

## **DETERMINANT OF STREET CHILDREN IN THE MODERN GENERATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study adopted explanatory research design, the research strategy was cross-sectional survey, the research approach was qualitative, the population of the study were the works of 10 authors. The sampling design were examination of papers published by academic just and papers published at the various websites. The source of data collection was primary source and method of collection was research. The problem statement was "Determinant of street children in the modern generation". Concerning the literature review the study examined what other writers had written with respect to the subject under study. The study found out empirical evidence, causes and effects of street children. The study concluded that street children was common in the modern generation. The study recommended that we should educate the general public to know the effects of streetism and NGOS must provide basic and social amenities for deprived communities.

**KEY WORDS:** Determinant, street, children, modern, generation, causes, effects, empirical, evidence

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

#### **Introduction**

Street children are children who have no place to stay but live on the street of cities, towns and villages. Youth without a home to live in are known as street kids or street child. Sometimes street girls are called gamines. The word "gamines" is used for Colombian street children. In advanced countries some children are categorized under "thrown-away children" which comprises of children compelled to leave home. Out cast children usually come from single-parent homes. Street children rely on the street as their means of living. They live on the street, work on the street and have assistance network on the street. The term "streetism" is used to

identify the street children in Anglophone Africa. The views of children on living on the street differ from one another. The situation of street children are very bad and there are different explanation for being in that state. A lot of children keep in touch with their families. Their families are very poor and they work on the street to help the family's income. They work on the street during daytime and go to their families homes at night. They don't have home to live in and stay on the street, move from place to place, live in shelters and uncompleted buildings.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

To find out empirical evidence of street children

To find out causes of street children

To find out effects of street children

## **EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF STREET CHILDREN**

The population of 15 years children in Ghana is 38.01 percent but the youth make up the most significant human resource potential that contribute to the development of a country. The concept of street children goes contrary to children's act which says that a person below 15 years should not be permitted to work. Currently There are sixty-one thousand four hundred and ninety-two street children living on the street of Accra, the capital city of Ghana. These children working hard to make ends meet. Population census about street children was conducted in Accra in May, 2009. The results indicated that 43 percent of the population were males and 57 Percent were females. Large number of street children were found in Accra Central, the Kwame Nkrumah circle, Kumasi, Tamale and the other main centers. The highest rate of street children was Northern Region (28.53 percent) of children found on the street of Accra. The lowest rate of street children found on the street of Accra Brong Ahafo Region (2.38 percent). That is, the over all population of street children in Accra. According to conservative estimate 204,000 children were street children in Accra up to estimated 33,000 in 2011. About 30million children are staying on the street in Africa. Street children living on the street of Accra are around 4-15years of age. Many of them are between 7 and 15 years and they work on the street to acquire wealth. Majority of the street children were born and trained in urban centers but high percentage of these children had spent their lives in the urban areas. It was discovered that 18percent of them were born in the rural areas

within and outskirts of Accra and one fifth of them had stayed in the rural centers. A lot of their parents lived in the urban centers and confirmed that urban-urban migration was the cause of street children in Accra. About 20,000 children live on the street of Kumasi including young adults between 5 and 18 years old. They have no parental direction, accommodation and lack basic incentives in life. They are prone to hazards and abuse of all kinds. They are compelled to do jobs which are above their age and abilities. There are more than 61000 people who have not reached 18 years live on the street of Greater Accra. Street children is part of the population and universal public health but much is not known concerning their mental health, health needs and method to contribute to their poor health. About two hundred and seven children between 12 and 18 years stay on the street of Accra, Sekondi Takoradi and Kumasi. It is estimated that about 73 percent of street children had serious mental health problems and 90 percent were very poor. People who are living on the street of Sunyani are common, the capital city of Brong Ahafo Region. Those staying on the street of Sunyani has drawn Ghanaian attention. Many people sleep in front of stores and sometimes they are attacked and their money are stolen. There are 10,000 children living on the street of North East Nigeria. About 1.5 million children have no place to live in North East Nigeria. They lack food, accommodation and education. They serve as child soliders and fighters for violent and terrorist group. More than 100,000 children are living on the street of Logos in Nigeria and these children are beggers and theives but they have no house to sleep each night. They have been asking money from pedestrians and motorists. These children are

called "area boys". The street children in Nigeria have been living around bus stops, markets and main roads begging for money. A lot of them are sentenced to prison without committing any offence but just to stop them living on the street. These children have no one to plead on their behalf. Some of them make money through washing cars. Research indicated that 12.2percent of them dealt with drugs and 60.3 percent of them were used to taking drugs. Others bribe legal traders to set them free peacefully. About 1.3 million children in North East Nigeria are forced to move from their homes due conflict. Millions of children are not attending school and hundred of them are starving each day. A lot of them are living in temporary structures and they are prone to diseases and hunger. In Borno State 3 out of 5 schools are closed but more than 19,000 teachers are sacked from classrooms. It is accepted that about 200,000 children in Mali work on the street begging and collecting money for gangs that employed them. A lot of street children in Mali confirm that they belong to gangs who protect against violence and aggression. They don't have many chances in life, drop out of school, lack access to health care and find it hard to get descent jobs. About 15,000 children in Mali a lot of them are street children. In Mali about 90 percent of street children are boys. In Mali 30 percent of street children agree that they abuse due to influence of their Koranic Masters. Out of these children 19 percent are 13years, 46percent are 13-16years, remaining are 16years and above.

**THESIS STATEMENT:** The problem statement of the study was "Determinant of street children in the modern generation". The study

found out empirical evidence, causes and effects of street children.

## **CAUSES OF STREET CHILDREN**

In 1995 Lugalla and Mbwambo said that there were many causes of street children. A lot of the causes of street children are natural and man-made. When children lost relationship with their parents or families, they decide to live on the street. Some of the street children are the offspring of prostitutes. Many families reject their children due to poverty. Noble parents disclaim their children because they have been creating problems for them. Peer-group pressure generates street children and "push factor" also causes street children. The "push factor" consists of poverty, violence, neglect, abuse. Stress in the society couple with fast industrialization, urbanization, dissolution of traditional family structures values, political influence which compelled the youth to depart from their various homes. Research proved that there were many factors contributing to street children but the major causes are unemployment, school drop out and child labor. Other cause of street children are war, natural disasters, lost of parents, injustice and discrimination. Rural-urban migration and complex socio-economic circumstances people in rural areas encounter. Some children do not have peace at home and decide to enjoy freedom on the street. Many children move from villages to cities; towns to find end meet. A lot of children are the sons and daughters of street parents and the street becomes their home. Polygamy makes some mothers break their marital relationship because they have peace of mind. Because of this, they decide to live on the street with their children. Other children prefer to stay on the street instead of home.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many authors have written research papers about streetism which educated the general public on the need to fight against streetism. Notwithstanding the views of the writers, the study found out "Determinant of street children in the modern generation". Due to this, the researcher investigated into what other writers have written with respect to the subject under study. In reference to (globalvillageaction, n.d) an article written entitled "What is streetism?". Streetism refers to children staying and working on the street due to lack of family relationship or being persuaded by parents to work on the street so that they can assist home. The major cause of streetism is poverty. Poverty compels a lot of children to live and work on the street. The girls joined sexual relationship as business so that they can make ends meet. Through this, they experience malnutrition, disease, lack of medical healthcare, addicted to poverty with no hope of bright future. In 1st May, 2022 Tigist Fantahun, Buc'ha Taa et Al wrote an article entitled "Children of the street: The causes and consequences of their social exclusion in Gondar city, North West Ethiopia". The paper of the above authors state that the rejection of the street children is global issue so far as children work, live and survive on the street as belittle members of society. About 100 million children work and stay on the street of the urban centers. The nature of the problem differ in the whole world but street children are common in the developing countries. This is caused by lack of sufficient social infrastructure and socio-economic programs which hinder the needs of the children. With regards to the views of the above writers, the study found out empirical evidence, causes and effects of street children.

## **THE EFFECTS OF STREET CHILDREN**

Street children lack family care and protection but do not have comfortable place to stay on the street. High percentage of boys and girls are abused. Some of them turn to be prostitutes and many are child labors. Majority of them do not go school while others grow up to become poor. Some of them marry early especially girls. A lot of them are not healthy health. The lives of the street children are characterized by family conflict, poor parental supervision, alcohol usage of drugs. They pass through various degrees of abuse, violence from police officers, retail business owners. When they experience violence, they will become violent in the future. Starvation makes them to become violent and they have other problems like low academic qualifications, bad school attendance. They are regarded as refugees, vagabonds, mentally ill, raped and experience psychosocial problems. The lifestyle of living on the street goes with hardship, crime, disease, drug abuse and rejection. They lack medical and social services.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Introduction**

This chapter deals research design, strategy, approach, population of the study, sampling design, source of data collection and method of data collection. The study used explanatory research design because it was best for explaining the data collected. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey. Through this, the investigated into the works of other authors which concerning about the subject under study. The research approach used was qualitative where the study found out what really caused street children. The population of the

study, sampling design, source of data collection and method of data collection were examined.

**SAMPLING DESIGN:** The study considered published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites.

**POPULATION OF THE STUDY:** The population of the study were 10 authors.

**SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION:** The source of collecting data for study was primary source.

**METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:** The method of collecting data for the study was research.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The study discovered that street children were children who had no house to live in but work and live on the street. Noble parents disowned their children because they had been creating problems for their families. The views of children on working and living on the street differ from one another. The concept of street children goes contrary to children's act in Ghana which said a person below 15 years should not be allowed to work. A lot of the causes of street children were natural and made man. High percentage of the street children both girls and boys were abused. Some of the street children were prostitutes and others were child laborers.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study discovered that large number of street children were found in Accra Central, Kwame Nkrumah circle, Kumasi, Tamale and other main

centers in Ghana. About 1.5 million children work and live on the street of North East Nigeria. 15, 000 children in Mali and many of them were street children and 90 percent of street children are boys in Mali. Due to the above mentioned factors, the study generalized that street children were common in the modern generation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

If we want to save street children, we should protect and give them food, accommodation. We can approach them to know their state of being. Through this, we will be able to solve of their problems. We ought to send them to school and educate the general public to know the problems of street children. We must put up development centers which will them to get involved in healthy activities of life. Government should give street children free education to reduce their population. They should get basic and social amenities like pipe-bore water, school, libraries, community center and hospital. The bond of relationship between families and street children must be developed so that they could get closer to their families. Government ought to take measures to decrease urbanization and help poor families whose children live the street. NGOS must provide fundamental and social amenities for deprived communities.

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