

**ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN DEALING WITH THE
PROBLEM OF STREET CHILDREN.**

CASE STUDY: DAR-ER-SALAM KINONDONI DISTRICT (TANZANIA)

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DECLARATION

I Ngamilo Peter, here by declare that this piece of academic work is sorely a result of my personal toil and sweat, to the best of my knowledge it has never been presented to any other university or higher institution of learning for academic purposes. This work is the result of my struggle, with the assistance of my supervisor. Whenever I have used other peoples views they have been duly acknowledged.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, the late Mr. Gaitan Ngamilo and angelica Ngamilo. My beloved foster parents Mr. and Mrs. C.H.O. Ngamilo. who sacrificed a lot for my education.

And my twin brother Paul Ngamilo for his entire encouragement.

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My sincere gratitude goes to the almighty GOD for the gift of life, protection and continuous providence. This work has become a reality rather than a dream.

I wish to express with great pleasure my sincere gratitude to the family of Mr. and Mrs. C.H.O.Ngamilo, who have made my education a success, my lovely twin brother Paul Ngamilo for his tireless encouragement, Ngamilo Family and to all my friends who helped me in this research work.

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I thank GOD for having paved way for me whenever it looked impassable to me, you will always be my shoulder to lean on.

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the role of the media in dealing with the problem facing street children. Taking Kinondoni district in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania, as a case study.

I contend that not enough has been done to address the problem of street children; the problem of street children is a nuisance and burden to many developing societies

.
Street children come as a result of poverty, broken marriages and homes, unwanted pregnancies, abandoning of babies at birth, prostitution and disabilities (physical damage of those parents who can not look after their offspring)

So like any other problem which the media use to highlight and helped to tackle like the case of AIDS and poverty, then the problem of street children must also be solved, there must be a solution to this problem.

I feel the media can play a very important role by informing the general public, non-governmental organisation (NGO's) and the Government to come together and find the lasting solutions to the problem of street children.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0) INTRODUCTION

The term street children refers to children whom the street more than their family has become their real home it include children who might not necessary be home less or without families, but who live in situation where there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults.

Since the early 1990s Tanzania has witnessed a visible increase in the number of children living and working on the streets, predominantly due to poverty acting on the family units, children in rural areas/villages believe a better life is easily available in urban areas, due to the limited economic opportunities and services in rural areas, also there is little protection or intervention in cases of domestic violence and abuse, in the village children are treated as property and can be subjected to aggression and violence during domestic disputes, children can feel disempowered by their lack of participation in decisions affecting them and run away to the streets to test "freedom", 22% of children came to the street after being excluded from school (report of 2000).

Many children who end up in orphanage have at least one living parent but have been abandoned because their families are poor, jobless, ill or in trouble with the law. In countries where that has restrictive population control policies or where cultural tradition values boys more highly than girls, babies and girls in particular may frequently be abandoned. In other cases medical persons pressure parents at birth to give up children born with disabilities clamming that parents will be ostracized for raising a disabled child. For financial or domestic reason are often assumed to be defective.³

Faced with this situation, many are forced into crime and confrontation with the general public, signification numbers of these boys and girls seek

temporary relief from their situation through substance abuse. They become trapped in a cycle of poverty, violence and abuse; they constitute a growing highly visible and mobile section of a socially excluded urban underclass, which as it ages, runs increasing risks of HIV/AIDS and conflict with the judiciary.

Boys and girls who live and work on the street are vulnerable to wide and extreme violations of their rights. They have difficulties accusing basic services and are verbally, physically and sexually abused. Few trust adults. May perpetuate abuse on their weaker peers. Although these boys and girls may have a range of skills related to survival and informal income generation, these strengths remain unarticulated and unrecognized by main stream society. This combined with the fact that few of them have benefited from sustained formal education, means that these children generally find it very difficult to earn money legally.

Government treats them as a blight to be eradicated rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. They are frequently detained arbitrarily by police simply because they are homeless or criminally charged with vague offenses such as loitering, vagrancy, or petty theft. They are tortured or beaten by police and often held for long period in poor conditions. Girls are sometimes sexually abused, coerced into sexual acts, or raped by police. Street children also make up a large proportion of the children who enter criminal justice system and are committed finally to correctional institutions (Prisons), that are euphemistically called schools, often without due process. Few advocates speak up for these children and few street children have family members or concerned individuals willing and able to intervene on their behalf.

The public view of street children is overwhelmingly negative. The public has often supported efforts to get these children off the streets, even though they may result in police round ups, or even murder. There is alarming tendency

by source law enforcement personnel and civilians, bossiness proprietors and their private security firms to view street children as almost sub-human.

In many countries around the world, children make up more than half the population. Yet no where are they safe. Life threatening abuses are perpetrated against children on the streets, in schools, in the workplace, in institutions and in combat zone

Most of the children come from regions outside the city, driven from home by poverty, domestic violence and abuse arriving in Dar-es-salaam, they find themselves living and working in quarries, garbage dump and along the fishing wharves, selling on the street or simply begging. Many are picked up by the police for non-attendance at school.

So like any other social problem which the media has highlighted and helped to tackle like the case of AIDS and poverty, the problem of streets children must also be solved. In short there must be a solution to this problem.

I feel the media can play a very important role by informing the society or the need of educating or solving this problem. The government, Private sector, different non-governmental organizations and the Public in general we can work together so that long lasting solution to the problem of street children can be found.

1.1) STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

An increasing number of children are being forced to the streets as results of poverty, abuse, torture and rape abandonment or orphanage by AIDS.

This paper examines Tanzanian's response to the growing problem of street children taking Dar-es-salaam as a case study the paper examines initiatives

that have been and are being taken by various segments of the community to address the problem of street children, what kind of policies and strategies are Tanzania government putting in place, what is the family and community doing? For stance to what extent are families, schools, and individual members of society dealing with the problem? Indeed what is the media role in dealing with the problem facing the street children? What role can non government organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations play in addressing the problem of street children?

I contend that not enough is being done to address the problem and that indeed the problem of street children remains an ignored tragedy that is set to have a devastating impact on the development of Tanzania country. The paper indicates that the response to the problem has at best been muted and remains ignored or sidelined by the government and the general public. Key players who are supposed to play a leading role in finding a solution to the problem have become a major source of the problem. Government policies that embrace Liberalization and the free market economy are contributory factors to the persistent state of poverty and increased hardship with children being affected most. The family which is supposed to be the bedrock of children's welfare and protection is today becoming a major cause of the problem of street children. Parents are sending their children in the street to beg, steal, or engage in petty trade, children are leaving their homes to escape domestic violence or because of the breaking up of family structure. Schools are turning into centers of violence and crime and creating an environment to puts more children on the streets.

I contend that government policies directed by structural adjustment programs are responsible for putting more and more children on the streets as a result of increasing poverty instead of devising policies that will ensure the welfare of children and society in general. The general public pretend not to notice the plight of an increasing number of destitute children on our streets. There is at present no real alarm or outrage from the general public

on the increasing number of children on our streets even though these children face starvation, is at the mercy of unscrupulous individuals and a brutal police force.

The government and the community in general need to put in place viable policies or strategies that will ensure that the plight of street children is urgently addressed. The paper contributes to this task by explaining means and ways that the government and the community at large can play in solving the problem of street children in Tanzania in particular Dar-es-salaam.

1.2) PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to find the solution of the problem by encouraging the media to expose the problems facing these children, To draw more attention to the public, NGO's and Government to come together as a single unity to tackle the problem for the future development.

1.3) OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- i) To build the society of piece and unity
- ii) To explore the causes, impact and solution to the problem.
- iii) To awake the public that the problem is existing.
- iv) To encourage the NGO's to help and attack the problem
- v) To put more emphasis to the media to expose the issues so that the public can be aware about it.

1.4) AIM OF THE STUDY

- The aim of this study is to awaken the media on the issues concerning the street children.

- It is also targeting on analyzing different problems facing street children and how can the media be used to minimize the problem or eliminate it.
- The study aims at reminding the publics about the ignored problem of the street children.

1.5) RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the factors contributing to the street children?
2. What are the problems facing street children.
3. What are the roles of the media in exposing the problem of street children?
4. What are the problems facing the medial in their efforts to enlighten people about the problem of street children?
5. What should be done to solve the problem?

1.6) HYPOTHESIS

It seems media people have closed their eyes about this problem of street children just because they take it as a minor problem.

1.7) SIGNIFICANCE/JUSTIFICATION

1. The finding will be used as a guide line to pressurize the media, general public, government and NGOs to tackle the problems of the street children.
2. The finding will act as a starting point at the height to the people who are interested in this field. It will give the moral to those ones interested in the field to go through it.

3. It will also assist law enforcement authorities which are charged with the duty to protect children in this country.
4. The study will enable the researcher to get equipped with research methods for future purposes and to expose him or her to the issues concerning street children and how to handle/help them.

1.8) SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research is to be done in Dar-es-salaam city particular in Kinondoni district and the study will cover some of the children centers as a case study. Different activities performed by these centers to meet the children demands.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter covers different ideas about the problem of street children prevailing in different parts of the African continent, different remedies done towards eliminating or reducing the problem.

Starting with the twenty-first century, this century presents a hostile face to many millions of children in many African countries. An increasing number of children are being forced to the streets as result of poverty, abuse, torture, rape abandonment or orphaned by AIDS and family breakdown.

Human rights violations against children in the 1990s have become a common and disturbing occurrence in many African countries. Indeed denial of basic human and legal rights including the right to life, liberty and security as a person to children are now a defining feature of the African socio-economic landscape.

This paper examines Africa's response to the growing problem of street children and how the media responds towards the same. Taking Tanzania as a case study, focusing on Dar es Salaam city [Kinondoni district], the paper examines initiatives that have been and are being taken by various segments of the community to address the problem of street children. What kinds of policies and strategies are African governments putting in place, what are the family and community doing? For instance, to what extent the media, families, schools and individual members of society dealing with the problem? Indeed, how is the government dealing with the increasing numbers of unsupervised children living alone in urban streets? What role can the media play in addressing the problem of street children?

As Professor Anthony Peter Kopoka, of the University of Dar es salaam says
“We contend that not enough is being done to address the problem and that indeed the problem of street children remains an ignored tragedy that is set to have a devastating impact on the development of African countries”

In his research done in 2000, he indicates that the response to the problem has at best been muted and remains ignored or sidelined by many governments and the general public. Key players who are supposed to play a leading role in finding a solution to the problem have become the major source of the problem. Government policies that embrace liberalization and the free market economy are contributory factors to the persistent state of poverty and increased hardship with children being affected most.

The family, which is supposed to be the bedrock of children's welfare and protection, is today becoming a major cause of the problem of street children. Parents are sending their children into the streets to beg, steal or engage in petty trade, children are leaving their homes to escape domestic violence or because of the breaking up of family structures. Schools are turning into centers of violence and crime and creating an environment to puts more children on the streets.

also the report by the united nation (2001) as scrutinizing the problem of street children in Egypt suggest that the government policies directed by structural adjustment programs are responsible for putting more and more children on to the streets as a result of increasing poverty instead of devising policies that will ensure the welfare of children and the society in general. The general public pretends not to notice the plight of an increasing number of destitute children on streets. There is at present no real alarm or outrage from the general public on the increasing number of children on streets even though these children face starvation, are at the mercy of unscrupulous individuals and a brutal police force. The government and the community in

general need to put in place viable policies or strategies that will ensure that the plight of street children is urgently addressed.

More over the Guardian limited highlights the problem of street children as follows throughout the world, there are children who drift away from their homes or families of orientation. They are commonly referred to as "runaway" children. Since their usual place of domain is in the street, they are also referred to as street children.

In the urban centers, particularly Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Moshi, etc, a cursory glance is sufficient for one to observe considerable presence of such children. These children are not at school and are separated from the home for the most part of the day with the result that they are deprived of parental care and guidance in their formative years.

The consequences are negatively to social and physical developments for the children themselves and the society as the whole. Apart from figures on child abuse, there is no statistical evidence to substantiate speculation about factors, which influence the occurrence of the street children phenomenon in Tanzania's urban centers.

These children spent their lives time in street, thus being denied some basic rights such as parental care, education, shelter, food and other human necessities .They are usually tardy in appearance, and are often a common nuisance to the average citizen in shopping malls and dump sites. Their presence therefore causes some concern to both the public and authorities.

These children are vulnerable to diseases and in most cases they are exposed to physical and sexual abuse, hunger and the occasional hostile weather conditions. If the phenomenon was to become pandemic, then the labor force could be replaced by a cohort of people least likely to maintain economic standards required in enterprises.

Several factors are usually considered to be responsible for the prevalence of street children. These are conflicts within the family, as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children, single parenthood, poor parenting, poverty, termination of education and peer influence, all of which activate the desire to seek excitement outside parental control.

These, however, are merely speculative because they are based on what has been found from casual observation. About 90 per cent of the children on the streets are boys. The reason for this situation might be that the boys are involved in more visible activities, which take place on the street.

On the other hand, the girls are less visible because they are subject to stricter, less public conditions at home, limiting their freedom to move around and form groups. The age range of people who live on the street is about 5 and 24 years. In most cases the mean age at which children become streetwise is 14.5 years.

They are children of school-going age who could benefit from parental love, guidance and discipline. They however spend the most impressionable period of their lives on the street with dire consequences for their chances in the job market now and in the future. Among the children, it is found that females have higher educational attainment levels than their male counterparts.

Many of the children cite parents' and guardians' inability to meet their school uniform needs, sports fees and feeding fees as reasons for quitting school. About 80 per cent of the street boys are engaged in car washing and petty trading or have no specific occupation. The daily income gained from car washing, in particular, serves as an incentive for children to stay on the street. Generally, the street children have a very bleak occupational future.

With little or no basic education or training in any skills, their job prospects in a highly competitive job market are clearly uncertain. The jobs they do now (i.e., car washing, etc) do not offer any opportunity for development of talents and skills. The most speculative cause of children being on the street is the familial environment, and the most commonly cited cause is the prevalence of single parenthood. Though at variance with beliefs, the majority of street children have both parents alive and living together.

The theory associating street children's syndrome is single parenthood, probably because single motherhood is common. There are, however, strong indications that the street children syndrome is a function of poverty. Yet, poverty does not seem to be an isolated significant factor. It appears that the genetic formation of children plus parental role modeling performance adds to poverty, and contributes to children becoming streetwise.

More over John Freedman of the University of Columbia interviewed the school children and asked them to give their opinion unto why their colleagues resort to the streets, most of the interviewee delegated their complaints to irresponsible parents and unplanned families. As one of the respondent said "our friends frees into streets due to their parental negligence" Indications therefore are that parents and guardians are unable to correctly assess the needs or desires of their children before they run away from home.

Their perceptions regarding children becoming streetwise seem to be based more on what they observe outside, rather than within their homes. It is clear that the street children do not enjoy the best of health. Many eat unhygienic food. For some, the dump site is the source of their daily bread. Generally, their level of personal hygiene is poor. They also show signs of malnutrition and other health problems.

Unlike non-street children, drug and alcohol abuse is common among street

children. Glue is most frequently used to attain a certain level of intoxication. Exposure to these vices is associated with the duration of children's stay on the street. There is a relationship between poverty, delinquency and being a street child. As observed, delinquent children have generally experienced some parental rejection.

Though most adults blame their poor educational performance on teenage pregnancy and failure to concentrate on school work, the street children strongly believe that their parents are largely responsible for their current status. But juvenile delinquency may be partly explained by the gene formation as well as malnutrition at infancy (as well as during pregnancy).

When trying to analyze the media role towards the same, we find that Mass media is one of the best and effective tools through which enriching messages can easily reach the seemingly unreachable. PEC for instance, is an NGO which for seven years has been conducting children programmes in various media, including Radio Tumaini. In March for example, PEC conducted a radio programme on street children and its consequences and some piece on children's rights.

According to the convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) a child has a right to survive, protection, grow, development and participation. As mentioned earlier, a substantial number of children in Tanzania, many children are deprived of those basic rights. To some extent, their upbringing in accordance with some cultures and customs has contributed to this problem. When one considers the ignorance, coupled with the poverty among some parents, the perception of children's rights in such communities is below the benchmarks of the CRC. Thus, to date one finds children who are deprived of access to education and basic health services, have insufficient (or none) intake of balanced diet. In the extreme, some

are even denied of the right to associate with other children and other members of the community.

A study undertaken by Radio Tumaini also found out that children are not protected from physical abuses, including sexual abuses. The society does not appear to pay sufficient attention on such problems. The plight of street children is appalling. Various reasons have been advanced to explain what pushes the children into the streets. Some of the reasons given, were lack of parent(s), ill-treatment by foster-parents, lack of or insufficient food and other such necessities of life, poverty, broken marriages, government cuts in social spending. As to how much such reasons are true, is an issue to be discussed.

Street children live in horrible environments where they are exposed to infectious diseases, such as chorela, HIV/AIDS, harrassment from adults and some policemen and other authorities. This voiceless and vulnerable group of children has no power to defend itself from those dangers, because they are dependants.

In the year 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Convention on the Rights of Children. Tanzania ratified the Convention on 26th May 1991. The Convention applies to all children equally, without regard to the country where they come from, race, sex, language, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth, religion or any other status. However, notwithstanding its ratification, how much the convention has helped to relieve the problems of children in the country, remains to be discussed.

Research undertaken in Tanzania by Radio-Video Tumaini, conclusively suggests that, the plight of children whose voices are yet to be heard, has to be addressed. To begin with, the voices of the so called disadvantaged children, (including orphans, street children, child labourers in harzadous

occupations etc.) needs to be heard for the Tanzanian society to get a first-hand account of the life experiences of such children. For such a programme to succeed there is need for some transmission media.

However most of the media houses in Tanzania ignore the tragedy of the street children in the country. There are few media houses that highlight this problem; in most cases they do so when commemorating world children anniversaries. Also sometimes they engage in such transmission when expecting some benefits, and not advocating for children's rights.

Therefore the research will be carried out to analyse the role of the media in dealing with the problems of street children, due to the fact that the media had shown a very minimal response towards this problem. Also the research aims at challenging the media and the society, so that such voices can be heard and subsequently acted upon.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter shows the various trends the researcher went through his study. It shows the design of the study undertaken. The study is presented in a systematic way to ensure coherent, accurate and consistence information.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher used a descriptive research design involve the use of observation, questionnaires, interviews and library work. The design accessed the information about the role of the media in dealing with the problem facing street children. And this enabled the respondents, street children themselves, people in the community and the media house people to express their feelings and experiences which where to help a researcher in collecting data during the survey.

3.2 AREA OF STUDY

Area of study was limited to Dar-es-Salaam city in Kinondoni district where by the researcher was able to visit and talk to these street children in their care centers. also is from this district that the researcher was able to collect

data from the people who living around these centers and get their view about how they see the life styles, problem faced by these children, and themselves which problem do they face by being near to these street children. Good enough the researcher managed to get the data from this place because the most important place like libraries, media houses and NGOs are located in this area.

3.3 POPULATION DESCRIPTION

The study population was based on street children, the media and other people in the community because in most cases they are victims of the problems caused by these street children. also the study focused the media houses, and NGOs, especially the media, because the media have influence and impact to people, if media has to report anything about the problem faced and caused by these children and attack the public that is responsible for this innocent children, I think there would even the instant solution for this problem and make the society a better place for everyone to leave. Also the study carried to NGOs to see if they have any solution to this problem, because most of these NGOs are donor funded to help and solve any problem appeared in the community and this problem of street children is among of those problem which is supposed to be targeted by these NGOs and wiped off.

3.4 SAMPLING STRATEGIES

The researcher used purposive random sampling where he chose the particular centers and select a number of children, 20 children in total and some people who gave him enough information to achieve his goal. This method was systematic, simple and with this the researcher believes that he achieved the intended objectives.

3.5 SAMPLE SIZE

Demographics of the Street Children Sample

A basic random sample of 50 street children was selected to be interviewed. The sample contained 45 boys and 5 girls who are in constant daily contact with street life. The respondents were selected systematically and the interviews were taken as the representative sample of the entire population under the area of study. The following represents the basic demographic information of the sample selected which can shed light on the nature of the problem in Dar-es-Salaam and give indicators on the real magnitude of the problem:

- **Average Age:** The average age level of the sample selected of street children is 13 years, the average age for the Male group is 13-14 and the Average Age for the female group is 13 years.
- **Educational Background:** Data on the educational levels of street children indicate that 70% of the sample dropped out schools during their primary education, 30% of them has never attended schools.
- **Place of Origin:** Demographic information on places of origin indicted that 88% of the sample came from rural areas, whereas 12% of the sample came from urban areas.

The sample selected reveals that 88% of them are from the Rural whereas 12% come from urban areas

3.6 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Before the actual research commenced, the research get an introductory letter from the faculty supervisor which he took to the relevant authorities e.g. in media houses people, children centers, and other social institutions etc that helped him to get required information in the area of study. And after this is when the series of data collection started as follows;

Total number of 20 questionnaires was supplied, 10 to the media houses, 5 to the people living around the children centers, and 5 were given to the street children who are able to read and write. These questionnaires were collected currently informing the groups to be interviewed and scheduling dates to conducts interviews. The researcher conducted interviews with the street children, media people and the entire public.

3.7 PROPOSED DATA COLLECTION

The researcher used interviews to get first hand and quality data. The researcher conducted face to face interviews to the street children, because it was the easiest way to get the information from them due to the fact that some of them never went to school.

Questionnaires;

20 self administered **copies of questionnaires** were given out to respondents. These were people who knew how to read and write, who have bit knowledge of attacking the question by giving out good and interesting answers.

Face to face interview.

This method helped the researcher get information from those who never had knowledge about reading and writing. This instrument was advantageous in that it provided a conducive environment (situation) between the interviewee and the interviewer. It was also appropriate as data was reached without recourse to constant checking on the respondents as it was the case with questionnaires respondents.

3.8 DATA QUALITY CONTROL

To ensure the goodness and quality of the data, the researcher used instruments of data collection, such as the interview and questionnaires, the questionnaires before it was given out was tested and re-tested in a group of people and see whether they can get the required information.

3.9 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

Quantitative data

Data was analyzed in categories of frequencies and percentage from the groups of respondents in the same line; items were tabulated and distributed according to table with observed references. Percentage of each item was

calculated to determine the trend of findings that was used as basis for drawing conclusions.

These types of analysis enabled the researcher to organize data systematically in reference to the population and determining majority and minority views.

Qualitatively

Interviews were used to identify categories of expectations, values, opinions, strength and weaknesses of the problem under study from respondents. after the result were summarized, organized, and presented in description from which the researcher got general views of his respondents that supplemented the quantitative.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 THE GENERAL RESEARCH OVERVIEW

The research report covers the role of the media in dealing with the problem of street children. Starting with the problem itself, it is revealed that despite the variations in the leading causes to the emergence and development of the problem of street children at the global level, street children in Dar es Salaam shows many similarities to street children worldwide. What emerged from the research is a manifestation of the effect of various interrelated factors leading to the existence of the problem of street children in Tanzania. Poverty, family breakdown, and child abuse and neglect, seem to be the leading causes for the problem.

Many Tanzanians families who are economically marginalized have become seriously dysfunctional, and have placed their children in circumstances that have resulted in such youth leaving home and trying to survive in the often unprotected and hazardous street milieu. These circumstances have included families coming and one by the departure of one of the heads of households, child abuse by the family, and exploitation of the child as a wage earner, by abusive employers.

While the precise magnitude of the problem has yet to be measured, the researcher estimates that there are in excess of more than 20,000 children residing in different streets of Dar Es salaam city, if children working in areas where they cannot be seen or reached, such as home-servants or those who work in other areas that do not necessarily entail direct contact with the

street setting, and those who are at risk or vulnerability, are added to the list. Once on the streets, they discover that it is a very scary place, indeed, and that they lack many of the coping mechanisms necessary to establish a stable and secure life.

80 percent of the children are exposed to real or constant threat of violence from employers, hostile-abusive community members, and their peers, Ignorant about health, hygiene, and nutrition and deprived of services to protect them, street children are a malnourished sub-population subsisting on an inadequate diet. Lack of access to medical services due to the type of life they lead means that skin diseases, lacerations from fights, intestinal illnesses, and infections go untreated. Functionally illiterate (70 percent of the sample were school drop-outs, 30 percent had never attended schools in the first place), their life survival rely on dustbins, begging, or thieving.

While two-thirds of these children, are already in a governmental and non governmental institutions care centers. These children have a sense of what they would like their lives to be (i.e., stable blue collar work as mechanics, carpenters or drivers), and even have a general understanding of what they need to "get there", (i.e., literacy, vocational training) and few have nothing like a conception of how to craft a strategy to realize this vision. Complicating this situation is the fact that even though there have been many governmental and non-governmental efforts to deal with the problem of street children in Tanzania, still relatively few resources exist to help them.

When focusing on the media as the major area of our concern about their role in dealing with the problem, we realize that the existence of street children is reestablished due to the little attention taken by the media especially in enlightening the people about the problem, also acting as a bridge to link these children and different care centers. Many institutions

and organizations had shown the willingness to help these children however there is a huge gap in linking these children to where they can be helped.

The difficulties are highly contributed by poor communication. Children are scattered in different corners of the city thus makes it hard for charity organizations to easily collect them. Not only have that but also sometimes children themselves become reluctant to this organization due to lack of understanding and fear of being kidnapped , maybe it is because sometimes other people takes an advantage of street children in the name of help. Some people use these innocent children to fulfill their sexual desires by defiling them and other form of mistreatment. Therefore if media could have came inn, and enlightens the society about this problem and the existence of charity institution in different areas, the problem could have been minimized to the minimal level, and in a long run it could be totally eliminated.

This report gives the clear analysis of the street children, factors causing their existence, and the problems facing them. It also covers the role of the media in dealing with the problem, the problems encountered by their daily execution of their roles and the efforts made to eliminate the problem and at the end the research will give the suggested solutions towards the problem.

4.2 WHO ARE THE STREET CHILDREN

Stroll through a market or past a hotel or at the roadside of any major street in the center of most African capitals, towns or urban areas and you cannot fail to see them. They are stopping cars and people to beg or to ask for work. You will see others shining shoes, selling sundry articles of uncertain origin, or hurrying to wash the windscreens of cars stopped at traffic signals. Yet others would be roaming around or gathered in small groups waiting for

something to do. When you look at them closely -their faces show strain and sadness, their clothes are ragged and dirty, others appear hungry suffering from ill-health and malnutrition. There is something mature beyond their years in their haunted expressions. At night, you can see them huddled along street corners, in doorways, in any dry and secluded corner. They are the representatives of a growing multitude of children who have become known as the "street children".

The problem of street children is a growing problem worldwide, more so in African countries. The presence of large numbers of children sometimes as young as three on the streets in urban areas was virtually unheard of prior to the transition to a market economy. It is now a growing problem in most African cities and towns. The problem requires urgent attention as it threatens the very fabric of society. A starting point would be to get an understanding of who these children are and the factors that turn them into street children.

The definition of street children adopted by this paper is that of children under the age of eighteen who spend most of their life on the streets. There are those who live permanently on the streets "children of the street" (Lugalla, 1995). These live and earn their 'living' on the streets. There are also those who earn their living on the street but do not necessarily live on the streets. These spend most of their time on the street but usually return to some form of a 'family' unit where there is some kind of supervision or control.

This group includes an increasing number of school children that spend most of the day on the streets. All these are considered as street children in this paper. The problem of street children has been growing steadily in the last two decades. An estimated 10 million children in Africa live without families, mostly in towns as 'street children' (UNICEF, 1984:39). One main characteristic of the "children of the street" is that they live alone in streets,

without proper or reliable shelter; they have lost contact with their parents and, as such, they do not enjoy parental protection, love and care (Lugalla, J & Mbwambo, J, 1995). Street children share the streets with millions of adults, many of whom regard them as nuisances, if not as dangerous mini-criminals. What most of these children actually do on the streets is, of course, work. Children who live and work on the streets often come from slums and squatter settlements, where poverty and precarious family situations are common, where schools are overcrowded and poor, and where safe places to play simply do not exist. Yet other children come from middle class or well to do families who run away from their homes. The number of street children has increased in places experiencing armed conflict, like Freetown (Sierra Leone) and

Monrovia (Liberia) not only that but also in big cities and towns, where parents or caretakers have been killed, the economy disrupted and family and community ties severed. Poverty is also forcing an increasing number of street children on the streets. In some instance it is parents or guardians who send the children to work on the streets to support their families and others are forced on the streets to find food and shelter which is not forthcoming from their families.

Not only in war areas but also in big cities and towns street children are increasing day after day. The reasons behind the increase are effect of HIV/AIDS, poverty and other reasons.

Street children face untold hardship and danger on the streets. The lack of food, clean water and adequate health care. Living and 'working' on the streets exacts a terrible toll on street children. They are often playing to every physical and moral danger and as they grow older they often become a danger to others. After such precarious childhoods, most of them are condemned to spend their lives excluded from mainstream society.

4.3 FACTORS FOR THE STREET CHILDREN

Generally, the problem of street children in Dar es Salaam cannot be related to a single cause or factor. Unlike the situation in other countries where a single cause such as extreme poverty, civil wars, or natural disasters might be the leading cause, the problem of street children in Dar Es Salaam is multi-dimensional in which a combination of factors often leads to a single child ending up being on the street.

Research observed that street children in Dar es Salaam show a multiplicity of factors leading to the emergence and development of the problem. In this research it seems that the leading causes of the problem are poverty, unemployment, family breakdown, child abuse and neglect, dropping out of schools, child labor, the effect of peers, and other social and psychological reasons related to the social environment or to the personality of the child such as 1 behavioral disorders or sensation seeking. Also since 1980s the problem have been intensified due to HIV/AIDS which has led to an increase number of orphans who in most cases, these children migrates to the streets to search for means to sustain their lives.

To avoid such generalizations, data analysis of the primary data collected revealed that the reasons behind the emergence and development of the problem can be divided into two main sets of factors: paving or indirect causes which pave the way for the emergence of the phenomenon but do not directly cause the child being on the street, and direct and immediate causes which lead to the problem of the child residing on the street away from home, which were indicated by street children themselves as reasons for being on the street. Such an approach was similarly carried out by various other researches done on street children and child labors in Dar es Salaam.

a) *Indirect causes:* Interviews with the sample of 50 street children revealed that the paving or indirect causes or factors were:

1. Low income and educational level of the family (98% of the sample come from low income level families, whereas 66% of them were low educational level families),

2. Family breakdown (62% of the sample come from broken families due to divorce, separation, the death of one or both parents, imprisonment of a parent or both, or extreme sickness of a parent or both),

3. Dropping out of schools or education (70% of the sample dropped out of schools, whereas 30% of them have never been to school),

4. Family size (the average family size of the sample was 54% persons per family),

5. Unplanned rural-urban migration (18% of the families of children were originally from other governorates before moving to reside in Dar es Salaam

6. The declining role of the extended families, especially in urban areas (46% of the sample indicated that they had no relatives to turn to when facing problems).

b) Direct and Immediate Causes: These are the causes which street children of the sample referred to as the direct reasons for their street existence, and included:

1. Child Abuse (whether by Family or at Work)

2. Neglect

3. Peer pressure

4. Poverty

4.4 PROBLEMS FACING STREET CHILDREN

Living on the street, with no supervision, protection or guidance often makes street children vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards. The following are the types of problems street children (the sample of 50 street

children) referred to through the interviews as direct and immediate problems they face and which affect their existence while living on the street.

- **Violence**
- **Community disapproval**
- **Police arrests**
- **Robberies of savings**
- **Health problems**
- **Inability to cope**
- **Lack of attachments**

4.4.1 Violence

Most street children of the sample interviewed 86% stressed that violence represents a major feature of their everyday life, and is a determining factor in developing their abilities to be able to cope with street life. Violence normally takes place through 3 main channels:

1. Violence within the small children groups, either by peers or by older street children, especially when they get drowsy and under the effect of the substances they consume,
2. Violence from the surrounding community, whether through other people on the street who tend to exploit them, or by the community itself as a reaction to their existence in particular settings and areas where their presence is not appreciated, and
3. Violence while working, either through the employers or through other peers working in the same place, such as when selling items on the street in areas where other people or children exercise control.

Violence normally ends in cuts and bruises to the children, since it often entails fights. Children normally carry razor blades to defend themselves in case others attack them. Many children expressed that sexual abuse is a common problem to most street children, especially the young new children and females, which is often associated with violence against them.

4.4.2 Community Disapproval

48% of the sample considered community disapproval as a major problem they face on the street. Street children are not totally welcomed in specific areas or communities, based on their general appearance and behavior. In most cases, people tend to drive them away and sometimes have to use violence against them to get them to move to other areas. Accordingly, most street children tend to exist in small groups when walking on the streets in order not to draw the attention of the people and get protection from one another.

These findings are rather important especially when designing out-reach programs to deal with street children through drop-in centers, or when deciding to use community mobilization for action to deal with the problem. NGOs, especially those new to the field, have to pave the way through contacting people in the community to gain their trust and acceptance before initiating such projects in their areas; otherwise the community dwellers might resist those program and activities.

4.4.3 Police Arrests

Many street children (36%) fear that they might be arrested by the police, and in the process, be sent back to their families or to institutional care. Of the latter, they have no idea about the services or care such institutions provide, but street lore among such children paints a negative image of government-sponsored residential institutions. On the other hand, street children know that when caught, they will be sent back to their families or to the non-supportive atmosphere they escaped from. Without prior effective efforts to change that negative family situation, in most cases they will end up being on the street again—to repeat the same vicious circle.

Raising awareness among police officers and social workers dealing directly with cases of exposure to delinquency is very important in changing the nature of service provision. In particular, enabling security officers to gain an appreciation of the culture of poverty and the need to address its symptoms at their core; i.e. within the family, will strengthen their understanding that in many cases, street children need to be understood as victims rather than criminals, and lead to promoting family-based treatment. Adopting new laws and procedures to guarantee that family-based treatment is the most proper social setting for the child is vital.

4.4.4 Theft of Savings

Another major problem many street children (18%) expressed is their inability to save money while living on the street due to the threat of being robbed. Such a problem has its impact on various other aspects related to the

life of children on the street, which, as indicated by street children, include the following:

- Savings insecurity puts pressure on children to immediately spend their daily earnings, whether on food, entertainment, or drugs.
- Savings insecurity exposes street children to violence since many exploiters think that children save the money in their pockets or under their clothes.
- Inability to save limits the children's abilities to think of initiating their own income-generating projects while living on the street. Many street children have tried to save money to start their own income generating projects and failed for this reason.
- Inability to save limits the child's hopes and prospects for the future.

4.4.5 Health problem

Various health problems, which were referred to as "minor health problems" by street children, were identified, and included: Headaches, Heart pain, Chest pain, abdominal colic, renal colic, Back pain, Blood in the urine Shortness of breath when running. Cough, Wounds and bruises, Diarrhea, Dental problems, Fever, and Discharges from the ear.

The most common types of health complaints among street children were headaches, giddiness, and palpitation, which can be considered as indicators of the presence of anemia among them, as well as reaction to substance abuse.

The reasons why street children are more vulnerable to diseases than others is connected with their personal unhealthy habits while being on the street, which include eating exposed and dirty foods, lack of personal hygiene due to sleeping on the streets and working in various unhealthy environments, and washing in streams and fountains in public squares. The pattern of health

seeking behavior of street children is consistent. Very few, especially those who brought to the care centers go to public hospitals or refer to NGOs for medical help. Self-prescription of medicine is common among them.

4.4.6 Inability to Cope

Many street children explained that they normally suffer from various psychological problems while living on the street, which are often associated with their inability to “cope with street life”. These problems became clear when discussing the various unhealthy symptoms and psychological problems many of them share, and included:

- Many of them urinate at night while sleeping,
- Many of them have constant nightmares,
- Many of them cry for a long-time for no particular reasons.

Many street children, despite the amount of entertainment they encounter on the street and peer support, find themselves unable to cope with street life, especially during their early days of living on the street. These symptoms are believed to gradually disappear with the amount of time children spend on the street and become fully socialized and able to cope with street life through their own defense mechanisms and coping skills. Data on the psychosocial adjustment of street children will clarify this point.

4.4.7 Lack of Attachments

Almost 8% of the sample stressed that they suffer from the lack of attachment and affection. This point is based on other determinants including age, time spent on the street, period of detachment from their families, reaching puberty and other personal factors. Many street children normally feel

estranged and mostly alienated due to the way they are treated by the community at large, even with peer support and encouragement.

4.5 THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE STREET CHILDRENS

4.5.1 Drug abuse

Data revealed that almost 60% of the sample interviewed use substances/drugs on a habitual basis. This indicates that substance abuse is a major problem among street children that should be dealt with.

The types of substances/ drugs consumed by street children, as revealed by the RSA, included:

1. Cigarettes (tobacco);
2. Glue;
3. Bang (marijuana)
4. Hashish;
5. Tablets (valium)
6. And many of them use a combination of substances

The first two substances, according to street children, are substances that are for sale and easy to get or buy in the market (although there is a law that prohibits the sale of cigarettes for children). The other types of substances consumed are directly affected by the market principle and the availability of certain types of illicit substances/drugs. This means that special restrictions should be made with regard to both types of illicit substances

The reasons why street children turn to substances/drugs, as they explained, are:

- Relief from the pressures of the street;
- Peer pressure;

- To sleep easily;
- To be able to endure pain, violence, and hunger. The last two reasons indicate that substance abuse among street children might be viewed as part of their coping mechanisms to deal with street life, to endure stresses and to deal with problems of food, hunger, pain, and restless nights.
- Many health and risk factors are associated with substance/drug abuse among street children, which include behavioral and health risk factors. Behavioral risk factors include stealing, begging, quarrelling, telling lies, or being sexually abused. The physical risk factors include chest troubles, intestinal, nutritional, and skin diseases.
- Street children turn to substance abuse due to the effect of peers, and on the basis of the duration of time they remain on the street without guidance or protection.
- Substance abuse among street children often entails congregating.
- Most street children accept other street children's drug habits, even those who do not consume substances (supporting normalized environment).
- The surrounding community, in most cases, does not support the street children's drug habit. This leads to street children hiding their drug habit, and consuming substances/drugs in areas or locations where they cannot be seen (non-supporting environment- no normalization of drug abuse).
- Most street children know of the negative effects of substance/ drug abuse on their health and behavior. They mainly learn by doing and through their basic subculture.
- None of the NGOs has a program that deals directly with substance abuse among street children.

4.5.2 Spread of transmitted diseases

Street children have developed a different perception of health issues. They mainly view sickness as related to "inability to move" rather than being affected by or infected with a particular disease. This refers to the etiology of how sickness is perceived among them, and to the lack of knowledge on major health problems they leads to the spread of transmitted diseases, for example in the eruption of pandemic diseases. Various health problems, which were referred to as "Minor health problems" by street the children have a great impact to them and the society as a whole.

The reasons why street children are more susceptible to diseases than others is connected with their personal unhealthy habits while being on the street, which include eating exposed and dirty foods, lack of personal hygiene due to sleeping on the streets and working in various unhealthy environments, and washing in rivers and fountains in public squares. These habits are very harmful to the society; because this child lives within the society thus any unhealthy habit has a direct impact to the society. For example air pollutions, water and land pollution caused by these children. Not only that but also these children positions themselves in different places of the city thus making the city congested and unpleasant to viewers.

4.5.3 Violence in the society

Due to the life style of these children, they are always violent thus causing havoc in the society. They engage in theft, violent begging, the use of abusive language and other immoral acts. In most cases these happens because they

lack an important counseling and other informal teachings that could mould their behaviors and conducts in the society.

4.6 THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN DEALING WITH STREET CHILDREN

The major aim of the media is to investigate the legal and social status of street children. the media have to talk to children about where prejudice comes from information supplied by such children can help dispel myth and misrepresentation about street children in particular and other people in general. Thus, it is of significant for the media to give them platform to talk their experiences.

Many street children fail to achieve their potentials because they spend their lives in the streets. It is the role of the media to encourage the general public and different governmental and non governmental organizations to put more emphasis in helping the street children to meet their potentials. This can be done by using the media as a tool for campaign in raising the desire to help the street children. Also the media can be used to advise these children through different programs and financial assistance.

Media organizations should address and inform the public about violation of the rights of children and issues related to children's safety, privacy, and security their education, health and social welfare and all forms of exploitation. Street Children have an absolute right like other children and they must be given equal rights as other children.

Journalistic activities should touch on the children matters, their lives and welfare of these children. The media should always be carried out with appreciation of vulnerable situation of street children. Journalists and media organization must strive to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in reporting children's affairs and in particular the street children who in most cases they are neglected by the society. In this case the media should publish different information about street children and which will motivate the people to take the issue of street children into consideration.

Journalists should avoid use of stereotype and sensational presentation to promote journalistic material involving street children. To give, where possible the right to access to media to express their own opinions without inducement of any kind. To ensure the independent verification of information provided by children and take special care to ensure that verification takes place without putting child informants at risk. Uses of fair open and straightforward methods for obtaining pictures and where possible obtain them with knowledge and consent of a guardian, adult or caregiver.

Verify the credential of any organization purporting to speak for or to represent the interest of street children the media professionals should not make any payment to organizations when presenting material involving the welfare of the children unless it is demonstrably in the interest of the child.

Media professionals should put to critical examinations the reports submitted and the claims made by government on implementation of the UN convention on the rights of the street children in their respective countries. Still media should not consider and report the conditions of children only as events but should continuously report

the process likely to lead or leading to the occurrence of these events. Also the media should consider the sequence of publication any material concerning children this shall minimize harm to street children.

The local media's role is to report the news accurately, factually and objectively for

Tanzanians. The local media have an important role in the nation building effort. They can raise awareness of what is happening inside and outside Tanzania and educate Tanzanians for the various issues including the problem of street children in the country.

Local media must not lose sight of its core responsibility to serve the people including the street children who are in most cases ignored. The media has an ability to influence the hearts and minds of the people, have a major influence on public opinion. People can be swayed by what they see on TV or in the bold newspaper headlines. The media role is to inform and educate Tanzanians without compromising the nations overriding issue of street children. Hence the media policies should be formulated to bring about a free and responsible media not only to able people but also less privileged people in the society, street children being the centre focus. In Tanzania and some other countries, the media is the fourth estate. This model has evolved out of such countries social and political developments. The media in that case could have taken the role of setting the public agenda, campaigning for a serious plan in diminishing the problem of street children or against irresponsible parents. And what the media can do may work will have a totally different result existence of street children.

Nation building is a key role of the media because no foreign media will do it for the country. It is the duty of Tanzanians media to do its part for national education and values. This will help to build a strong national consensus and social resilience to enable Tanzanians to respond cohesively and rationally to

the problem of street children. The recent increase of non governmental organizations, governmental children care centers is an example of how the media has played its part in informing and educating the public about the problem of street children. one amongst the media programs is the so called "SAUTI YA WATOTO"(children's voice) broadcasted by Radio one and an Independent Television(ITV) had a played a great role in exposing problems facing these children, also acting as a bridge to link them with different centers and other charitable organization including the people who are willing to help these children.

Also through the media the government had adopted a transparent and frank approach in dealing with the street children. The media is now involving in speculation and sensitizing the public about the extent and magnitude of the problem instead of rushing out the latest sensational story which may end up demoralizing and panicking the public.

The media is working with the Government to get full and reliable reports out as quickly as possible, putting developments in context and explaining what people could do protect the tomorrow's generations. Their graphics of how the problem increases, and how the problem can be tackled, is the masterpieces in public education and communication. As a result, the country is able to introduce effective countermeasures promptly, such as home quarantine, and maintain public support for them. Well-informed Tanzanians are more calmed, confident and socially responsible in the national fight against street children.

The responsible and objective paradigm for the local media does not mean that alternative viewpoints and concerns cannot be articulated and raised for public discussions. Criticisms of policies or alternative perspectives are always welcomed but they must be carefully researched and presented separately from the news reporting, clearly identified as view of the writer or commentator. With competition, the local media have grown adept at

presenting news and reactions of the people to various issues. And Tanzanians including the street children are not afraid of giving their views on government policies to reporters on how the problem of street children is being tackled. For example the coordinator of Dogodogo centers in Kinondoni Mr. Richard Mbowe presented his view by writing to the Forum Pages of one of the local news paper called *Majira Newspaper* (27 June 2003) As he said "What remains in appropriate is for the media to editorialize in its reporting of the news or to report the news with a twist just to be different. Doing so will confound readers as to the intent and impact of the issues being reported upon.

The media must expect robust criticisms and difference of opinions. This is part of the democratic process. But the media must be prepared for robust responses from the government. If the Government remains silent, it may be misinterpreted by the public as a sign of weakness and over time, erode confidence in the Government. When journalists want to campaign for eradication of the street children problem viewpoints or issues, they should not do so from their media positions which give them unique opportunity to influence the public. They should do the campaign declare their intention of campaign as directly".

More over Mr. John Byalugaba the editor in The Daily News Paper says "I know that the task of the local media is not an easy one. Apart from its role in forging national consensus, the local media also need to respect the sensitivities present in our multi-racial and malt religious society it must also put more wait into the serious issue of street children". It can be remembered the furious reaction when a senior journalist in 2000 used what she thought was an innocuous figure of speech to describe the problem of street children in Dar es Salaam. This shows how the media is concerned about the problem however much the task may be challenging, but journalist tries their level best to make sure that the work is being done well. Our press standards have developed over the years.

The Daily Times and the Guardian Newspaper are well regarded in the region and beyond, as credible, reliable sources of information about street children. TVT is acquiring the same reputation. This achievement did not come by easily and was gained despite occasional dismissive remarks by critics that the Tanzania media was Government controlled and only a mouthpiece.

4.7 PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MEDIA IN DEALING WITH STREET CHILDREN

Tanzanians media lacks fund to make a wide coverage in the media, thus the issue of street children is sometimes ignored, due to poor facilities to cover them also poor knowledge and skills to many journalist who can't handle this kind of coverage. This is due to the fact that a lot of investigation has to be done so as to corporate with these children. The street children are in most cases violent and reluctant due to the nature of life they live in the street. for these children to be incorporated a special knowledge, skills and facilities must be available. Thus for these children to be involved in the media there is a need to allocate enough finances and skills to both journalists and their media houses. Thus the research has discovered that most of the media with such kind of coverage are governmental for example the Tanzania Television is the only station having a wide coverage about the street children, Radio Tanzania and the Daily Newspaper they all belong to the government.

More over due to privatization the media has become more commercial oriented than service providers. Media is meant for business and for profit making as a result media owners dictates what they believe it will be of benefit to them. The issue of street children is in most cases ignored when no body is behind it to pay for its coverage. Therefore the media owners' strife

to make profit and not to serve the society's problems. Private media owners sometimes recruit people who are not qualified in journalism to escape the running costs. Most of these journalists do not have the knowledge to handle the issue of street children. for example in most of the FM stations when asked why they seem to ignore the issue of the street children they pointed out the problem of insufficient skills to handle the matter including the problem of lack of specialization in their coverage. For example one of the respondents a presenter of PRT FM station said, the issue of street children can not easily be handled because in most cases they involve a legal matter that's why many journalists avoid them to keep themselves safe from defamations and encroachment of privacy.

More over the wrong altitudes among the media people on which foreign programs are more than local ones, leads to the lack of seriousness in local matters including the issue of street children in the country. For example in this research the data shows that the Tanzania media highly values the so called the western journalistic functions on which they in most cases deals with analysis , interpretations and investigation of official claims instead of what is real happen in the ground. This is the constrain because it is until people mentality is changed then the media will never be in position in dealing with the problem of street children in Tanzania.

The media have incredible power to help Tanzania come grips with the challenges of street children, and despite work by some trailblazing reporters and editors; these findings demonstrate a lack of capacity and a lack of courage in the media. The authorities and responsible people in Tanzania have to wake up to the crisis-and the media is an absolutely critical component.

The fact is that many journalists are poorly trained and they lack knowledge in several areas, they lack of skills and the difficult environment in which they work, limited material resources, such as computers and tape recorders,

little time to spend time out of the news room researching stories. Thus they find difficult to provide sustained coverage of the story in a meaningful way.

Moreover many radio stations in Tanzania has no recording studios to conduct different programs which can be aired out for some time and let the public hear what is going on, at least this would make them near in whatever happening in the society and involving them in giving out ideas and opinion of whatever they think about as a part of the solution to solve the problems.

Bad enough media people who contributing to the development of the country by researching and giving out the information to the public are the ones who are not respected by any one in the society, people undermine them as if they doing something which is criminal, and sometimes you may find people abusing them whenever they pass with no reasons, and this creating gape between them and the public hence they lose morally and cooperation with the people in the society, thus they don't bother so much in dealing with the matter facing the publics rather than reporting whatever they think is right for them to do so. Wages is another problem facing media people, most of the media workers in Tanzania they get very low wages at a month and yet they have a lot of assignment to accomplish and in some cases journalist have to pay their own way to travel to assignments, and when looking well at this problem of street children is not easy tasks for them just to go strait and starting investigating the matter, its hard, they must have something in their pockets at least to offer when getting information from them and their management behind doesn't recognize this and what they want is only information from them.

Another problem which facing the media is the juniorization of the profession this is another phenomenon with negative implications for quality children care journalism. This process, which seems senior editorial staff move into managerial roles-out of the media, altogether into more

lucrative jobs in publication relations or government –leaves younger, less experienced reporters in their places. That contributes to an environment of low status and low pay for reporters, weakening the media coverage even more.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY

The research covers the role of the media in dealing with the problem of street children. Starting with the problem itself it is revealed that despite of the variations in the leading causes to emergence of development of the problem of the street children at the global level. Street children in Dar es Salaam show many similarities to street children world wide.

What emerge from the research are the manifestations of the effects of various interrelated factors leading to the existence of the problem of the street children in Tanzania. Poverty, family breakdown and child abuses and neglect, seem to be the leading cause of the problem.

When focusing on the media as the major area of our concern about its role in dealing with the problem we realize that the existence of the street children is reestablished due to the little attention taken by the media especially in enlightening the people about the problem also acting as bridge to link these children to different care centers.

Many institutions and organization have shown the willingness to help these children however there is a large gape between them. The difficult is being contributed by poor communication in the society.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

- In solving this problem is for the media to address the issue of poverty. Street children come from the poor families and if poverty was properly addressed then it would be milestone in solving this problem

- Also as the powerful tool which effectively influence public opinion the media can highlight the lives of street children and the kind of danger they pose to our society so that we can all chip in and serve ourselves from this menace.
- The media can play the role of enlightening the public about preventive or precautionary measures so as to avoid unwanted pregnancies, early pregnancies, abandoning of babies after birth and means of fighting poverty. Through proper research the media can try to find the root or cause of the problem and give it proper coverage so that the society may know that this is the problem which ought to be solved.
- If the media can play the role of promoting peace and human rights then it might as well initiate trust fund and centers which may take in the street children and rehabilitate them.
- The media must shoulder the responsibility by bringing to everyone's knowledge about the problem and advocating that probably everyone should be involved in finding solution to this problem.
- Also the government should increase its role as a watchdog and ensure that the society get all the services it is suppose to get for stance education, social services and welfare, medical and access to information regarding health care. The government has to take tuff measures in fighting grafts within its departments because these has lead to various officials amassing wealthy and looting public funds thereby by creating problem of street children.

The funds meant for various services don't trickle or get down to the intended people because corrupt officials divert it for their selfish gains.

- Lack of proper planning and failure to attend to priorities which may bring about development and in particular eliminating or removing the gap between the haves and those who do not have.
- The media should create awareness through well prepared and careful made. Such as adverts, feature and documentaries charitable activities, huge organization to extend their corporate social responsibility (CSR) to these unfortunate members of the society.
- Advocacy and Awareness Raising: Although the media supported programs targeting the issue on television and in the papers, a guided strategy for effective advocacy and raising awareness has to be implemented, in cooperation with media professionals and governmental agencies involved.
- Development of long-term effective policies to deal with problems related to urban-poverty and carrying out effective rural development programs to decrease the rate of rural-urban migration. Planning should involve NGOs, especially those working in areas related to community development and urban planning.
- Developing effective short, medium, and long-term policies to deal with school drop-outs, and developing child oriented literacy education curriculums through media campaign.
- Widening the scope of health insurance policies to include all members of the family, including street and working children.

- Street children should be able to have access to governmental vocational training, without the pre-requisites of legal credentials. Such a project is strongly supported by all NGOs working with street children that believe in the efficacy of the vocational training programs provided at the governmental level, which street children should benefit from mobilization” and how to make use of community resources especially in areas related to mobilization of voluntary action, raising awareness, and local fund raising seem to be basic needs for most NGOs working with street children.
- Helping NGOs through training in identifying available community resources that could be mobilized for action, such as youth clubs (similar to the project of the General Association for Child Protection in Dar-es-Salaam), local hospitals, health clinics, and vocational training centers, and finding means for establishing joint projects with local community development NGOs that work in areas is needed.
- A center-based approach is needed to develop the capacity-building of NGOs that provide residential care for children, and aim through its center-based activities to deal with the problem of street children. Support to this approach can be carried out through the following:
 1. Supporting the activities of NGOs that provide residential care to street children, especially children in need of full residence.
 2. Producing a brochure or a “Directory of organizations working with street children in Tanzania.
- Establishing joint action in terms of family-reunion. A proposed project can be carried out between the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs working in Dar es salaam in terms of family reconciliation through the governmental” Family Reconciliation Bureaus” available in all cities and towns of Tanzania. Training on methods of family-to-family program is also needed.

- Supporting the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation system in NGOs, which can act as basis for overall evaluation of the tasks performed, and guideline for effective planning. Training NGOs interested in dealing with street children on methods of street intervention and provision of rapid assessment. The Manual could be designed to target special issues of intervention such as substance abuse, health, community mobilization, or simply rapid assessment.

- Carrying out training programs to service providers on methods of street education.

- Legal support should be given to street educators

5.3 Conclusion

The task of helping street children seems Herculean. Clearly it cannot be achieved simply by injections of money, or by merely passing laws. Mere material improvement trickling down to the community level will not help either: All these efforts may even aggravate matters unless they are accompanied by programs which will allow children to develop their potential and by a softening of punitive attitudes towards street children by authorities.

There is no longer any reason for governmental complacency. Children are Tomorrow's generation's future and the country must invest in them in no uncertain terms. The presence in cities and other urban areas of large numbers of disgruntled young people can be politically destabilizing. They are prime targets for those prepared to use violence as a political weapon. Street youths-tough, ruthless, unattached, half-educated, intellectually vulnerable and familiar with secrecy, deception and the subversion of authority-can be perfect recruits. The street children and street youths of

today can be the guerillas and terrorists of tomorrow. The problem can no longer be ignored.

What is clear is that if Tanzania is serious in its efforts to promote children welfare it must pay urgent attention to the plight of street children. There is at present no real alarm or outrage from the government or general public on the increasing number of children on our streets. These children face starvation, are at the mercy of unscrupulous individuals and a brutal police force and often die from preventable diseases.

It is argued here that the welfare of children, particularly street children cannot be advanced in a situation of declining human development. African governments must introduce measures, which will offset the increasing excesses of the free market economy. The idea of a welfare state, which will oversee the protection of children and other vulnerable members of the society, cannot be sneezed upon. Indeed it is important to highlight that the pioneers and most capitalist of states have in place strong measures which protect children and other vulnerable members of society.

The tragedy of Africa is the introduction of crude and unhindered liberalization as a strategy of economic and social development. This trend must be reversed in the interests of our children and future generations. We conclude by emphasizing the observation that it is inconceivable that the welfare of children can be advanced in an environment of increasing mass poverty, conflicts and wars. It is in this regard that efforts must be done to ensure sustainable development on the African continent.

APPENDICES (A)

FINANCIAL PLAN (BUDGET)

ACTIVITY	COST IN Tshs	COST IN USD
1)Designing instrument and Stationary	150,000	150
2)Field familiarization	100,000	100
3)Pre testing cost	60,000	50
4)Field allowances for Data collection	250,000	250
5)Data analysis cost	100,000	100
6)Binding expenses	30,000	30
TOTAL	690,000 Tshs	680 USD

APPENDICES B

TIME SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	PERIOD	OUTPUT
Proposal writing	Jan-Feb 2005	Proposal submitted for approval
Field familiarization	Feb.2005	Initial information collected
Development research developed instrument	Feb-March 2005	Research instrument
Data collection	March-2005	Data coded and entered
Data analysis	April-2005	Data analyzed
Preparation of report	May-July 2005	Ready Dissertation
Submission of report	Early July-2005	Submitted

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