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A Study on Assessing Survival Mechanisms Adopted by Children Living in the Street, in Case of Ubungo District, Mbezi City, Tanzania

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Abstract
This article analyses the survival mechanism adopted by children living on the streets, In case of Ubungo District, Mbezi city, Tanzania on Oct 2023.Street Children are among the vulnerable in the society. Many of them live on the Streets, because of domestic violence and sexual abuse in their families. They face persecution from sex tourists and from different gangs. In regard to the life of Tanzania, Extreme poverty and rapid urbanisation has led large populations of children to migrate to the streets of Tanzania's cities. Even many families send their children to work rather than sending them to support the families. Street children continued to be victims of various problems as they live in the societies. This Article assess the survival mechanism adopted by children living the street.

Introduction

Street children are poor or homeless children who live on the streets of a city, town, or village. Homeless youth are often called street Children. Definition of children living in the street is contested, but many practitioners and policymakers use UNICEF's concept of boys and girls, aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. Some street children, notably in more developed nations, are part of a subcategory called thrown-away children, consisting of children who have been forced to leave home. Thrown-away children are more likely to come from single-parent homes. Street children are often subject to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or, in extreme cases, murder by "clean-up squads" that have been hired by local businesses or police. Street children can be found in a large majority of the world's famous cities, with the phenomenon more prevalent in densely populated urban hubs of developing or economically unstable regions, such as countries in Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia. According to a report from 1988 of the Consortium for Street Children, a United Kingdom-based consortium of related non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNICEF estimated that 100 million children were growing up on urban streets around the world. Fourteen years later, in 2002 UNICEF similarly reported, "The latest estimates put the numbers of these children as high as one hundred million". More recently the organization added, "The exact number of street children is impossible to quantify, but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. It is likely that the numbers are increasing." In an attempt to form a more reliable estimate, a statistical model based on the number of street children and relevant social indicators for 184 countries was developed; according to this model, there are 10 to 15 million street children in the world.

Background

The survival mechanism adopted by street children can be viewed globally and locally. Street children continued to be victims of various problems as they live in the societies. Globally, According to UNICEF (cited in Ferrara, 2005) it is estimated that in 1994 there were 11 million children living in the streets of India, while other groups put the number as high as 18 million. Two in three are male. While the majority is

between 11 and 15 years old, a large percentage belongs to the 6-10 age groups. Some estimates put the number of street children living in India's six most populous cities at 500,000, more than100, 000 are found in Delhi alone (Ferrara and Ferrara, 2005). There are no comprehensive and reliable statistics on how many children are living on the streets in Bangladesh. Estimates predict a continuous increase of street children in almost all cities of Bangladesh (UNICEF, 2007). According to a baseline survey by Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE) in 2005, 679,728 street children (53% boys and 47% girls) were estimated at six major divisions in Bangladesh, of them, 249,200 in Dhaka, 55,856 in Chittagong, 20,426 in Rajshahi, 41,474 in Khulna, 9,771 in Barisal, and 13,165 in Sylhet division. An increase was also projected for a total of 1,144,754 street children in 2014 and 1,615,330 in 2024 (Rahman and Rahman, 2013); UNICEF, 2007; BIDS & UNDP, 2004; DSS & UNDP, 2001). The phenomenal growth of street children particularly in metropolitan cities is one of the major concerns in Bangladesh. Children who are defined as street children are not born on streets. Harsh realities coerce them to survive on the streets with an array of social exclusions and push them to working and having food by stealing, begging or other means that are ultimately the result of abandonment of their destiny on the streets (ARISE, 2001; Mannan, 2004; Hasan, 1990).

Human Rights Watch (HRW) (1997) reported that there are between 1 500 to 5 000 street children in Guatemala, 65% of whom are between the ages of 10 and 17 years, with 3% being below the age of 10 years. Approximately 90% of these youths are addicted to chemical inhalants, and begging, stealing and prostitution is their main source of income. The rate of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and infections is also reported to be on the increase. This study was conducted in 1991 on 143 Guatemalan street children it was found that many of the children had left home because of sexual abuse. Many of them are sexually active with multiple partners, and there is minimal contraceptive use. It was also found that all the youths in the sample abused drugs daily. In Bulgaria, the unemployment rate is estimated to be 70% on average, and as high as 90% neighborhoods. It is thought that the depressed socio-economic status of this country is coupled with inadequacies in the Bulgarian educational system that is linked to children living on the streets. A study done in 1996 by the HRW found that many street children come from large families and report leaving home because of parental unemployment, family relationship problems, single-headed households, lack of parenting supervision or care at home, and sometimes even hunger (HRW, 1996). HRW also reported that, once on the street, children were often subjected to abuse by the authorities. Many of these children had reported being thrown in prison, sexually abused by police, forbidden food or not given access to toilet facilities for lengthy periods of time. These children also reported often being beaten with electric shock batons, chains, clubs or metal rods, or their heads were frequently dunked in water, while applying electric shocks to their feet (a practice referred to as 'falaka') (HRW, 1996).

In Addition, Many street children in Latin America, who either live or work in the streets of developing countries, are impoverished. Although most are still in contact with their families, almost all street children spend a significant portion of their days working on the streets for money. As the population of street children in Latin America has grown, public opinion of street children has decreased, putting them at risk for victimization and abuse by strangers and public officials. Many non-government organizations have begun rehabilitation and outreach programs to treat the growing population of street children. Street children in Latin America generally fall into two categories: home-based and street-based. Children "on the streets" are home-based; they work on the street during the day but have homes and families that they return to at night. Children "of the street" are street-based; they spend all of their time on the streets and do not have homes or contact with their families. In Latin America, street children are commonplace, everyday presences. They are street workers, and street entertainers, as well as beggars and thieves. Although street children may occasionally prostitute themselves, child prostitutes and victims of human trafficking are not generally considered street children. There is no clear consensus on how many street children exist in Latin America, mainly because of the difficulties in identifying and defining street children. Some studies claim that as many as 45% of children in Latin America are street children, 75–90% of whom are home-based. Number estimates of street children in Latin America range from 8 million to 40–50 million.

Locally, children living in the street in case of African countries like Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Republic of Congo. Over 120 million children around the world are homeless, and 30 million are in Africa. Thousands are in this African country. It's difficult to establish how many children live on the street in Tanzania. In 2021, the government conducted a study in the country's six main population centers and counted at least 5,732 homeless children (4,583 boys and 1,149 girls). Poverty is a major cause of street children especially in Tanzania. Africa is today a continent characterized by extreme poverty. It is poverty that is resulting in children being forced to work on the streets to support themselves and their families. It is poverty that is also causing many families to break up with parents being unable to support their children. It is rural poverty that is making rural populations including children to move to urban areas with the hope of a better future. Poverty causes malnutrition and poor health and reduces a family's ability to work thus creating conditions for children to move to the streets. More than half of the annual deaths in Tanzania and other Sub-Saharan African countries are caused by infections and parasitic diseases. In contract, these diseases cause only 5 per cent of the deaths in developed countries and about 20 per cent of the deaths in Latin America. Because most deaths from infections and parasitic diseases can be prevented through public health measures, immunization, and adequate health care, this heavy death tool in Tanzania is a testament to the depth and breadth of the country's poverty and the low level of economic development. The most affected are children. It can be argued that poverty is a major cause of street children. Counting the homeless street children population accurately, whether adults or children is extremely a difficult task because of the high mobility of this population (Osman; 2001) .The number of street children in Lilongwe city including Malawi is not known but some organizations offering services to street children just have the statistics on the number of street children that they have assisted (Kaponda; 2000). For instance, Chisomo Children's Club indicated that it has worked with 2,055 street children since its establishment (Chisomo annual report).

Reliable Factors Driving Children to Live on the Streets
The main cause of children coming into the streets are

poverty, family status. Child abuse and migration one place to other urban cities. Africa is today a continent characterized by extreme poverty. "The yawning gap between the rich and the poor has led the society to be divided into the "haves" and the "have nots" (Bujo; 1997) in Egypt. While most of the world struggles to get their daily bread and become poorer and poorer, the minority monopolises many resources and become richer and richer. Getui points out that poverty is the major factor behind the plight of street children. It incorporates unemployment, lack of food and lack of educational opportunities. This makes life at home difficult. The option is to look for alternative ways of meeting one's needs. In Kenya it is estimated that more than half of the population live below the poverty line (Muiruri Grace). ANPPCAN reports that the main origins of street children in Nairobi are from the slums. Slums are areas where poverty is at its peak. Most of street children in Nairobi claim to belong or to be associated with the slums such as Mathare, Kariobangi, Kawangwale, Embakasi and Mukuru (Getui; 2000). In Venezuela, for example, of the 5,000,000 children below age six, over 4,000,000 of them are potential street children owing to the bad living conditions of their parents (Fred B 2002). Necessities like education are far from being affordable. This makes children vacate homes and look for greener pastures on the streets where they become at the mercy of the passers- by. Malawi with a population of about 14 million people out of whom about 45% are children was ranked the 13th poorest nation in 2004 (UNDP Development Index, 2004). An estimated 65.3% of the population of the rural population and 55% of the urban population live in extreme poverty, meaning that they earn below US$1 per day. Of the total population 85% are dependent on subsistence farming for survival (UNDP, 2005). Kaponda (2000) indicates that many street children in towns are mostly a result of poverty.

According to research done by ANPPCAN (1995) in Nairobi, Kenya, street children take to the streets because of poor relations at home, leading to frustrations, overcrowded homes, hence they consider street as an alternative home. Ebigbo, (1986) observes that some street children prefer street life to family life because of poor relations in their families. Wainaina, (1981) indicates that some children find their homes both materially and morally depriving for example, the parents brew chang"aa, abuse alcohol and mothers welcome as many boyfriends as possible. Thus, some children opt to take to street life because of their dislike of what goes on in their homes. According to a research done by Hussein (1998) in Cairo 82% of street children indicated that they were forced to escape or leave their homes and reside in the streets because of maltreatment, abuse and exploitation they witnessed.

From both parents, fathers, step fathers, step mothers, older brothers or relatives, and while working informally in shops .Abuse, in most cases took the form of severe beating and insults for trivial mistakes .Hussein further points out that majority of the street children explained that neglect led them to have direct dairy contact with street life due to various reasons such as lack of parental supervision, parental attitudes to the children as burdens due to large family size, sickness of parents/guardians, fathers who favour females to males or the opposite, and neglect due to divorce or separation (Hussein, 1998) in Cairo.

According to another study carried out in India (2007) 42% of Indians total population was children. It was also pointed out that children are abused in the country emotionally, physically, economically and sexually.

Traditional practices such as children marriage, caste system, female feticide, child labour, devotes and tradition increased children's vulnerability (Bose, 2003). India has the largest population of street children who suffer from destitution, neglect, abuse and exploitation and it estimated that in urban areas alone there are 11 million children on the street. These children have their rights abused. They have their daily lessons on the streets. They learn to survive in the streets. They learn to go hungry for hours, they learn to eat whatever is shoved towards them, and they learn to take risk by jumping signal, running after cars. Bose (2007) pointed out that some children are forced to street life by their adoptive families who keep all the taking including little food that they get from dustbins. Young children of unwedded mothers and sex workers are taken to far places and abandoned in railway stations bus stations. Kariuk P. (1999), in Nairobi, Kenya Urban areas hold considerable appeal for many poor rural residents, as they believe they will achieve their hopes and dreams there. Eventually, however, they encounter a harsh reality that destroys the dream that originally pushed them to the city. Immigrants to the city from rural areas are more willing to take a wide range of jobs to provide for their family. Since they are in a new environment, they feel fewer obligations to follow the strict social controls and constraints that they obeyed in their places of origin. For example, a study on street children in Zimbabwe showed that between the 1920s and 1950s, indigenous farmers between 10-14 years of age used to go to urban centres where offices and imperial institutions were situated. There they worked as servants and guards in the houses of white and black citizens. In urban towns, children worked for the black supervisors in companies, for example, as cooks or cleaners. Sometimes, they offered sexual services to workers who lived in poor neighbourhoods.

Survival Approaches Adopted by Children Living in the Streets

This part of the Article explores means of survival for street children and the youths as they live on the streets. Despite numerous challenges children adapt to the life on the streets and they devise means of earning for a living. According Orme and Seipel (2007) in Ghana found that all the children that they interviewed in Ghana either worked or sought opportunities for work. They state that some children even had several jobs to support themselves. Begging for money or food was considered unacceptable behaviour. Aptekar (1991) found out that in Bogota many of the street children had benefactors, some of whom were former street children or friendly restaurant owners who gave them food in exchange for minor services. Common ways of earning money on the streets include begging, selling cigarette, odd jobs, carrying customers' parcels, guiding cars in parking areas, caring for and washing cars and selling newspapers, fruits and flowers (Tudoric Ghemo, 2005). Ferrara and Ferrara (2005) state that on the streets, children are employed in myriad occupations. Some help in the cleaning of railway platforms and train compartments. Others dedicate themselves to what is the quintessential job for street children like rag picking which consists of rummaging through piles of garbage searching for rags, plastic or any item they may be able to place on the second-hand market. This type of jobs for street children is common in India and the south Asia region. It is important to note that jobs for children living on the streets vary from place to place.

According Adugna (2006) said that some children are involved in illegal activities such as pick pocketing, stealing watches, cell phones, ornaments, etc. in busy streets, market places and bus stations. Older street children order smaller ones to pick pocket as their size is small and comfortable to steal. Some street gangs composed of older ones usually attack people and take money during the nights. Those who are involved in illegal activities often have behavioural problems and are usually addicted to drugs. Although these are marginal, it is widely cover by the media, literature and reports and conveys negative image of street children. However, Ward, Tamasane and Seagar (2007) through their work in Durban concluded that street children are vulnerable to threats by existing gangs, who may force them to carryout petty thefts for them. Criminality may have been a strategy used by the children to survive, and may result primarily from needing to support a substance abuse habit, or from pressure from other established criminal groups.

In Addition Prostitution With limited survival options selling sex is usually one of the few choices that street children have (Motala,2003) states that engaging in survival sex is common among boys and girls on the streets as often this may be the only commodity they have to sell. It is reported that up to half of the street youths' boys and girls trade sex for money, food, drugs or a place to stay (Kipkey, *et al*, 2005). The consequential effect of this is usually pregnancies or sexually transmitted infections (STIs). A study conducted by Kriger and Richter (2003) indicated that providing for their needs for food, shelter or protection often takes precedence over sexual protection or the risk of contracting STIs or HIV/AIDS infection (Kruger and Richter, 2005).

Methods

This part of article describes various methods that will be adopted by the researcher about the study to be conducted. The study will include the research design and methods, the location of study, target population, sampling methods, the sample size, the research instruments, construction of research instruments, data collection procedure. Dawson, (2002), defined research design as the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In simple terms is a plan of action to be carried out in connection with a proposed research work. Research design will help the researcher in various ways as they planned in advance the methods that were used in order to collect relevant information and techniques to be used in the research analysis. In addition, it as well provided a guideline kept in view of the objective of the research and availability of time, money and human effort. It will be recommended that preparation of the research design should be done with great care as any error may upset the entire project. Designing process aid researchers to arrange ideas in a form where it would be possible for them to look for flaws and insufficiencies.

The article analyses the data which would be carried out by using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The methods will help in proper execution of the data which was collected in order to show equal validity of results. Qualitative research is research dealing with phenomena that are difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, such as beliefs, meanings, attributes and symbols. The method aims at discovering the underlying motives and desires, using in depth interviews for the purpose. Qualitative method is defined as the research method that focuses on obtaining data

through open-ended and conversational communication. It seeks to answer questions about why and how people behave in the way they do. The method is not only "what" people think but also "why" they think so. It provides an in-depth information about human behavior. The qualitative method is designed in a manner to help reveal the behavior and perception of a target audience with reference to a particular topic. Quantitative method-The approach is usually associated with the social constructivist paradigm which emphasizes the socially constructed nature of reality. It is about recording, analyzing and attempting to uncover the deeper meaning and significance of human behaviors and experience, including contradictory beliefs, behaviors and emotions. Researchers are interested in gaining a rich and complex understanding of people's experience and not in obtaining information which can be generalized to other larger groups. The method is based on the measurement of quantity or amount. It usually involves collecting and converting data into numerical form so that statistical calculations can be made and conclusions drawn. It is as well concerned with subjective assessment of individual or group attitudes, opinions and behavior. This type of method in such a situation is a function of researcher's insights and impressions. Such an approach to research generates results either in non –quantitative form or in the form which are not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis. Under this technique focus group interviews, projective techniques and depth interviews are used. Quantitative research is generally made using scientific methods, which can include: the generation of models, theories and hypotheses, the development of instruments and methods for measurement, experimental control and manipulation of variables, Collection of empirical data., Modelling and analysis of data, Evaluation of results. The method has various advantages of quantitative research and these include that, quantitative research allows the researcher to measure and analyze data, the researcher is more objective about the findings of the research. Quantitative research can be used to test hypotheses in experiments because of its ability to measure data using statistics. Some of the disadvantages of quantitative research are such that the quantitative research is the context of the study or experiment is ignored, quantitative research does not study things in a natural setting or discuss the meaning things have for different people, a large sample of the population must be studied for more accurate results. However it also used the qualitative research method as it enabled to liberally interact with participants of the non-governmental organization when gathering data, so that different perspectives could be captured accurately. It also helped to understand social life and the meaning that people attach themselves to the everyday life. And this study was conducted in Mbezi city. Located in Ubungo district, which is in the central region of Tanzania.

Sampling is the process of selecting essential sufficient members from the population so that the study of the sample and understanding of its properties or characteristics would make it possible to be generalized, (Salazar, 2009). The reason for sampling is to investigate and examine every element of the study. Therefore, there are two methods of sampling which are probability sampling and non-probability sampling method. Probability sampling method types include simple random, systematic, and stratified and cluster sampling, while non-probability includes quota, snowball, convenience and purposive sampling. Simple random sampling -

The simple random sample means that every case of the population would have equal probability of inclusion in the sample, (Parveen, 2017). Examples of simple random are: tossing a coin, throwing a dice, lottery method and blindfolded method. Stratified sampling-According to Showkat (2017), stratified sampling is where the whole population is divided into strata or subgroup and a random sample is taken from each subgroup. A sub group might be based on company size, gender or occupation. Stratified sampling is often used where there is a greater deal of variation within a population. This is because want to ensure that stratum is adequate. Systematic sampling-The technique that is used by selecting randomly the population list and taking every single unit equally spaced, and then there is need to select a single cluster (Graham, 2017). Systematic random sampling is also a technique for creating random probability sample in which each data is chosen at a fixed interval (Parven and Sowkat, 2017). Sample sizes are number of observations taken from a population through which statistical inferences for the whole population are made (Burnerister, 2011). Sample size could be large or small. The large sample size would help to determine the assumption. The study therefore, used a sample size of 100 where 70 respondents responded to questionnaire papers, and 30 participants answered the interviews.

Data Collection
Data will be collected after obtaining permission from the center for social rehabilitation center as well as respondents themselves. The director would help by directing the researcher to the necessary targeted population who were to take part in the research process. It is important as the researcher should get support from the chief who will enable respondents to feel liberated and comfortable to provide required information. The questionnaire and interview questions were formulated with regard to specific research objectives. Two instruments which were in the form of multiple choice questionnaire, and the interviews were interpreted to the participants as they were formulated in English language. They would be presented to both respondents and participants for collection of data. The questionnaire would be used closed ended questions, so as to collect more information at once and the interview followed an interview guide in forming the questions. After designing the questionnaires, would be therefore given to the respondents so that they could tick, or cancel the questions, and then were collected within the same day. The face to face interview was conducted during the study, and this helped as there was no second hand information. Data will be collected using interviews face to face interview and closed questionnaire. During the interviews the field notes would be jotted down and the interviews would be recorded using a voice recorder. When conducting the interviews there were only two people, the interviewer and the interviewee. The face to face interviews would allow the researcher to collect in-depth data on the experiences that the unemployed women had in the society. So face to face to face interview and close end questionnaire would be possible because in cases of misunderstandings the interviewer was probe and asked follow up questions for clarification and in-depth information. In terms of questionnaire, the researcher would be used self-administered questionnaire and some words were paraphrased for the women who were informants to understand the question. The interviews took an average of five hours. Therefore, the quantitative data would be analyzed using

Statistical Package of Social Science and qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis.

In addition, the researcher would be caution in meeting the street children in the street, because spread of malaria. The government would restrict and it give an order that all street children should be taken off the streets, and organizations were also taken the street children in their homes, this was so to avoid the spread of the virus. The researcher could be faced challenges when it comes at locating street children as they were scarce to find in town due to order issued by the government. Despite the challenges face by the researcher, successful results would be obtained disregarding the demands of many some respondents made after filling the questionnaires.

Results
This part of article explains results and interpretations from the study on the survival mechanism adopted by children living in the streets of Mbezi city. This section have two sections the first sections contain response rate, demographic variables (gender, age, etc.) and the second section has also presented findings according to each objectives.

Figure 1 presents targeted a population size of 100, both respondents and participants; where 70 respondents were children living in the streets and all were reached and gave positive feedback and this presented the response rate of 100%. However, 30 participants were children living in the guidance of organization and organization's staff members involved in most outreach activities, and were interviewed on issues of survival mechanisms of street children. The interview successfully yield positive results as expected.
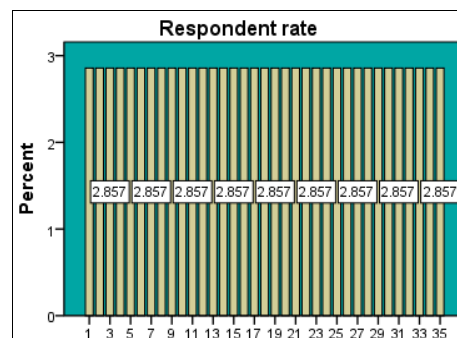

Fig 1: Respondent Rate

Figure 2 presents the street children that were interviewed were both male and female. The results of the study conducted in the streets of Mbezi city showed that there were more males than females living in the streets. Boys that were interviewed were 46 which presented 65.7% and 24 were which 34.3%. Therefore, the study has explored that more boys than girls live in the streets of Mbezi.
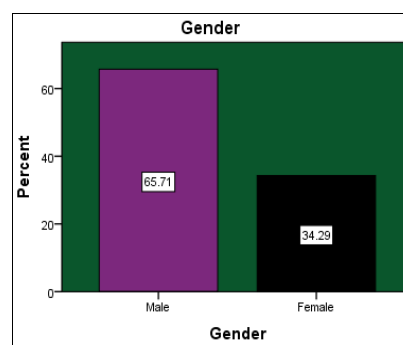

Fig 2: Gender

Figure 3 presents the research findings showed that most respondents were between the ages of 7-10 years old which presented 37%. Those between 11-15 years old were accounted for (48%) and the age that had higher number was 15-18 which is (14%) of the street children, respectively (figure 4.3.2) shows that more of the children in the streets are the youth which shows that they have survival skills.
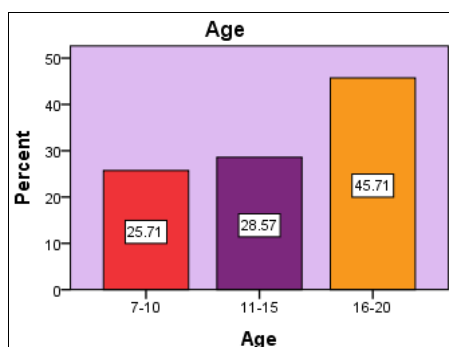

Fig 3: Age Range

Figure 4 Results portrayed in the table shows that most of the street children approached were at primary level (82.9%) this shows many children dropout of schools to go and live in the streets due to the challenges faced at the respective homes. Those children with no education level (17.1%) most the children with no education where born on the streets live on the streets with the family, the table below shows the results of education level.

Behavioural Characteristics of Children Found in the Streets

As Table 1 below indicates the results of survey shows street children are involved in illegal activities on the streets, strongly agree (68%), agree (20%), strongly disagree (2.9%) and disagree (8.6%), if we combine strongly agree and agree this proves that many of the children take part illegal activities such as theft, drug dealing. This was also proved by (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999) said that, Street children are subject to dangerous and illegal activities such as drug dealing, crime, theft and gang activities (UNCHS, 2000) these illegal activities are done because they want to survive in the streets. However, many of them also undertake legal economic activities such as parking, car washing, baggage loading and others).

Table 1: Involved in illegal activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	48	68.6	68.6	68.6
	A	14	20.0	20.0	88.6
	SD	2	2.9	2.9	91.4
	D	6	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Street children involved violence

Figure 4 present the result of the study shows that children are involved in violence, strongly agree (45.7%), agree (20%), strongly disagree (22.9%) and disagree (11.4%).these results show that most of the street are perpetrators of violence in the streets, some commit the crime so that earn living and protect themselves some of the respondents said that the street have different gang they the two groups provoke each other this may cause violence where they two groups get involved in big

fight where same street children are injured. While same respondents said they intend to attack innocent people that move in towns just to steal them. This statement was proven by (Aufseeser 2014) While much literature on street children presents them as victims in need of rescuing, another strand of thinking regards street children themselves as perpetrators of violence will refer to street children as gang members, delinquents, or criminals instead of as children or will talk about the potential risk that children in the street face to become criminal.
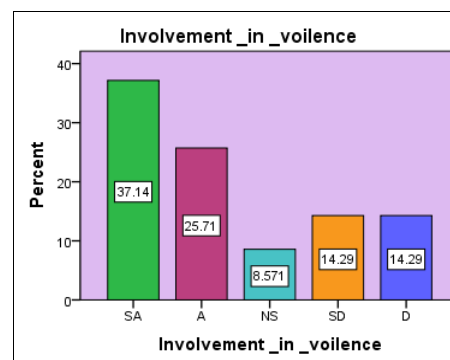

Fig 4: Involvement in violence

The Challenges Faced by Street Children

Table 2 presents Victims of violence in the streets Street children are victims of violence in the streets, strongly agree (77%), agree (14%), not sure (2.9%), strongly disagree (2.9%) and disagree (2.9%) from the results of study has shown that many children face violence in the streets. Some of the respondents said that raped by the police and civilian in the streets, they are also add that during night time of the civilian come collect money, shoes and clothes if they try to resist they beaten up. According (Human Rights Watch interviewer, 2005, street children mentioned the particularly abusive nature of soldiers and military police who are responsible for security in the town. According to one seventeen-year-old street boy, it is the military police, not the civilian police, who approach them at night and take their money, shoes, those who resist are beaten. Girls living on the street may trade sex for money. Many are survivors of rape and sexual assault, sometimes of multiple gang rapes, and so a street girl may also trade sexual favours with several members of her immediate group in exchange for protection from older street boys and men. Like street girls, street boys are at risk of sexual abuse and many are survivors of rape by older street boys and men. Young street boys and those who have recently arrived on the streets are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault. Therefore, most finding of the research has proven that street children are victims of violence.

Table 2: Victims of violence challenge

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	54	77.1	77.1	77.1
	A	10	14.3	14.3	91.4
	NS	2	2.9	2.9	94.3
	SD	2	2.9	2.9	97.1
	D	2	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Table 3 presents face difficulties in accessing quality food Street children find it difficult in accessing good quality of food in the streets this is proved by the results of the study

strongly agree (85.7%) Agree (14. 3%).most of the respondent said babies born on the streets lack nutrition diet food, this leads to malnutrition, anaemia and vitamin deficiencies. because the body's natural system of immunity weakness. According to Habib F, (2007) even though many street children can usually get some amount of food to eat, they do not have nutritious or balanced diets. Malnutrition results from a combination of causes or factors and conditions. Low birth weight arises from poor maternal nutrition. These results were also proven by (Neelam R, Priya W (2014) observed that, Irregular eating habits and food quality below the standard of nutritional requirement have made street children susceptible to health problems. Nutritional deficiency is one of the factors that increases the risk of developing infectious diseases to an individual cannot afford proper and balanced diet meal.

Table 3: Accessing quality food challenges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	60	85.7	85.7	85.7
	A	10	14.3	14.3	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

The Survival Techniques Adopted by Children Living on the Streets

Table 4- presents Beggary as survival strategy used by street children strongly agree (91.4%) and agree (8.6%) these results show that many children use beggary as survival strategy. street Children baggy for food and money. According to Street children, and families beg in public spaces such as shopping areas, cinema and theatre halls, stadiums, churches, mosques, busy streets or at the junction near traffic lights, café's, among others. Begging is a principal means of income. However, working street children mostly are not involved in begging as they consider it as a shameful act.

Table 4: Beggary survival strategy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	64	91.4	91.4	91.4
	A	6	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 presents Practicing prostitution as survival strategy, strongly agree (28.6%), agree (22.9), not sure (17.1%) strongly disagree (11.4) and disagree (20%).the results shows that many street practice prostitutions earn a living. The respondents that where older girls with children agreed to practice prostitution just to make money and some girl exchange protection with sex. Some of male respondent on the street also do practice prostitution to earn living as well and protection as well. This was also proven by Motala (2003) said that with limited survival options selling sex is usually one of the few choices that street children have states that engaging in survival sex is common among boys and girls on the streets as often this may be the only commodity they have to sell. It is reported that up to half of the street youth's boys and girls trade sex for money, food, drugs or a place to stay (Kipkey, O'Conner, Palmer and Mckenzie, 1995). The consequential effect of this is usually pregnancies or sexually transmitted infections (STIs). A study conducted by Kriger and Richter (2003) indicated that providing for their needs for food, shelter or protection often takes precedence over sexual protection or the risk of contracting STIs or HIV/AIDS infection (Kruger and Richter, 2005).

Table 5: Prostitution survival strategy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	20	28.6	28.6	28.6
	A	16	22.9	22.9	51.4
	NS	12	17.1	17.1	68.6
	SD	8	11.4	11.4	80.0
	D	14	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	70	100.0	100.0	

Conclusion

The main objective of the study was to assess survival mechanism adopted by children in the living in Mbezi city. According to the specific objectives, the first objective was to find out the behavioural characteristics of children found in the streets according to the finding of statement shows street children were risk takers, as shown by many who agreed and strongly agreed. Street children acknowledged as victims of violence faced in the streets, the results showed that children were indeed exposed to street violence. The second objective of the study was to identify the factors driving children to live on the streets of Mbezi, the study found that poverty drives children to live on the streets. The results of the study showed that domestic violence in homes pushes children to live in the streets just to be free. Parental negligence is one of the factor driving children to live on the street. The results of the research show that family dissolution drives children to live the streets. The third objective of the study was to find out challenges faced by street children in the streets. The results indicate that Street children are victims of violence. The survey proved that Street children have no health care are prone to get infected with disease. Street children have difficulties in accessing good quality of food. Results shows that street children do not have proper shelter to sleep at night. The fourth objective was to explore the survival mechanism adopted by children living in the streets. Beggary is a survival strategy used by street children for them to earn living. Study showed that Street children do piecework as survival strategy. The results indicated that Handpicking in dust bin is a strategy to survive. The results of research showed both girls and boys practice prostitution as survival strategy technique. Street children are involved in small scale business to earn living. Pick pocketing and stealing is used as survival strategy by the street children this was proved by the results of the study that where conducted in Mbezi city. At last, this study aimed at assessing the survival mechanisms adopted by children in living streets in Mbezi city, Tanzania, Results have shown that street children find it difficult to survival in the streets. They face challenges and use dangerous and different strategies to survivor that will affect the health status and put life at risk in order to earn living.

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