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A Study on Exploring the Impact of Community-Based Interventions on the Well-Being and Rehabilitation of Street Children in Case of Chamanzi Ward, Temeke District, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

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Abstract

This research investigates the impact of community-based interventions on the well-being and rehabilitation of street children in Chamazi Ward, Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Street children in this area face severe challenges including homelessness, poverty, and exploitation. Community-based approaches aim to address these issues by leveraging local resources and involving stakeholders to provide comprehensive support. However, the effectiveness of these interventions remains uncertain. This research explores the intersection of socio-economic factors, institutional support systems, and sustainable change affecting street children. Data was collected through interviews, focus groups, observations, and surveys involving 100 participants, including street children and support organization staff. Findings reveal that street children primarily rely on informal labor (42%), scavenging (48%), and petty theft (12%) for survival. Social support networks, particularly street families, offer critical emotional and practical support but also face challenges such as internal conflict and limited access to formal services. This research highlights the need for more effective community-based interventions and advocates for enhanced support and protection for street children. By providing insights into the challenges and survival mechanisms of these children, the study aims to inform better strategies for their well-being and reintegration into society.

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Introduction

In Chamazi Ward, Temeke District, Tanzania, street children grapple with the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, and exploitation. Community-based interventions offer a beacon of hope, aiming to support these vulnerable youth in breaking free from adversity. However, the effectiveness of such initiatives remains uncertain. This study seeks to delve into the complex dynamics shaping the lives of street children, exploring the intersection of socio-economic factors, institutional support systems, and and sustainable change. Through this comprehensive analysis, the study endeavors to shed light on the challenges faced by street children and advocate for their rights and dignity in Chamazi Ward, Temeke District.

Background

In the sprawling urban landscape of Temeke District, particularly in Chamazi Ward, the plight of street children is a visible and persistent challenge. Defined as children who live and/or work on the streets without adequate parental care or supervision, street children in Chamazi face a multitude of hardships stemming from poverty, family breakdown, and social exclusion (UNICEF, 2017). The phenomenon of street children has been exacerbated by rapid urbanization and economic disparities, which have pushed many families into precarious living conditions and forced children onto the streets in search of survival (Mtebe, 2016). With an estimated population of over 600,000 street children nationwide, Tanzania grapples with the formidable challenge of ensuring

the rights and well-being of its most vulnerable citizens, particularly in urban centers like Temeke District (UNICEF, 2020).

The significance of addressing the well-being and rehabilitation of street children cannot be overstated. These children are not only deprived of their fundamental rights to education, healthcare, and protection but also face heightened risks of exploitation, violence, and substance abuse (Mkenda et al., 2015). Moreover, the cycle of poverty and marginalization perpetuated by street life can have far-reaching consequences, not only for the children themselves but also for their communities and society at large (UNICEF, 2019). Investing in the well-being and rehabilitation of street children is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for fostering social cohesion, economic development, and sustainable progress in Tanzania.

Community-based interventions play a crucial role in addressing the complex needs of street children in Chamazi Ward. Unlike top-down approaches, community-based interventions leverage the strengths and resources within local communities to provide holistic support to street children (Bryceson et al., 2003). These interventions engage community members, religious leaders, and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment conducive to the well-being and rehabilitation of street children (Embleton et al., 2016). By fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion, community-based interventions empower street children to break free from the cycle of poverty and marginalization, ultimately facilitating their reintegration into mainstream society.

Data Analysis and Interpretation
This chapter presents the findings of the study, which investigated the survival mechanisms adopted by street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The analysis incorporates both qualitative and quantitative data collected through interviews, focus group discussions, observations, and surveys.

Response Rate
The study targeted a population size of 100, both repliers and actors; where 50 repliers were male children and 40 were female children abiding in the streets and all were passed and gave positive feedback and this offered the reaction rate of 100%. Still, 10 actors were children abiding in the guidance of association and association's staff ingredients involved in utmost outreach conditioning, and were canvassed on effects of survival mechanisms of road children. The interview successfully yield positive effects as anticipated.

Demographic Characteristics of Participants
- **Age**

The majority of the participants were, categorized between7-10 years old and 11-15 years old, with a smaller proportion falling within the 16-18 years age range.
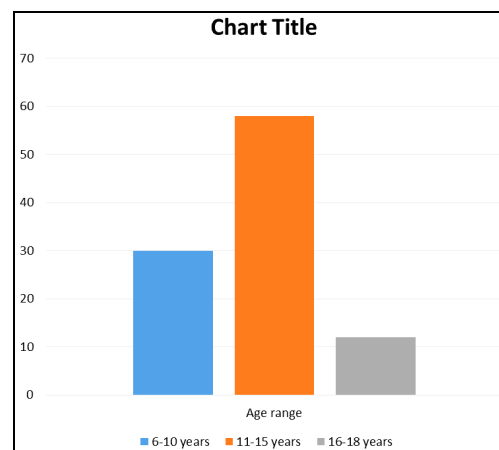

Fig 1: The Age Varying Indicator of Street Children in Chamazi Ward, Temeke District

The chart shows the percentage of street children who are reportedly are found in the street and in which a large proportion of 11-15 years are largely found in the street. The y axis shows the percentage rate of proportion of street children, while the X axis shows the range of age of street children who in this case tends to be largely affected and found in the streets. Whereas range of 5-10 years showed a 30% of children living in the streets while a large portion was 58% of 11-15 years old children live in the street, and a small portion of 16-18 years children represent only 12 %.

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- **Gender**

The sample was predominantly male, with a significantly lower number of female participants. The street children that were canvassed were both male and female. The results of the study conducted in the streets of Temeke District showed that there were further males than female living in the streets. Male children that were canvassed were 60 which presented 60% and 40 were female children which represent 40%. Thus, the study has explored that more male than female children live in the streets of Temeke.
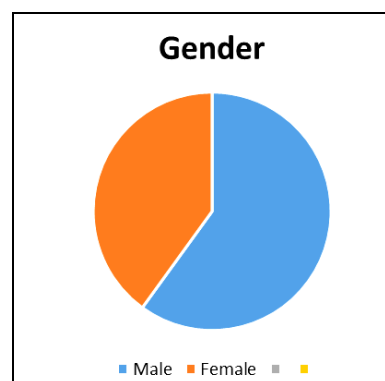

Fig 5: Gender Variation of the Children Living in the Streets.

The chart above explains the variation of gender as male gender is largely found in the street rather than female gender. That is most boys are found in the streets compared to girls.

- **Time on the Streets:** The participants had been living on the streets for varying lengths of time, ranging from a few months to several years.
- **Survival Mechanisms:** The study identified a range of survival mechanisms adopted by the street children, grouped into five key categories:

Economic Activities

- **Informal Labour:** Most participants engaged in informal labour such as shoe shining, car washing, vending, and begging. They often faced exploitation from employers, receiving low wages and working long hours. A sum of 42% of street children in Temeke District have engaged in informal labour as a mechanism of surving.
- **Scavenging:** Many children resorted to scavenging for recyclable materials, particularly plastic and metal, which they sold to recycling centres. This often exposed them to health risks due to the unhygienic conditions. A sum of 48% of street children in Temeke District have engaged in scavenging activities as a mechanism of surving.
- **Petty Theft:** A smaller proportion admitted to engaging in petty theft, often stealing food or small items to survive. . A sum of 12% of street children in Temeke District have engaged in petty theft as a mechanism of surving the street life.
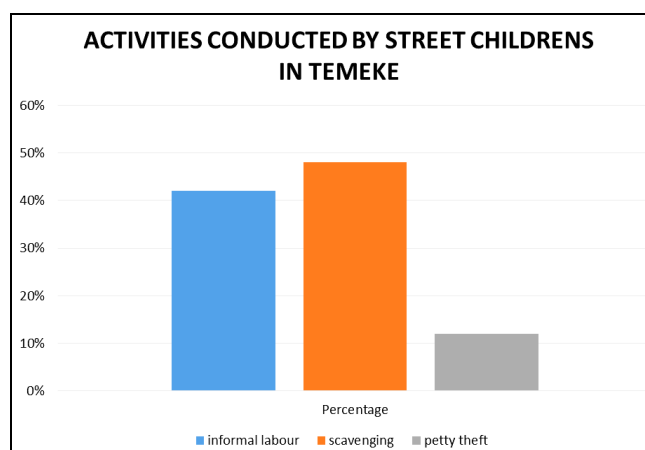

Fig 6: The Economic Activies Performed By Street Children.

The chart above describes economic activities that street children tends to perform so as to survive the streets. Large number of street children tend to perform scavenging as a means of surving the streets. Scavenging: Many children resorted to scavenging for recyclable materials, particularly plastic and metal, which they sell to recycling centers. The Y axis shows the the percentage rate of involvement of street children to a certain economic activity, while the X axis shows the economic activities performed by street children.

Social Support Networks

Street children in Temeke Dar es Salaam, like many other urban environments, face a multitude of challenges, including poverty, hunger, and lack of access to basic services. Despite these hardships, they often develop complex social support networks that provide them with a sense of belonging, protection, and even economic sustenance. Here's a closer look at the three primary types of social support networks:

Street Family/Groups

Street families or groups are formed by bonds of shared experiences and mutual support among street children. They provide a sense of community and belonging, particularly for those who have been separated from their families of origin.

Characteristics

- Strong Loyalty: Members often exhibit strong loyalty and solidarity, protecting each other from dangers and sharing resources.
- Age-Based Hierarchy: There's often an age-based hierarchy within groups, with older children assuming leadership roles and providing guidance to younger ones.
- Shared Survival Strategies: Groups often develop shared strategies for survival, including begging routes, scavenging areas, or informal work opportunities.

Benefits

- Emotional Support: Street families provide emotional support, companionship, and a sense of security amidst the harsh realities of street life.
- Protection: They offer protection from dangers like police harassment, exploitation by adults, and violence from other street groups.
- Shared Resources: Members pool their resources (money, food, and clothing) to help each other survive.

Challenges

- Competition: Competition for resources and dominance can lead to internal conflict.
- Risk of Exploitation: Groups can be vulnerable to exploitation by older individuals who may use them for their own gain.
- Limited Access to Services: They often face difficulties accessing formal support services like healthcare and education due to their transient nature.

Extended Family

Extended family refers to relatives, including aunts, uncles, grandparents, or cousins, who may provide some level of support to street children. Some children received occasional support from relatives, but this was often limited due to poverty and lack of resources

Characteristics

- Varied Levels of Support: The degree of support offered by extended family varies greatly, ranging from occasional financial assistance to providing shelter and care.
- Often Limited by Poverty: Extended families are often struggling with their own poverty and may not have the resources to provide significant assistance.
- Social Stigma: Street children often face stigma from their families and communities, which can limit the support they receive.

Benefits

- Financial Assistance: Extended family members may provide financial aid or support with basic necessities like food and clothing.
- Temporary Shelter: Some extended family members may provide temporary shelter to street children, especially in times of crisis.
- Emotional Connection: Maintaining a connection with family can offer emotional support and a sense of belonging.

Challenges
- Limited Capacity: Poverty and family dynamics often limit the capacity of extended families to provide consistent support.
- Family Rejection: Many street children face rejection and abandonment from their families, leading to a lack of support.
- Distance and Accessibility: Extended families may live in different areas, making it difficult for street children to reach them.

NGOs/Community Organizations
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations provide social services and support to vulnerable populations, including street children. Some NGOs and community organizations provided support services, such as meals, shelter, and education, but their reach remained limited due to insufficient funding and resources.

Characteristics: Varied Programs: NGOs and community organizations offer a range of programs, such as:
- Shelter and Food Programs: Providing temporary or permanent shelter, meals, and basic necessities.
- Education and Skills Training: Offering educational opportunities, vocational training, and life skills development.
- Counselling and Therapy: Providing psychological support and addressing issues related to trauma and abuse.
- Reintegration Programs: Helping street children reintegrate with their families or communities.
- Limited Resources: NGOs and community organizations often face funding constraints, which limit their capacity to reach all street children.
- Geographical Reach: Some organizations may have limited geographic reach, making it difficult for all street children to access their services.

Benefits
- **Basic Needs:** NGOs and community organizations provide basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare.
- **Educational Opportunities:** They offer opportunities for formal or informal education and skills development.
- **Protection and Advocacy:** They advocate for the rights of street children and provide protection from exploitation and abuse.

Challenges
- **Funding Shortages:** Many organizations struggle to secure adequate funding, which limits their capacity to serve all street children.
- **Limited Outreach:** It can be challenging to reach all street children due to their transient nature and distrust of authority figures.
- **Lack of Coordination:** Sometimes, a lack of coordination among different organizations can lead to duplication of efforts or gaps in service provision.

Coping Mechanisms
Coping Mechanisms of Street Children in Dar es Salaam: A Complex Tapestry of Resilience and Survival. Street children in Temeke District, face a harsh reality marked by poverty, hunger, violence, and social exclusion. They navigate this challenging environment through a complex array of coping mechanisms, which are often a mix of resilience, survival instincts, and strategies for navigating the challenges they face.

Coping Mechanisms Commonly Employed by Street Children in Temeke District
Survival Strategies
- Informal Labour: This is the most common coping mechanism, with street children engaging in various forms of informal work, such as:
- Begging: This involves approaching pedestrians or motorists for money or food.
- Scavenging: Collecting recyclable materials like plastic bottles or paper for sale.
- Street Vending: Selling small items like candy, cigarettes, or chewing gum.
- Shoe Shining: Offering shoe shining services for a small fee.
- Resourcefulness: Street children exhibit incredible resourcefulness, learning to utilize available resources effectively. They develop networks and strategies for finding food, shelter, and clothing, often relying on their ingenuity and community connections.
- Street Networks: They form strong bonds with other street children, creating a support system for sharing resources, information, and protection. This network provides a sense of belonging and security in a hostile environment.

Emotional and Psychological Coping Mechanisms
- Denial: Children may use denial as a defence mechanism, minimizing the severity of their situation and avoiding confronting their realities.
- Distancing: They might emotionally distance themselves from traumatic experiences, creating a barrier between themselves and the harsh realities of street life.
- Humour and Play: Children often use humour and play as ways to cope with stress and maintain a sense of normalcy in a challenging environment.
- Spiritual Beliefs: Religious beliefs and practices can provide comfort and hope, giving them a sense of purpose and resilience.
- Resilience: Street children often develop remarkable resilience, adapting to difficult situations and demonstrating strong coping skills.

Social and Behavioural Strategies
- Conformity to Group Norms: Street children often conform to the norms and rules of their street families or groups, which provide a sense of belonging and stability.
- Exploitation and Manipulation: In some cases, children might engage in acts of exploitation or manipulation to survive, such as stealing, drug dealing, or prostitution.
- Aggressive Behaviour: Children may exhibit aggressive behaviours as a way to protect themselves from harm or to secure resources.
- Substance Abuse: Some street children resort to substance abuse (alcohol or drugs) as a way to cope with stress, anxiety, or the harsh realities of street life.

Social Support Networks
- Street Family/Groups: As mentioned previously, these groups provide essential social support, protection, and shared survival strategies.
- Extended Family: While extended family support may be limited, it can offer crucial resources and emotional connections.
- NGOs and Community Organizations: These organizations play a vital role in offering shelter, food,

education, and counselling, helping children cope with their experiences and access essential services.

Challenges and Limitations of Coping Mechanisms
- Long-Term Impacts: Coping mechanisms that involve exploitation, substance abuse, or violence can have long-term negative consequences on a child's physical and mental health.
- Accessibility and Availability: Street children's access to effective coping mechanisms is often limited by factors such as:
- Limited resources: Lack of access to food, shelter, education, and healthcare hinders their ability to cope effectively.
- Social stigma: Stigma and discrimination from society often limit their access to support services.
- Limited outreach: NGOs and community organizations often struggle to reach all street children, especially those who are marginalized or distrustful of authority figures.

Educational Opportunities
Education Opportunities for Street Children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam.

The educational landscape for street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, is fraught with challenges. While access to education is a fundamental right, various factors hinder their ability to receive a quality education. This complex situation is influenced by a combination of systemic issues, social barriers, and individual circumstances. Here's a breakdown of the educational opportunities and challenges facing street children in Temeke:

Available Educational Opportunities
Formal Education
- **Public Schools:** Temeke has a network of public schools, some of which offer scholarships and special programs for vulnerable children. However, these schools are often overcrowded and lack resources to adequately support street children.
- **Private Schools:** Private schools are generally more expensive and may not be accessible to all street children. Some private schools offer scholarships or have special programs for disadvantaged students, but these opportunities are often limited.

Informal Education
- **Street Schools:** Some NGOs and community organizations have established street schools, providing basic literacy and numeracy skills to street children. These schools offer a flexible and supportive environment that caters to the specific needs of street children.
- **Vocational Training:** Some organizations offer vocational training programs for street children, equipping them with practical skills to earn a living and improve their economic prospects.

NGO and Community Initiatives
- **Support Programs:** NGOs and community organizations in Temeke offer a range of support programs for street children, including education sponsorship, school supplies, counselling services, and advocacy initiatives.
- **Reintegration Programs:** Some organizations have programs aimed at helping street children reintegrate into families and communities and access formal education.

Challenges to Education
- **Poverty and Financial Constraints:** Street children often live in extreme poverty, making it difficult for them to afford school fees, uniforms, books, and other essential supplies. Their economic realities often force them into informal labour, leaving little time for education.
- **Social Stigma and Discrimination:** Street children often face social stigma and discrimination from teachers, classmates, and the community. This can lead to social exclusion, bullying, and a lack of acceptance in school environments.
- **Lack of Documentation:** Many street children lack proper documentation, such as birth certificates, which are required for school enrolment.
- **Trauma and Emotional Distress:** The trauma and emotional distress experienced by street children, such as abuse, neglect, and loss, can negatively impact their ability to learn and concentrate in school.
- **Transient Lifestyle:** Their transient lifestyle, moving from place to place for survival, makes it challenging for them to attend school regularly and maintain academic continuity.
- **Limited Access to Schools:** The availability of schools in Temeke, especially those equipped to cater to the needs of street children, is often insufficient, forcing them to travel long distances or face overcrowding in existing schools.

Strategies for Enhancing Education Opportunities
- **Increase Access to Affordable Education:** Reducing school fees, providing scholarships, and offering free education for street children can make formal education more accessible.
- **Address Social Stigma:** Raising awareness about the challenges faced by street children and promoting inclusive education policies can help reduce social stigma and discrimination.
- **Develop Targeted Programs:** Implementing specific programs and interventions designed to address the unique needs of street children, such as trauma-informed education, flexible learning schedules, and social-emotional support.
- **Improve Collaboration:** Strengthening collaboration among NGOs, government agencies, and local communities to provide comprehensive support systems for street children.
- **Advocacy and Policy Reforms:** Advocacy efforts aimed at reforming existing education policies and creating legislation that explicitly protects the right to education for all children, regardless of their circumstances.

Health and Wellbeing
The health and well-being of street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, are significantly compromised by the harsh realities of their environment. They face a multitude of health challenges, both physical and mental, that require incredible resilience to overcome.

Here's a closer look at the conditions they face and the strategies they employ to maintain some semblance of health and well-being:

Healthy Challenges Faced by Street Children
Physical Health Challenges
- **Malnutrition:** Poverty and lack of access to nutritious food lead to widespread malnutrition among street children. This weakens their immune systems, leaving

them vulnerable to illnesses and stunting their growth and development.

- **Infectious Diseases:** Living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions exposes street children to a higher risk of infectious diseases, including respiratory infections, malaria, and diarrheal diseases.
- **Injuries:** Traffic accidents, violence, and unsafe working conditions contribute to a high incidence of injuries among street children, often leading to long-term health complications.
- **Lack of Access to Healthcare:** Financial constraints, stigma, and lack of awareness limit their access to essential healthcare services, leading to delayed treatment and worsening health conditions.
- **Substance Abuse:** Some street children turn to substance abuse (alcohol or drugs) as a coping mechanism for trauma or to numb the pain of their circumstances, further damaging their health.

Mental Health Challenges
- **Trauma and PTSD:** The trauma of abandonment, abuse, neglect, and violence experienced by many street children can lead to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.
- **Social Isolation and Loneliness:** Being ostracized by society and lacking stable social connections can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and low self-esteem.
- **Stress and Anxiety:** The constant struggle for survival, insecurity, and lack of control over their lives creates chronic stress and anxiety, impacting their overall well-being.
- **Stigma and Discrimination:** The social stigma and discrimination they face can exacerbate their mental health issues and make them reluctant to seek help.

Strategies for Overcoming Challenges
- **Resilience and Adaptation:** Street children exhibit incredible resilience, developing coping mechanisms to survive in their harsh environment. This includes strategies like denial, emotional distancing, humour, and seeking solace in religion.
- **Street Networks:** Forming strong bonds with other street children provides a sense of community, support, and protection, contributing to their mental and emotional well-being.
- **Community Support:** NGOs and community organizations provide essential support services, such as shelters, food programs, medical clinics, and counselling, helping to address the health needs of street children.
- **Hope and Dreams:** Despite the challenges, many street children hold onto hope and dreams for a better future, providing motivation and resilience.

The Importance of Holistic Care
- Addressing the Root Causes: It's crucial to address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to the vulnerability of street children. This includes tackling poverty, inequality, and promoting access to education, healthcare, and social services.
- Trauma-Informed Care: Providing trauma-informed care that acknowledges and addresses the unique needs of street children is essential for their mental and emotional well-being.
- Empowerment and Agency: Empowering street children to participate in decisions that affect their lives and fostering

their sense of agency can promote their self-esteem and well-being.

Factors Influencing Survival Mechanisms
Street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, face a harsh reality that necessitates a complex array of survival mechanisms. These strategies are shaped by a multitude of factors, intertwining social, economic, and personal circumstances, creating a complex web of challenges and resilience. Here's an in-depth analysis of the

Key Factors Influencing These Survival Mechanisms
Socioeconomic Factors
- **Poverty and Inequality:** Temeke is a district characterized by high poverty rates and income inequality. This creates a context where families struggle to meet basic needs, pushing some children onto the streets. The lack of decent employment opportunities and limited social safety nets exacerbates these challenges.
- **Lack of Access to Essential Services:** Limited access to healthcare, sanitation, and clean water further amplifies the vulnerability of street children, exposing them to health risks and hindering their ability to thrive.
- **Urbanization and Migration:** The rapid urbanization and internal migration to Dar es Salaam contribute to the growing number of street children. Children often arrive from rural areas seeking better opportunities but end up trapped in poverty and forced onto the streets.

Family and Social Factors
- **Family Breakdown and Abandonment:** Many street children experience family breakdown, abandonment, or neglect, often due to poverty, domestic violence, or parental illness. This leaves them without adequate care and pushes them to seek survival on the streets.
- **Social Exclusion and Stigma:** Street children are often ostracized by society, facing discrimination and social stigma. This exclusion limits their access to support networks and resources, perpetuating their vulnerability.
- **Lack of Community Support:** Weak community structures and a lack of social cohesion can further isolate street children, making it difficult for them to access assistance and protection.

Individual Factors
- **Age and Gender:** Children of certain ages and genders may be more vulnerable to ending up on the streets. Younger children may be easier to exploit, while girls may face specific risks like sexual violence and exploitation.
- **Previous Experiences:** Past trauma, abuse, or neglect can significantly influence a child's coping mechanisms and their vulnerability to street life.
- **Resilience and Adaptability:** Despite the challenges, street children often display remarkable resilience and adaptability. They develop unique skills and strategies for surviving in their harsh environment, demonstrating their strength and determination.

Environmental Factors
- **Urban Landscape:** The urban landscape of Dar es Salaam, with its crowded streets and informal settlements, provides opportunities for street children to engage in informal labor and access resources, but also presents dangers like traffic accidents and crime.

- **Climate Change:** Climate change and its associated impacts, such as extreme weather events and resource scarcity, can further exacerbate the challenges faced by street children, pushing them into more desperate situations.

Political and Legal Factors
- **Lack of Effective Child Protection Laws:** Insufficient and poorly implemented child protection laws can leave street children vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and neglect.
- **Police Harassment and Violence:** Street children often face police harassment and violence, further increasing their vulnerability and hindering their ability to access support services.

Impact of these Factors on Survival Mechanisms
- **Informal Labour:** Poverty and lack of access to formal education push street children into informal labour, which can range from begging and scavenging to more dangerous activities like petty theft or drug dealing.
- **Street Networks:** To survive, street children often form strong bonds with other street children, creating support networks that offer protection, shared resources, and emotional support.
- **Coping Mechanisms:** The combination of these factors leads to the development of various coping mechanisms, including denial, distancing, substance abuse, and aggression.
- **Resilience and Agency:** Despite the challenges, many street children display remarkable resilience, agency, and determination to overcome adversity. They develop creative solutions for survival and often become adept at navigating the complexities of street life.

Others Factors Include
- **Age:** Younger children were more likely to engage in begging or informal labour, while older children were more likely to engage in scavenging or petty theft.
- **Gender:** Male participants were more likely to engage in physically demanding tasks, while female participants faced greater risk of exploitation and sexual abuse.
- **Time on the Streets:** Children who had been living on the streets for longer periods were more likely to have developed sophisticated survival strategies and networks
- **Family Background:** Children with broken families or histories of abuse and neglect were more vulnerable to street life and less likely to receive support from their families.

Interpretation of Findings
Behavioural Characteristics of Children found in the Streets
The behaviour characteristics of street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, are a complex reflection of their experiences, coping mechanisms, and the harsh realities of street life. These children exhibit a range of behaviours, shaped by their unique circumstances, survival strategies, and the trauma they may have endured.

Resilience and Adaptability
- **Resourcefulness:** Street children are incredibly resourceful, demonstrating ingenuity in finding food, shelter, and other necessities. They often develop unique skills for scavenging, bartering, and navigating the complexities of street life.
- **Street Smarts:** They possess keen street smarts, learning to read social cues, assess risks, and navigate potential dangers. This heightened awareness is a survival necessity.
- **Strong Social Bonds:** Street children often form strong bonds with each other, creating a sense of belonging and community within their street families or groups. This provides emotional support, shared resources, and protection.
- **Determination:** They exhibit incredible determination and perseverance, facing immense challenges with a tenacious spirit, striving for survival and a better future.

Survival Strategies
- **Informal Labor:** Street children frequently engage in various forms of informal labor, including begging, scavenging, street vending, and shoe shining. These activities are often the primary means of survival, but they can be exploitative and precarious.
- **Strategic Deception:** To secure resources, children may engage in strategic deception, such as exaggerating their needs or manipulating emotions. This is often a consequence of their desperate circumstances and the lack of trust they face.
- **Aggression and Assertiveness:** Due to the competitive and often hostile environment, street children may display aggression or assertiveness to protect themselves, secure resources, or establish dominance. This behavior is often a learned response to the dangers and insecurities of street life.

Trauma and Emotional Distress
- **Distancing and Denial:** To cope with traumatic experiences, such as abuse, neglect, or loss, children may emotionally distance themselves from their realities or engage in denial as defense mechanisms. This can lead to emotional detachment and difficulty forming healthy attachments.
- **Aggression and Outbursts:** The trauma and stress experienced on the streets can manifest in aggressive outbursts, emotional volatility, and difficulty regulating emotions.
- **Fear and Anxiety:** Constant exposure to danger, insecurity, and uncertainty can lead to high levels of fear and anxiety. This can manifest in heightened vigilance, jumpiness, and difficulty trusting others.
- **Difficulty Concentrating:** Trauma can impact concentration, focus, and learning abilities, making it challenging for street children to engage in formal education.

Social Interaction and Trust Issues
- **Distrust of Authority:** Street children often develop a deep distrust of authority figures, including police officers, social workers, and teachers, due to negative experiences or a perception of unfair treatment.
- **Boundary Violations:** Due to their lack of stable homes and boundaries, children may have difficulty respecting boundaries, potentially leading to conflict with others or displaying inappropriate behaviours.
- **Difficulty with Social Norms:** Their experiences outside of traditional social settings can make it difficult for street children to grasp or adhere to societal norms and expectations, leading to conflict with authority or misunderstanding from others.

Nuances and Individual Differences
- **Age and Gender:** The behaviours of street children can vary depending on their age and gender. Younger children may be more vulnerable to exploitation, while older children may adopt more aggressive survival strategies. Girls often face unique challenges, including increased risk of sexual exploitation.
- **Individual Experiences:** Each child has a unique history and experiences that shape their behaviour. Some may be more resilient, while others may struggle with more significant trauma or mental health challenges.

Statistical Presentation of Involvement of Street Children Children Living in the Streets are Involved in Illegal Activities?
As table 4.1 below indicates the results of check shows road children are involvement in illegal conditioning on the streets, explosively agree (68%), agree (20%), explosively differ (2.9%) and differ(8.6%), if we combine explosively agree and agree this proves that numerous of the children take part illegal conditioning similar as theft, medicine haggling. This was also proved by (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999) said that, Street children are subject to dangerous and illegal conditioning similar as medicine haggling, crime, theft and gang conditioning(UNCHS, 2000) these illegal conditioning are done because they want to survive in the thoroughfares. Still, numerous of them also take over legal profitable conditioning similar as parking, auto washing, baggage lading and others).

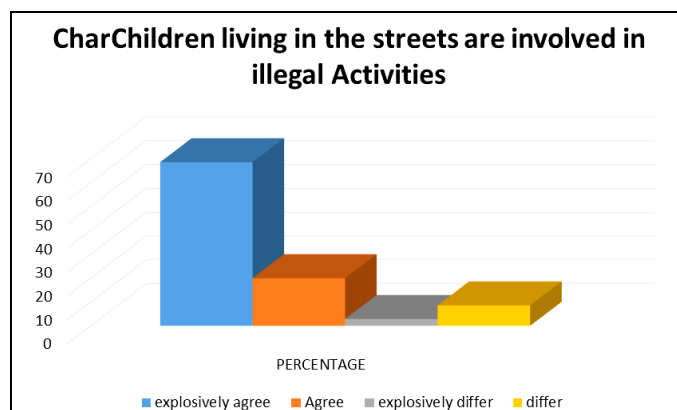**Involved in Illegal Conditioning**

Fig 7: Involvement of Street Children with Illegal Activities.

The chart above explains the involvement of street children with illegal activities. Where large number of respondents Explosively agreed with the fact of street children involment with illegal conduct. The Y axis shows the percentage response rate while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Street children Involved Violence
The involvement of street children in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam with violence is a multifaceted issue, influenced by a complex interplay of factors, including poverty, trauma, social exclusion, and lack of opportunities. While it's important to avoid generalizations, there's a growing concern about the link between street life and violence, both as victims and perpetrators.

Vulnerability to Violence
- **Physical and Sexual Exploitation:** Street children are highly vulnerable to physical and sexual exploitation. They can become targets of violence by individuals, gangs, or even police officers.
- **Abuse and Neglect:** Many street children experience abuse and neglect within their families or communities, leading to trauma that can manifest in violent behaviours.
- **Lack of Safety Nets:** The lack of proper protection mechanisms and support systems leaves street children susceptible to violence and exploitation.

Perpetrators of Violence
- **Self-Defence and Survival:** Street children may resort to violence to protect themselves, defend their territory, or secure resources in the face of threats. This can lead to a cycle of violence, particularly within street networks.
- **Gang Affiliation:** Joining gangs can provide a sense of belonging, protection, and income for street children, but it also exposes them to violence and criminal activities.
- **Substance Abuse:** Substance abuse can exacerbate aggressive behaviour and increase the likelihood of involvement in violent acts.

Factors Contributing to Violence
- **Poverty and Inequality:** Poverty creates an environment where street children are more likely to engage in risky behaviours, including violence, to survive.
- **Lack of Education and Opportunities:** Limited access to education and employment opportunities can push street children towards criminal activities, including violence.
- **Social Exclusion and Discrimination:** The stigma and discrimination faced by street children can lead to feelings of anger, resentment, and frustration, which may manifest in violent behaviour.

Graphical Representation of Public Opinion
Through opinions from individual at Temeke district 54% explosively agree with the involvement of street children with violence. 30% agreed, 11.5% explosively differ while only 4.5% differ with the fact of involvement of street children with violence.
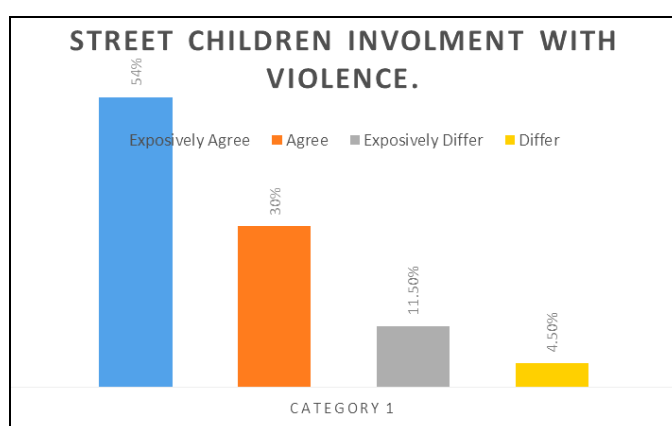

Fig 8: Involvement of Street Children with Violence

The chart shows that street children are largely involved with violence and crimes in the street.

The Factors Driving Children to Live on the Streets
Poverty Influences Children to Live in the Streets
The research results indicate that most of respondents have agreed that poverty is the main reason that drives children to live in the streets, the study in Temeke District it showed that

children Exposively agree (90%), agree (10%) these results shows that 100% of the children living in the streets explosively agreed that poverty is factor that drives children to live in the city.

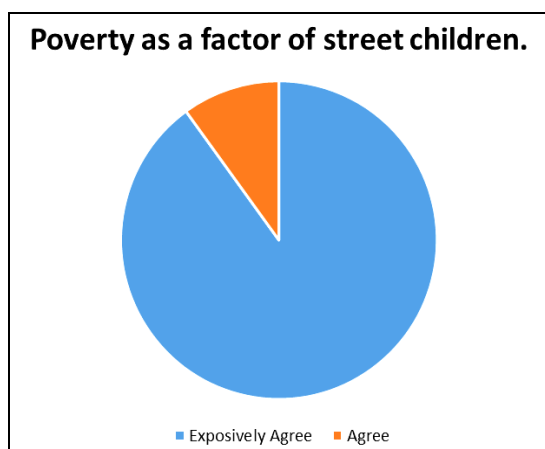**Table: Poverty as Factor that Drives Children to Live in the Streets.**

Fig 9: Poverty as an Indicator of an Increase of Number of Street Children

The pie chart above explains the large number of respondents agreed with the factor that, poverty is the main source of street children.

Domestic Violence in Homes Influences Children Go and Live in the Streets

Domestic violence in homes has caused most of the run away from the homes, this is proven by the results obtained from the study conducted in Temeke District which explosively agree EA (62.9%) and Agree A (13%) is shows that most of children face domestic violence according to respondents said that the types violence faced by them in the homes was sexual abuse and physical violence, the children feel more safe living in the streets than home because of the domestic violence. Ndoromo, et al., (2017) domestic violence might be one of the decisive factors pushing children to the streets. In a study conducted in Cameroon, 61% of the street children mentioned maltreatment by parents or relatives as the reason for deserting their home. . 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 Therefore this proves that domestic in homes drives children to live in streets.

Parental Negligence Factor

The parental negligence pushes children to live in the streets, explosively Agree (45%), agree (20%), Neutral (20%), explosively disagree (2.9%) and disagree (11.4). These results shows that parental negligence that is one of the factor that pushes children to live in the streets most of respondents said that they parent do not basic needs and control the behaviour of their children, the parents leave the children to led a care free life. 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, (Hussein, 1998) in Cairo. Parental neglect not only causes children to drop out of school, but it also

makes them realise early on that they have to fend for themselves (Subrahmanyarn & Sondh,1990).Therefore we can conclude that parental negligence is the factor that pushes the children to live in the streets.
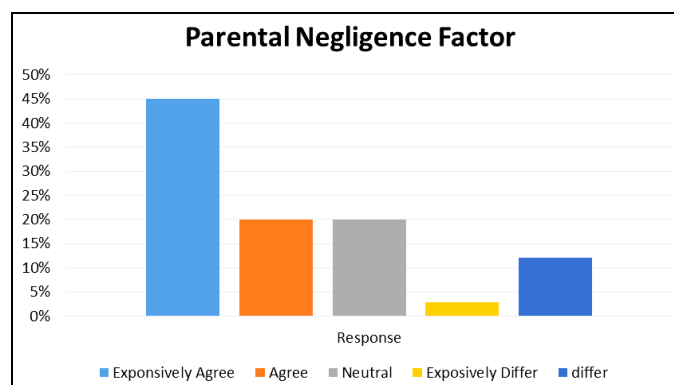

Fig 10: Parental Negligence as an Indicator of an Increase of Number of Street Children

The chart above explains that a large number of respondents agreed the fact that parent's negligence on childs growth and developments results to street children. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Family Dissolutions Pushes Children to Live in the Streets

Family dissolutions is one of the factors that influences children to live in the streets, the results indicated strongly agree (57%), agree (17%) not sure (8.6) strongly disagree (11.4) and disagree (5.7%) this shows that the majority of the children are in the streets because of family dissolution, according to some respondents are in the streets because of the parents divorced and they were put in care of the grandparent, the grandparent cannot afford to provide daily needs, this forces to go and live in the streets to search for greener pastures. Findings by Sorre (2009) indicate that out of the 324 street children that were interviewed, 273 (84%) were from a single parent's background. As the Kilbrides note, divorce is a growing phenomenon in East Africa, especially in Nairobi (1990,) and those who end up suffering are the children who eventually find alternative on the streets for their livelihood. According (David et al.1991) in Kenya conducted a research that lack of responsibility on the part of the parents, family conflicts and parental behavioural problems, for example giving priority to material gains, substance use and gambling, leads children taking to the street. Therefore, studies show that family dissolution leads children to live in the streets.

The Challenges Faced by Street Children
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.

Fig 11: Street Children as Victims of Violence

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children as faced with challenges of violence, by police, other civilians also fellow street childrens. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Street Children Do Not Have Health Care
Street children do not have proper health care, strongly agree (88.4%) agree (11.6%), these percentage of results show that many children face the challenge of not having no proper health care, by having these problem street children are prone at having skin diseases and other diseases and This was also proven by (Lockhart, 2008; Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999) street children are also exposed to other type of diseases because of the harsh environment where they live. As for treatment, it depends on how much money street children can afford when one of them becomes sick. If they have money, they go to the chemist to buy medicine, especially if they have some knowledge about medicines, but if they do not have money, they wait until their bodies heal naturally (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999). Some of them also receive support from their friends during illness (Patel, 1990).
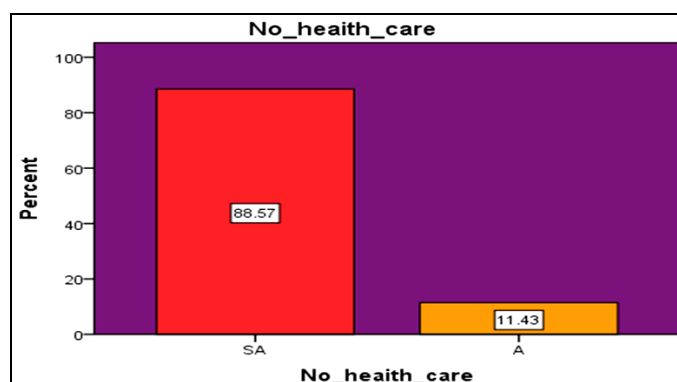

Fig 12: In Accesability of Healthy Care Towards Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children as faced with challenges of lack of healthy care. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

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.
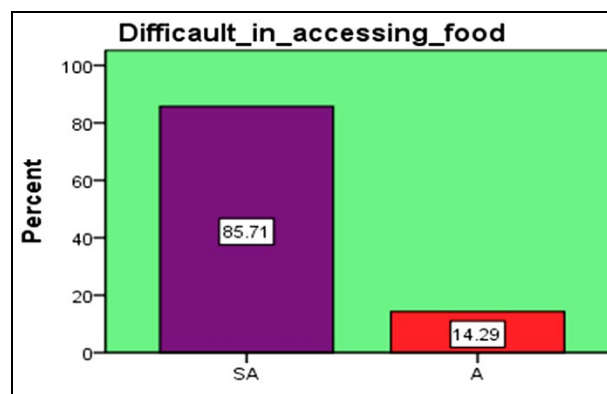

Fig 13: Accessability of Food to Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children as faced with challenges of difficulty in accessing food. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Accommodation
Street children do not have shelter strongly agree (85.7%) agree (14.3%) these results show that many street children do have proper to rest their tired bodies at night, most of the respondents said they sleep in markets places, on the corridors of the shops and other sleep in the bus depots. According to Patel, (1990) observed that Street children usually do not have a permanent place to sleep. Many of them sleep in the streets or on pavements near shops and malls, while others prefer sleeping at bus terminals, railways platforms, under bridges and by cinemas; Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999). Meanwhile, some girls prefer spending their nights with security guards due to being vulnerable and subject to abuse if they spent their nights on the streets (Lugalla 1999).
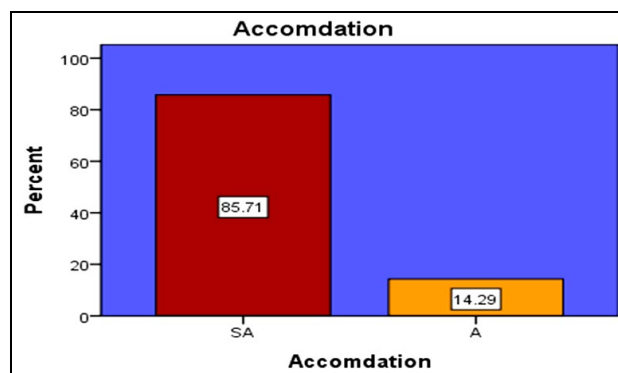
Fig 14: Survival Technique of Beggary to Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children use beggary as a technique to survive in the streets. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

The Survival Techniques Adopted by Children Living on the Streets.
Beggary as a Survival Strategy
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.
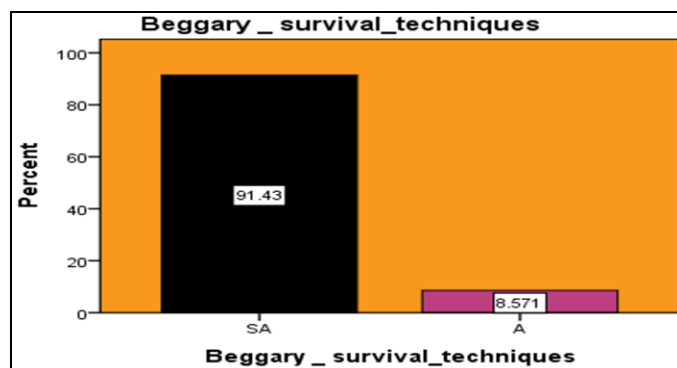

Fig 15: Survival Technique of Piece Work to Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children use beggary as a technique to survive in the streets. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Doing Piece Works as Survival Strategy
Street children do piece works as survival strategy strongly agree (74.3%) and agree (25.7%), these results have shown that many street children do piece work for survive, the respondents said piece works helps them to find money which thy use to buy food and other basic necessaries. Street children mostly hang around the bus and railway stations where many passengers come to and leave the city. This gives them a chance to carry luggage in return of some money. Others carry loads in market places and construction sites. But only members of a certain labourer's associations, usually the

youth and adults, are involved to run this business. In most cases, such associations are found in almost every important locality so that non-members are prohibited from carrying loads. Street children are not often members of any labourer's association. Thus they are usually involved in carrying passengers' luggage around taxi parks and the bus and railway stations. Most passengers, however, perceive street children as thieves and as a result opt to handle their belongings on their own. This minimizes the already limited work opportunity for street children. In fact, small children are often preferred to old children and adults in the informal labour market because they are cheaper, less threatening and easier to manipulate.
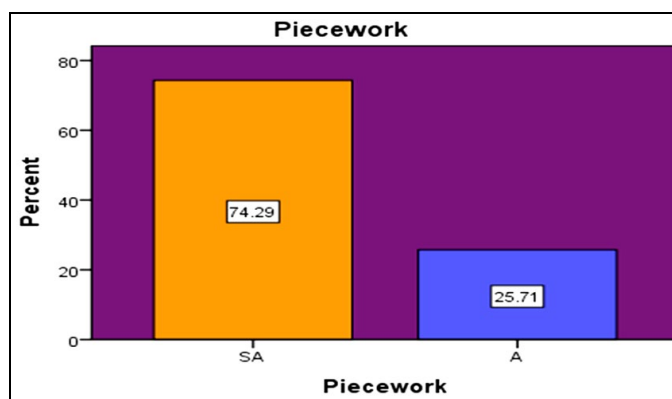

Fig 16: Survival Technique of Piece Work to Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children use Piece work such as carrying luggage as a technique to survive in the streets. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Handpicking in Dust Bins
Street children handpick in dust bin strongly agree (41.7%), agree (33.3%) and strongly disagree (25.0%), the results of the search show that many street children do handpick in dust bins, according to same respondents said they handpick in dust bins in search of food, clothes, shoes and bottles, they pick bottles in dust bin so that they sell them and the money is used to buy food. This statement was proven by Street children usually search abandoned food from garbage bins. However, searching from garbage bins is not the primary source of food for most street children. The garbage bins are an important source for old clothes, shoes, plastics, and other equipment's. If they get some scarps they will sell it back for their customers. Notably, street boys mostly scavenge early in the morning in order to be the first to search through the night's rubbish. Therefore, study shows that the street children do handpicking as survival strategy.
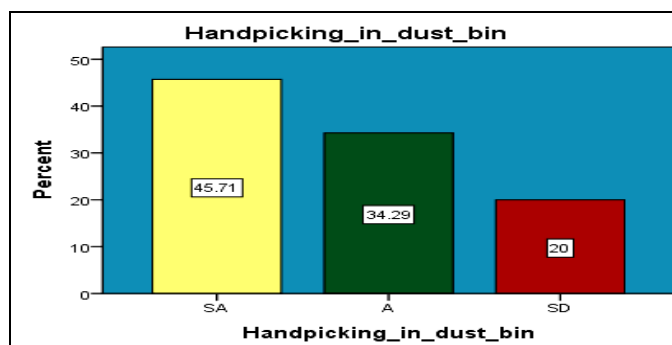

Fig 17: Survival Technique of Handpicking in dust bin

Practicing Prostitution as Survival Strategy

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).
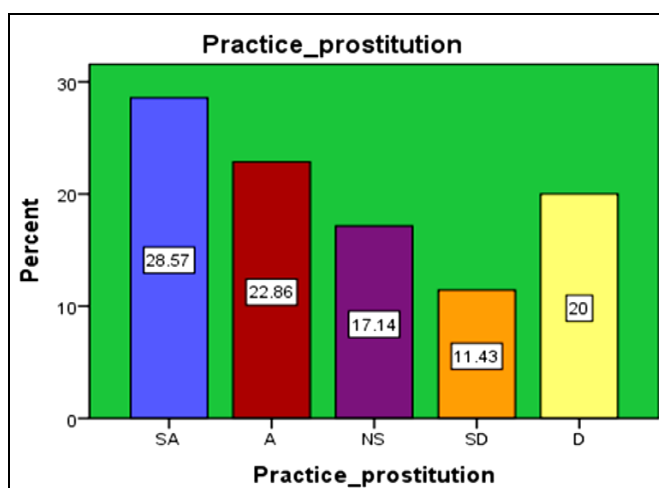

Fig 18: Survival Technique of Prositituton to Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children practice prostitution as a technique to survive in the streets. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Pick Pocketing and Theft

Study has shown that street children pick pocketing and theft as one of the survival strategy strongly agree (22.9%), agree (17%), strongly disagree (7%) and disagree (3%), according to the results it shows that most of the pick pocketing and theft just to earn living, while others disagreed to not taking part in the pick pocketing and theft. This statement was proven by Adugna (2006) states 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 Duban concluded that street children are vulnerable to threats by existing gangs, who may force them to carryout petty thefts for them. Criminality may thus be a strategy used by the children in order to survive, and may result primarily from needing to support a substance abuse habit, or from pressure from other established criminal groups.
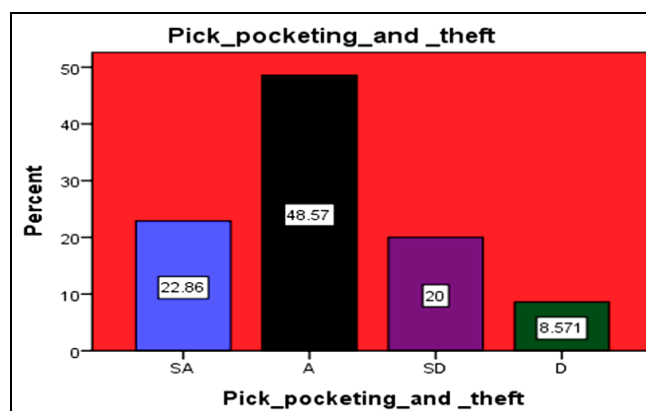

Fig 19: Survival Technique of Pick Pocketing and Theft To Street Children

The chart above shows that large number of participants agreed with the fact that street children practice pick pocketing and Theft as a technique to survive in the streets. The Y axis shows percentage rate of respondents while the X axis shows the responses in which the participants responded.

Conclusion

This publication underscores the critical role of community-based interventions in addressing the profound challenges faced by street children in Chamazi Ward, Temeke District. The findings reveal that while these interventions are essential for providing immediate support and fostering a sense of belonging among street children, their overall effectiveness is hindered by several factors. The reliance of street children on informal labor, scavenging, and petty theft underscores their dire economic situation and highlights the need for more sustainable and holistic support mechanisms. The research also sheds light on the crucial function of social support networks, particularly street families, which offer significant emotional and practical assistance but are not without their own issues, such as internal conflicts and restricted access to formal services. These insights point to the necessity for enhanced and more effective community-based strategies that not only address the immediate needs of street children but also work towards long-term solutions for their reintegration and well-being.

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