them time to go to school and play harmoniously like many others in other parts of the world.

2.3 STREET CHILDREN PLEAD WITH AFRICAN STATES

Street children led by Stephene Ng'ang'a, 14 pleaded with African states by making a passionate appeal, presenting their problem before a regional conference in Nairobi on children on 9th May, 2002. They told the government to strengthen family unity and guarantee them free education. The children told the conference that they lacked love in the streets and they were denied basic human rights. They said that the society rejected them because they were poor and that they were in the streets because the society had disintegrated and had failed to recognize their needs and collective responsibility.

4 KENYA PLEDGE ABOUT BRIGHT FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

Kenya was one of 180 countries that participated in the United Nations General Assembly to deliberate on children's rights on Wednesday 15/5/2001. During the session Kenya was represented by Vice-President Prof. George Saitoti. He told the session that Kenya was committed to improving the welfare of children.

He narrated the many steps that Kenya had taken towards the improvement of children. He talked of the enactment of Children Act.

This Act became a law on 1st March 2002. This is as per Kenya Gazette Supplement Notice dated 15th February, 2002. The Act defines a child in Kenya as anybody below 18 years of age.

5 ADULTS HAVE FAILED CHILDREN

Grown-ups have failed the world's children. Addressing children who for the first time participated in the session the UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan listed the basic rights of children as being freedom from hunger, poverty, abuse, and exploitation, diseases, war and so on.

He said the above rights are obvious and children should not be denied them. Many children who spoke ended by reminding everybody that they are children of the world.

In Kenya, many children are suffering and need the same rights. As the saying goes Charity begins at home, we

Kenyans should do everything possible to make sure that our children get all their rights without any hindrance.

2.6 THE FAMILY AND THE CHILDREN

The family is the first unit with which socialization patterns develop. It is the most important socializing agent. It is a splendid place for a child to find a satisfactory life.

The family position in the society, and the way they bring a child up affects not only how he will be responding during childhood but also during his adult status. For this reason street children lack the attachment from their families hence loosing much of socially expected behaviour.

In our case the street child has no proper institution from where he can spring from. He is in the street where the community responds negatively to his social needs. This is because in the street he lives without his family who could offer him the care, guidance and the response that he needs as he grows. He therefore adopts the characteristics of the other street children who influence his behaviour in life. In many cases these behaviour is unacceptable in the society hence leading to much of his adulthood in custody, jails or rejected spheres of the society.'

2.7 CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Education is one of the most important investment one can give to a child. Education is a vital part through

which a child can start in any training. The government of Kenya having realized that education is important and in 1963 declared that education be provided to all; children included. To show its commitment the parliament passed a bill that stated as follows:

Education is a basic right for every citizen in Kenya: Education is a right for children, youth and adults (Quoted from Hansad).

When we sight the above policy papers we find that the street children are not getting this very vital need for their lives. The government had even gone further in 1974 and declared free education for all children under a program U.P.E. (Universal Primary Education) but unfortunately today we have not achieved this very noble goal. In relation to this the street children seem to be abandoned and do not enjoy these two prescribed rights because they are in the streets.

2.8 CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

As UNICEF puts it some children in Kenya are in very difficult circumstances. This is especially so when this children have no access to their basic needs. For example food, shelter, education, medical care and security. Such children are at great risk of suffering malnutrition, diseases and possible death. Unless the condition changes, during their life time their children will also suffer the same fate. For this reason it is better to work hardest and

alleviate this problem hence stopping it from becoming a life long chain problem within a family life time.

This trend which is also brought about by the social change in our societies has also inflicted serious injuries and damages to our cultural, mores and norms. In our old African traditional communities (set up) children belonged to clan or society but today the child belongs to its parents. So when something happens the child's success lies with his parents alone. Therefore incase there is a family problem the child has no alternative but to run to the street.

Examples of these children in difficult circumstances are children whose single mothers have been jailed. Many other children are in difficult circumstances for example working children, street children, abandoned children. Orphaned children, neglected children, destitute children, children of employed mothers, refugee children.

The above long list is a clear indication that many children are in difficult situation and something must be done to put all these sufferings situations to an end.

2.9 CHILDREN AND MORALITY

All societies are characterized with cultural norms. It is culture that spells out values which must be obeyed failure to which sanctions as a mode of enforcing them are administered.

Within customary laws, most of the societies have shown their concern over the welfare of children. They have shown their love for children and wish for them to grow well. Many scholars have documented the importance of children in the society. For example Jomo Kenyatta (1978) in his book Facing Mt. Kenya says, ``The First child greatly enhances the dignity of the man and woman who are his/her parents''. Prof. Mbithi in his book African Religion and Philosophy also highlights the importance of kinship says;

It is the community which must protect, the child and feed it, educate it and in many ways incorporate it into the wider community. Children are the buds of society and every birth is the arrival of spring when life shoots out the community thrives.

2.10 DEMOCRACY AND CHILDREN

Democracy has many meanings but in its narrow sense means free making of decision, choose what to do and what not to do when, where, and why do it. This is all with an objective of improving the lives of the concerned people. When all the consensus is reached and the outcome is implemented we talk of democratization.

During democratization the children are affected directly or indirectly. If the democratic reforms are taken and the results are uniformly distributed both economically and politically they then affect the children.

Here in Kenya the economical trends for over ten years have been on downward trend. This being the case many

children have been denied education, and much of their basic needs. Others have been neglected and some have even died.

The politics of the country have also interfered with the welfare of the children and hence their suffering at the expense of the policy makers. This is because children are never consulted and neither are they involved in the policy formulation though it goes far in affecting their lives.

The policies affect them in that whatever convention of laws passed to protect them (children) may or may not be implemented due to the loopholes that may arise during their formulation. This is why in many forums world over Kenya included there are sentiments of children welfare abuse.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher here lays his plan of action in the field. He outlines the various ways which he used to collect information and how he is going to analyze each of them.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher used descriptive type of research. This was because he is convinced that it would produce the necessary facts with regard to the problem being investigated on. Using the outcome facts and information the researcher felt that he would be able to give recommendations that would lead to an accurate answer to the problem of the study.

3.3 TARGET POPULATION

The target population was taken from Kisii town. It included the street children in Kisii town, parent / guardians of street children who live in Kisii town, and few institutional managers of children welfare centres.

From the children sample population the researcher wanted to find exactly why the child decided to live in the street and not stay in their homes. In this area the

research were able to interview (16) sixteen street children. ~

The researcher also interviewed parents/guardians. The researcher also met institutional and child welfare managers.

It was difficult to get the parents/guardians of some children since most children's parents were not residents of the area of study. Some officers were also not ready to give the required data on time.

3.4 INSTRUMENTS USED FOR THE RESEARCH

The researcher used questionnaires and interviews to get the information he needed. In the interview schedules the researcher was able to talk to children, their parents and guardians. During the interview the researcher was able to come across some information through leading questions that enriched his research. Interviews enabled him to meet the target group for the purpose of his research.

During the interview the parent/guardians of the children were co-operative. Most of them hoped they could benefit in one way or the other from the research.

On the other hand the children differed alot from their parents and guardians and most of them thought the researcher was a spy of some kind and could lead them to being arrested or returned to their homes. They were suspicious. It therefore took the researcher time to convince them and once they got convinced they gave very

vital information. Times you could sympathize with the situation of the child once he narrates to you of his ordeal that lead him to the street.

The homes of the few children the researcher visited were in slums. They lived in poor conditions with very little household goods. Most of the parents/guardians lived in single rented rooms.

The questionnaires used were constructed by the researcher and he used them with ease as they were of his own making. The questionnaires were administered to the institutions children welfare managers. Social workers, and probation officer and also a church representative.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION

The researcher collected the data through questionnaires which he had distributed to the Child welfare Officers and Institutional Children Welfare Managers. He also came face to face with children, interviewed using the leading questionnaires. During his interview of the children some children narrated more information about life experience they have gone through during their time of coming from their homes and also while they were living in the street.

The researcher also visited the few homes of the street children who agreed to volunteer to show their homes. During this time he came in contact with the parents/guardians of the children and administered his questionnaire. The

Parents / guardians gave the information the researcher was looking for. All the data collected were both qualitative and quantitative.

3.6 EXPERIENCE IN FIELD

The study was carried out in Kisii Municipality (town). Some of the respondents (mainly) children demanded some bribes in order to accept to be interviewed while others would request you to buy food or tea so that they could have time for the researcher. Parents were sometimes inquisitive wanting to know what they could expect from the research being carried on and how soon it will happen. Others were unco-operative due to many people who had gone to them and interviewed them and nothing had happened when the researchers left the place.

Others claimed that since the government had threatened to prosecute and jail parents who never took their children to school, the researcher was following such parents.

Others were reluctant to give information because they thought the researcher was hoping to set a home for children and then use the same to solicit money from donors using the information got from them.

Also time limit was another experience. The researcher had to teach and perform other school activities as normal. Some of the officers did not return the questionnaires as was expected.

Despite these problems, the researcher worked hardest to at least produce good work that can be relied upon.

3.7 TREATMENT OF DATA

All the data collected were analyzed and tabulated in table for easy interpretation. The researcher worked out the tabulated data in percentage from which his information could be read or retrieved for action over his field of research.

In his treatment of the data he produced different tables representing different information as collected from the field.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

All the data collected by the researcher are indicated in the following tables.

They are analyzed, tabulated and the result given in percentages.

4.2 PERSONAL DATA.

The number of people put in this tables is the population sample of the group of the children living in the street. The children interviewed are aged between seven years (7) and seventeen (17). This group of children form the majority of the children in the street of Kisii town.

The number of children who were interviewed is sixteen (16).

4.3 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHILDREN IN THE STREETS.

TABLE 1

Respondents age	Frequency	Percentage
7 years	2	12.5%
9 years	1	6.25%
11 years	2	12.5%
12 years	4	25.0%
13 years	2	12.5%
15 years	2	12.5%
16 years	2	12.5%
17 years	1	6.25%
Total	16	100.0%

The above table indicates that children aged 7, 11, 13, 15 and 16 years form 62.5% of the total population of the street children. Children aged 9 and 17 years form 12.5% of which 12 years form 25%.

The table reveals that these children go to the streets at a time when they should be going to school. Also, it is at this time when they very much need parental care and guidance. It therefore reveals that at that above defined ages, parents should be closer to these children and monitor every movement in order to prevent them going to the streets.

4.4 THE COMPOSITION OF THE STREET CHILDREN IN TERMS OF SEX RATES. THE NUMBER INTERVIEWED IS 16 CHILDREN.

TABLE 2

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Boys	12	75%
Girls	4	25%
Total	16	100%

In the above table, the researcher wanted to find out what is the ratio of boys to girls who are in the streets of Kisii town.

From the information collected the boys formed 75% of the total population and the girls form 25%.

$$75:25 = 3:1$$

Reasons for this great difference is that some girls who come to live in the streets are quickly taken away by people who employ them as maids or house helpers. They also fail to endure the very hard life that is in the streets and hence requested to be adopted by well wishers and give in very easily and fast.

The boys become hardened and do everything possible to resist any pressure that tend to force him look for an alternative home.

Boys are mostly abandoned or neglected when mothers get married to men who are not the boys biological fathers. Boys are also easily influenced by their peer-groups to go and live in the streets more than girls

4.5 WHY CHILDREN CAME TO LIVE IN THE STREETS.

The number of children interviewed is 16

TABLE 3

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
To look for food	7	43.75%
Abandoned/neglected	4	25.00%
Abused	3	18.75%
Home disfunction	2	12.5%
Total	16	100.0%

The information collected and tabulated in the above table clearly reveals that the biggest population have come to the streets due to lack of basic necessities and specifically food. It is followed by another problem of neglect and abandonment of children by the parents who should have been taking care of them.

It also reveals that home disfunctioning also has taken its share and at any cost family functions should be kept going. We boldly say that if children can therefore be

given all the basic needs, care and guidance then no child would ever go to the streets.

4.6 OTHER CAUSES FOR CHILDREN TO GO IN THE STREETS

TABLE 4

The number of children interviewed is 16. In the table below, the researcher wanted to find out what drove out the street children from their homes to streets.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Abused/Abandoned	6	37.5%
Poverty/lack of basic needs	6	37.5%
Family disfunctioning	4	25.0%
Total	16	100.0%

The information received (collected) by the researcher which is indicated and tabulated in the above table shows that the abused/abandoned children were 37.5%. Those that were looking for basic needs as a result of poverty are 37.5%. Those that came into the streets because of family disfunctioning are 25%.

From the above table, it can be noted that if parents and guardians can be assisted to reduce poverty and the law on children be seriously enforced then street children problem can be solved.

4.7 NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY FROM WHICH THE STREET CHILDREN COME FROM.

TABLE 5

The researcher interviewed children to know the size of the family from which the child comes from. The number of respondents was 16.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Families with 2 children	1	6.25%
Families with 3 children	4	25.00%
Families with 4 children	3	18.75%
Families with 5 children	3	18.75%
Families with 6 children	3	18.75%
Families with 7 children	1	6.25%
Families with 8 children	1	6.25%
Total	16	100.00%

The figures in the above table indicate that with 1,7 and 8 are 6.25% each, while families with 3,4,5 and 6 children are the majority with each family having 18.75% in the street.

Families with extremely many children have fewer children simply because most of the children have grown into

adults. The information indicate very clearly that the problem is acute on families with between 3 and 6 children.

The reason for this is because it is at this stage where the parents/guardians start being unable to provide the basic needs of the family. It is also easy to conclude that the bigger the family in terms dependant (children) the more they are prone to going to the streets.

It also shows that as the number of the family increases, the income does not increase proportionally in the same family hence causing resource constraints and as a result the children are forced out of their homes to the streets.

4.8 PROBLEMS FACED BY CHILDREN IN THE STREETS.

The children who live in the streets are faced by many problems during their life. The researcher therefore wanted to establish the problems these children face while in the streets.

The number of children interviewed is 16.

TABLE 6

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of food	7	43.75%
Harassment	6	37.5%
People hate them	1	6.25%
Others	2	12.5%
Total	16	100.0%

From the above table, it is revealed that lack of food is represented by 43.75%, harassment 37.5%, hatred by people 6.25% and other problems consist of 12.5%. It can therefore be concluded that food is a major issue to these children. Comparing the economic situation it would be true that people are not giving these children as it used to be due to the economic hard times everybody is going through. On harassment, the report the children have given represent the true situation. The police at times arrest them just to release them without a solution to their problem. The public has also developed a negative attitude and therefore sympathy is no longer there for the street children and hence any mistreatment can be administered without any regard of the well being of the child.

4.9 HOW MANY OF THE STREET CHILDREN SNIF GLUE

The number of children is 16.

TABLE 7

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Those who sniff	9	56.25%
Those who don't	7	53.75%
Total	16	100.00%

It is clear from the table above that most of the street children are drug abusers. The researcher feel that

those who sell glue be educated not to sell it to this children.

4.10 COMMON FACTORS OBSERVED BY CHILDREN WELFARE OFFICERS

FACTORS DRAWING THEM TO THE STREETS.

The researcher wanted to find out what has been observed by the officers concerned with children welfare and what are the common causes of the children going to live in streets.

TABLE 8

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Home management	1	20%
Drug abuse	1	20%
Others	1	20%
All the above	2	40%
Total	5	100%

From the table we find that 40% of the respondent found that all the problems facing families were forces behind the going of the child to the street.

The researcher found that it is not one single problem that drives children to the streets. We can therefore conclude that all problems afflicting families have to be addressed inorder to alleviate the problem of street children.

4.11 MARITAL STATUS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF THE STREET CHILDREN.

The number of people interviewed is 5. The researcher here wants to investigate the marital status of the parents of the street children.

TABLE 9

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Married	1	20%
Single	2	40%
Divorced	—	0%
Separated	2	40%
Widow(ers)	—	0%
Total	5	100%

From the above table many of the street children's parents are single or separated. This shows that the work of bringing up children by a single parent is cumbersome. Due to the pressure exerted on single parents taking care of children, she becomes unable to give all that is required of a child hence the child goes to the street as a street.

4.12 FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CHILDREN BY THEIR PARENTS/
GUARDIANS.

The researcher wanted to find out the concern of the parents for the future of their children. The number of the respondents interviewed is 5.

TABLE 10

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Provide food for them	1	0
Provide food for them	1	0
Buy them a plot	2	40
Take them to school	1	20
Any two of the above	2	40
Total	5	100

From the above information the parents have shown that they have a concern for their children. They see land and school as crucial matters and wish to have their children have the two as their priorities.

It can therefore be concluded that it is not the wish of the parents to see their children suffering in the streets but it is a situation which is out of control.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1.1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In his research the researcher found that the children in the street are not lunatics but are normal as per The behaviour of the children. These children are therefore prone to peer influence and other behaviours like drug abuse.

5.1.2. Unwanted children by parents

Some of the single mothers have had children not by choice but by accident through unplanned sex or rape. Many of these children are neglected and finally abandoned by their mothers. Having nowhere to go they end up suffering in the streets.

5.1.3 Orphanage

Some of the children who loose both parents through death are also found in the streets, especially if the kinsmen fail to take a serious step towards the rehabilitation of these children.

5.1.4 Home disfunctioning

Many homes have also failed to function. This has lead to the suffering of children. As a result children of the said homes run away from then to the streets.

Many parents have also taken to drug abuse hence neglecting children.

While it was found, that there are many causes that drive children in the streets. A few of them were distinct and common. This were:-

5.1.5 Poverty

Poverty played a key position. Children from poor families went into the street in search of necessities that they could not get from their homes. Also poor parents sent their children to go and beg in the streets for the upkeep of the families. Due to poverty some families neglected their children and hence their going to the streets.

5.1.6 Poor Parenting

Some children were subjected to lack of guidance and counseling. Others have had severe punishments from their parents/guardians while others have totally been neglected by their parents.

Others have passed their roles to their relatives or old parents who have no ability of controlling their children.

5.1.7 Poor government policies implementation

Some of the government law enforcers have been compromised as far as children welfare is concerned. Instead of working to see that these children are taken care of and given their rightful right they will always harass the children instead.

5.1.8. Peer group influence

Children who have no planned routine occupation like going to school are highly influenced by their peers to enter into bad behaviour. They are easily lured into the streets and other bad areas of discipline because they are at their early stage of learning and would like to experience many things as they are in search of knowledge and occupation.

5.2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having investigated the problem the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. Instead of just rehabilitating the child in children homes, it is better to attack the root cause of the problem, for example alleviation of poverty in homes.

Parents where children come from should be visited address problems that cause children to go to streets.

2. The international conventions agreement be honoured and the consensus over children be let known to every individual of the society.
3. The public should be sensitized to know that all street children belongs to the society and have equal rights like any other child of this country. They should be educated to know that the children if not addressed might turn on to them directly or indirectly hence efforts to curb the problem should be by all.
4. The government should provide a free compulsory universal primary education. This could serve as an occupation for children and also train for better citizenry in future. It should also make provision for compulsory training for those children who are already in the street so that their attitudes can be changed and be prepared to live a better life once they abandon the street life.
5. There should always be a person who is answerable for a child who goes to the street and the cause of the problem be addressed always in time before its too late.
6. The right of children should be taught in school, in colleges, universities so that it becomes part of the society's norm.
7. Disfunctioning families should be discouraged.

8. Drug abuse in homes and also in schools should be stopped through a vigorously campaign in every institution of the society.
9. All bodies that deal with children like the NGOs, and churches should be given a bigger role and their operations be co-ordinated for better results on children living.

5.3.0 CONCLUSIONS

It is only by concerted efforts by all people of the society that this problem can be alleviated.

Every caring and concerned person must contribute both material and morally by virtual of his capacity to make sure no more children will go into the streets of Kisii town and the towns of the county in general.

We should also look at the problem as a problem that affects everybody and not just the family where the child comes from.

Appendix F

Table 8: Time Framework

TIME FRAME	ACTIVITY
APRIL 2008	Proposal writing
May 2008	Proposal approval
May 2008	Preparation of instruments
June 2008	Pretesting the instruments
July 2008	Data collection
July 2008	Data analysis
July 2008	Report writing
End of July	Submission of final report

Table 9: Budget

STATIONARY	QUANTITY	AMOUNT(UGSHS)
Duplicating paper	5 reams	40,000
Secretarial services	Research proposal and report	300,000
Type setting ,printing, photocopying and binding		60,000
Travel	10 days	200,000
Subsistence	30 days	300,000
Binding report		20,000
Overall total		920,000

REFERENCES

- Childwaleh. Newsletter No. 22 Child Right Convention.
Daily Nation, Wednesday 30th January 2002 1,000.000 Russen
Street Children.
- Daily Nation, Friday 10th May 2002 Kenya pledges bright
Future for Children.
- Ephasians: 6:4 Christian Bible Parents Role on Children
- G.O.K.: UNICEF and KCO
Watoto Wetu Newsletter vol. I 1997.
- East African Standard: Thus 9th May 2002 Adults have failed
Children
- Elkins, F. & Handel G. The Child and the Society
King'ori C. M. 2002 Factors Contributing to
Street children.
- Kenyatta J. (1978) Facing Mt. Kenya.
- Pr. Mbithi P.: African Religion and Philosophy.

A STUDY OF FACTORS THAT DRIVE CHILDREN OUT OF THEIR HOMES TO THE STREET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KISH TOWN. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS BY PUTTING A TICK AND COMMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

PERSONAL DATA

1. Name _____
2. Age _____
3. Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____
4. Where were you born? _____
5. Where are your parent / Guardian? _____

BACKGROUND OF THE FAMILY

1. Do you have parents? Yes _____ No _____
2. Are your parents employed? Yes _____ No _____
3. Where do you live? _____ Estate.
4. How many are you in your family? _____
5. Have you ever been to school Yes _____ No _____
6. Why did you leave school? _____
7. If never been to school why? _____
 - a) Don't know _____
 - b) I was expelled _____
 - c) Lack of school fees _____
 - d) Other specify _____
8. Do you have problems in the street?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Would you like to go to school?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Why did you come to live in the steer? _____
11. Would you like to go back and live in the street?
Yes _____ No _____
12. Do you sniff glue? Yes _____ No _____
13. Why do you sniff glue? _____

APPENDIX II

A STUDY OF FACTORS THAT DRIVE CHILDREN OUT OF THEIR HOMES TO THE STREET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KISH TOWN .

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GUARDIAN / PARENT TICK WHERE NECESSARY.

1. Name (Optional) _____
2. Age _____
3. Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____
4. Are you married _____ Single _____ Divorced _____
Separated _____ Widow(ers) _____
5. Your place of origin district _____
6. Do you have children? Yes _____ No _____
7. Do you live with them? Yes _____ No _____
8. How many are independent? _____
9. How many go to school? _____
10. If some don't why? _____
11. a) Lack of fees _____
b) Inability _____
c) Other specify _____
12. Have you been to school yourself?
Yes _____ No _____
13. If yes up to what level Yes _____ No _____
14. Do you drink any alcohol? Yes _____ No _____
15. Do you smoke? Yes _____ No _____
16. If yes what do you smoke? _____
17. What do you do for a living? _____
18. What would you do for the children to have a better life? _____

APPENDIX III

A STUDY OF FACTORS THAT DRIVE CHILDREN OUT OF THEIR HOMES TO THE STREET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KISH TOWN. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILDREN OFFICER, PROBATION OFFICER, AND ANY OTHER INSTITUTION CHILD WELFARE MANAGEMENT OFFICER A PERSONAL DATA

1. Name _____
2. Organization _____
3. Station _____
4. Designation _____
5. Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____
6. How long have you worked in this station? _____
7. What are the common factors that you have observed that drive children to live in the street? _____
 - a. Home mismanagement
 - b. Drug Abuse
 - c. Other specify
8. What recommendation would you give in order to control and manage street children? _____
9. Do you think other than your organization other social bodies have a role to play in the management of the problem? _____

10. When doing your work are you faced with any obstacles? _____

11. If yes, which ones? _____

12. From your experience in the field of children welfare what do you recommend in order to alleviate the problem? _____



Two brothers in the street.



Children wasting their time playing in the street.