

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Scholl of Social Work

Exploring the Life Experience of Street Children in Addis Ababa,

Stadium Area

MSW proposal Report

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Consortium for Children organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FHI	Family Health International
FSCE	Forum for Street Children
HIV	Forum for Street Children Human Immune Deficiency
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations Save
SC UK	Save the Children UK
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education scientific and Cultural Organizations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World health Organization

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Street children are becoming a worldwide phenomenon. The World Report on Violence against Children underlined that street-connected children face emotional, psychological, physical and sexual abuse. There are no accurate estimates of the number of street children worldwide, and estimates often vary from one source to another. Moreover Over one third of children in urban areas go unregistered at birth, they have no birth certificate or an official identity card. Realistic estimates are necessary for effective programming and focused intervention. The vast majorities of these children work and live in large urban areas of the developing world. More than half, 650 million, of the world's 1.2 billion people living in poverty are children (UNICEF, 2012).

The lowest estimates put the number of street children in South Africa and Kenya at 250 thousand each and 150 thousand in Ethiopia (SC UK, 2012). The World Bank estimates that 45% of the world population is forced to live with less \$1 a day, of whom almost 50% are children Hundreds of millions of children today live in urban slums and small towns, many without access to basic services. They are particularly vulnerable because of stresses of their living conditions (UNICEF, 2012). The UN child Rights Convention defines all those up to 18 years of age as children. Most of the international agencies which work on child's right issue (UNICEF and Save the Children) follow this definition and they also insist that children in the 0-18 year's age bracket should not be part of any kind of lab labor force (SC, 2011).

1.1.1 Street children in the global perspective

The problem of street children has become one of the urban problems, which call for the attention of the international community. Experts from various angles proposed different socio- economic factors, which they had found out in their studies. It is reported that children living and working on the

street are present in all parts of the world. Studies have also indicated that they are more prevalent in the urban areas of developing countries. However, their mobility makes it difficult to get reliable statistics. In 1998, UNICEF estimated that there are 100 million street children worldwide. Amongst these, ten million are believed to live at least part-time on the streets while most live at home and work on the street, mainly in the 'urban informal sector'. According to UNICEF, street children are highly prevalent in Latin America (40 million), Asia (31.2 million) and Africa (10 million). Among countries, Brazil is presumed to have the highest concentration of street children with 25 million followed by India where 18 million of the world's street children are said to reside (CSC, 2011 SC in SC UK, 2012).

The World Bank also estimated that there are 100 million street children in the world (Volp, 2002). The number has plummeted in recent decades because of wide spread recession, political turmoil, civil unrest, increasing family disintegration, urban and rural poverty, natural disaster and rapid industrialization (Catherine 2009). The United Nations International Children's Education Funds (UNICEF) estimates that, out of 100 million children who call streets their homes, only 20 million children live in streets, without their families. In South America alone, there are at least 40 million children, in Asia, 25 million children and Europe approximately 25 million. Estimates in most countries have fluctuated widely (UNICEF, 2004).

The above figures are still being cited today and some reports even suggested that the numbers might even be much higher considering the continuous growth in population. Realistic estimates are necessary for effective programming and focused intervention. Even if the numbers are not in the millions, many children are growing on the street. Street life is characterized by extreme adversity. Studies document that millions of children throughout the world are facing serious difficulties (SC UK, 2011). Children living in street situations are an increasing phenomenon in developing countries and economically advanced countries. Amongst the world's one billion children suffering from deprivation of basic needs these children are highly likely to experience 'absolute poverty'. Once they are on the street

their living experience can be viewed as a condition of both severe and chronic poverty (Conticini, and Hulme, 2006).

1.1.2 Street children in Africa

Poverty, violence, overcrowding, and homelessness exasperate their deprivation. Research indicates that large numbers of children live and work on streets. In sub-Saharan Africa, 32 million children are believed to live on the street. Due to the fact that public social services are inadequate and almost non-existent, African children in need of care are usually deprived of proper care and protection (UNICEF, 2005).

Even if the phenomenon of street children is relatively new to Africa as compared to Latin America and Asia, various studies noted that it has become an extremely concerning problem, which is growing more and more complex and intensified by emerging social problems. According to the Civil Society Forum for East and Southern Africa on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children, within Africa, the highest number of street children is found in Eastern and Southern Africa. The lowest estimates put the number of street children in South Africa and Kenya at 250 thousand each and 150 thousand in Ethiopia (SC UK, 2012).

1.1.3 Street children in Ethiopia

The problem of street children in Ethiopia is not a recent phenomenon. As some governmental documents unveil, children have been living and working on the street not for less than half a century. Why children get move on to the streets is very much assorted. The Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General assembly of the United Nations guarantees legal provisions for the protection of children against abuse, neglect and exploitation. The responsibility for nurturing, protection and socialization of children is primarily given to the family since it is the best and appropriate environment for children to grow and develop normally. Despite these provisions, the plights of children are groping

from worse to worse (FSCE, 2003).

The socio-economic and political context within which children live has a considerable impact on family life in the country as elsewhere. Levels of national poverty in contemporary Ethiopia strain the relationships between household members and, in particular, relationships between adults and children. Notably, among other indicators of the increasing numbers of street living children, the rise in the level of poverty in the society is rising as extreme poverty is one of the reasons which force children to run away from their homes (UNICEF, 2012).

Ethiopian children are diverse and immense (CFSC, 2009 in Habtamu, 2011). In Ethiopia, due to Push factors (poverty, family dysfunction abuse and school problems) and pull factors (independence, Freedom, Drug/alcohol abuse) children are drifted to street life to support themselves or their families in major cities (UNESCO, 2006). Ethiopia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She has also adopted it as a component of the law of the country. There are legal provisions to protect children from all forms of life hazards. There is, however, a huge gap in the enforcement of the existing legal provisions in the country. Such an inadequate practice of observing the CRC and the existing gap in the implementation of the existing laws, together with the economic degradation of families in the country has left many children to grow under deplorable situation. Too many suffer from violence, physical, sexual and psychological abuses by their own families, by outsiders or by both. Many others have become victims of child trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation. All these problems in their most acute form are highly portrayed among street living children in the country (UNICEF, 2007).

1.1.4 Street children in Addis Ababa

Like all other cities in the developing world, Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia is facing increasing challenges to address the human rights of street children. For obvious reasons, children's access to basic human rights including the right to education, adequate nutrition health services, shelter and protection cannot be met by their families (UNICEF, 2007). The streets of Addis Ababa are said to be

home to a population of between 60,000 to 100,000 street children with the lower estimates originating from the Ministry of labor and social Affairs and the higher from aid agencies (UN, 2004).

Street children live and work in conditions that are not conducive for healthy development. They are exposed to the street subculture such as smoking, drug, alcohol and substance abuse, gambling, engaging in sexual activities or selling sex for survival (FSCE, 2009). The circumstances in which they live and work increase their vulnerability also to sexual exploitation and abuse and put them at a higher risk of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS (Habtamu ,2011).

Migrant children who come to Addis Ababa both from rural and other urban areas become highly vulnerable to destitution, homelessness, exploitation, etc. as soon as they reach their destination. Some international organizations, UNICEF in particular, have been committed for the last two decades to addressing the problem of street children. Non-government organizations are also supporting the efforts made by the government to provide both preventive and rehabilitative services for these groups of children. However, services targeting this group of children are far behind when compared to the number of children whose problems need immediate attention (SC UK, 2012).

A study carried out by (FSCE, 1998) claimed that the number of street children in the country is 500,000 and that 1,000,000 children are on the verge of joining the street and living their life there. However, according to a recent head count by (UNICEF, 2012) in Addis Ababa, only 10,706 street children were accounted for and the highest number of street living children were found *Cherka sefer*, behind *Bole Medhaniyalem*(547),*Alert or Zenebe Work* (338) and *Stadium* (637) (UNICEF, 2012).

These children are groups who still lack the capacity to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. Even when these needs are met, they usually get them in highly sub-standard conditions and often come at the expense of their overall wellbeing. On a daily basis, the rights of street children are violated as they face the risks of violence, abuse and exploitation, health hazards, stigma and discrimination, and psychological problems related to stress, anxiety, burn out and depression. Street

children do not have access to basic services that are freely available including basic health care and education that are essential for the overall child and youth development. Street children's situations are complex and that quick fixes are helpful in response to help them get out of the street life. one of which can be as being targeted for involvement in different educational training programs (Michael, 2010).

As the area is with so many street children I am interested to do my study in this area and the main purpose of this study is to explore the life experience of street children in Addis Ababa stadium area. Also the place is a very center of the city for many activates like, sport events and religious ceremonies a number of people are coming from every corner of Addis Ababa and that also attracts the street children to be around and do their daily activities.

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to (Gurung, 2004) street children do not face single problem separately rather they face two or more problem simultaneously. H also argued security, basic needs, legal matters etc. are the main problems street children face on daily bases.

For children to better grow, develop and be the hope of the future their basic needs, education and their health need to be given much attention. To the contrary, if children are neglected the future development of the city in particular and the country in general fall under question (Ochola,L. and Dzikus, 2000).

According to (Richter & Van der Walt, 2000) the harsh life experience in the family institution and challenging life on the street exposed street children to suffer from psychological trauma and damage (cited in Gurung, 2004). A study conducted in Nepal revealed that above 40% of street children were suffering from psychological and social problems. These problems are caused by the various problems street children are facing on the street and unpredictable nature of street life (Gurung, 2004).

A study conducted in Delhi revealed that a large number of children go through some kind of abuse on a daily basis on the streets. The most frequently reported were verbal and physical abuse where males

were mainly abused by the police and females were abused by family members and friends. More than half of males were beaten up compared to 31.4% of females. Finding also showed that there were gender differences in the type of physical abuse rather than age group related differences (Bhaskaran and Mehta, 2011). In Cambodia Street children face diverse form of abuse ranging from unequal offensive relationship with groups of street children to various type of aggression (Friends-International & CSCN 2011

1.2.1 Theories

1.2.1.1 Conflict Theory

The famous social philosopher (Karl Marx ,1818-1883) is sometimes referred to as the father of conflict theory. Conflict theory is rooted in sociology where it is used to explain differences between classes within society and the competition for scarce resources, including economic wealth, political power, and social status (Smith et al., 2009, p161).

Marx was a major proponent of conflict theory, his focus was mainly on the economic impact of the theory. Later sociologists like Max Weber, Georg Simmel, and Lewis Coser added interpersonal dimensions of love, ownership, valuing, and jealousy to the perspective of conflict in families, noting that

we seem to move from one extreme to the other in interpersonal relationships but find a synthesis in our need for (Smith et al., 2009).

According to conflict theory humans are self-oriented. Conflict theorists make certain assumptions about human nature. They presume that the human beings are self-oriented or focused on self-interests. They believe that individuals are symbol-producing, which means that they are able to ascribe value to things such as a corner office, shares of a piece of cake, or praise from parents. This capability sets up the system of limited resources for which individuals are in competition. Conflict theorists also believe that individuals have unrestricted potential to hope, which means they have unlimited potential to aspire power, prestige, and privilege, thereby setting up relationships with other humans as real or potential competitors (Smith et al., 2009).

Conflict theory also sees as societies operate under a continuous scarcity of resources. Conflict theorists also make certain suppositions about the character of society. Societies symbolize prearranged systems for species endurance. They function under a continuous scarcity of assets, and this leads to perpetual disagreements. According to conflict theorists, such conflicts keep societies in a condition of unrest and lead to turmoil, social change, and growth (Smith et al., 2009).

1.2.1.2 Resilience Theory

The term “resilience” originated in the 1970s in the field of ecology from the research of C.S. Holling, who defined resilience as “a measure of the persistence of systems and of their ability to absorb change and disturbance and still maintain the same relationships between populations or state variables” (Holling, 1973, p. 14 as cited in Pisano, 2012).

Resilience theory is a different field of study that has been addressed by social workers, psychologists, sociologists, educators and many others over the past few decades. The theory focuses on strength that individuals and systems show that enable them to mount above hard times (VanBreda, 2001).

The emergence of resilience theory is related with a decline in prominence of pathology and raise

in stress on strengths (Rak & Patterson, 1996, O'Leary, 1998 as cited in VanBreda, 2001) Psychologists have recently called for a shift away from susceptibility/deficit models to focus instead on coping in the face of difficulty. The focus on emphasis on strengths matches with many researches in different field of studies like child development, medical sociology, and education.

Resilience is a dynamic progression in which persons exhibit positive adaptation in spite of incident of considerable hardship or distress. This word does not characterize a personality attribute

The magnitude of the problem of street children in Ethiopia, the first survey on the street children was carried out by the Rehabilitation Agency in 1974. This study, which used a head counting technique, documented that there were 5,004(4,955 or 99% male and 49 or 1% female) Street children living in Addis Ababa (Talcon in SC UK, 2012). The street children are often marginalized and feel excluded in society where they are a part. Marginalized children in unfamiliar milieu are without sufficient resources and the majority is forced to work on some sort of self employment such as shoe shining and petty trading. The marginal groups of society that is chiefly street children, confronted with shortage of food, clothing and shelter while living in the streets. These children face exclusion, lack of access to basic necessity from their family, community, GOs and NGOs. They do not have education and basic skills to deal with the risk factors and to deal with hardships of streetism (Ege, Aspen, Birhanu Teferra and Shiferaw Bekele, 2009). Therefore, their biological and psychological needs are neglected in different parts of Ethiopia (UNICEF, 1991; cited in Kibrom Berhe, 2008).

Similar to other cities in the developing world, Addis Ababa is facing increasing challenges to address the human rights of street children .For obvious reasons, children's access to basic human rights including the right to education, adequate nutrition health services, shelter and protection cannot be met by their families (UNICEF, 2007). The streets of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, are said to be home to a population of between 60,000 to 100,000 street children with the lower estimates originating from the Ministry of labor and social Affairs and the higher from aid agencies (UN, 2004). Street children

live and work in conditions that are not conducive for healthy development. They are exposed to the street subculture such as smoking, drug, alcohol and substance abuse, gambling, engaging in sexual activities or selling sex for survival (FSCE, 2009). The circumstances in which they live and work increase their vulnerability also to sexual exploitation and abuse and put them at a higher risk of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS (Habtamu ,2011).

Another study in Awassa also showed that about 61.1% of street children are migrants from other rural or urban areas (Kidist, 2007). As with the global picture on street children, the data on street children in Ethiopia is very limited, and studies and reports on the subject have come up with varying estimates. According to Child Hope, an NGO working with street children in Ethiopia, street children have become a country wide epidemic, with over 100,000 children living and/or working on the streets of Ethiopian cities (Kibrom, 2008).

The research is delimited in Kirkos sub city, stadium area. The area was selected due to the reason that there are so many children and researcher is interested in working with children. Street children are one of the most delicate and vulnerable sections of the society and group of children in severe situation. They are helpless being deprived of the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing and psychological supports. In the absence of the fulfillment of these basic needs, mere survival of the child becomes impossible and they grow up as unwanted members of the society. Thus to end this multifaceted problems the researcher is interested to see the issues that are related to helping these vulnerable groups by looking their living situation in Addis Ababa stadium area.

There are not sufficient available literatures regarding to life experience of street children in Addis Ababa and Ethiopia as well. Most of the researches and existing studies on the conditions of street children have largely focused on, role of various organizations in meeting street children's interests, their situations, their perceptions, attitudes, ambitions and other concerns. This shows a very few literatures existing on street children life experience. and even the one which are made about street children they

don't focus on the life experience and coping mechanism of street children. Also the studies made by some researchers are not focusing on the challenges and type of abuses they are facing. All in all, there is lack of existing literatures, and researches on the life experience of street children in Ethiopia. Hence, the focus of this study is to explore the life experience they face and their coping mechanism.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the challenges faced by the street children?
2. What are the types of child abuse street children facing?
3. What are problems of basic needs of street children?
4. How do they cope up with the challenging situations?
5. What are the factors pushing children to street life?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to explore the life experience of street children in Addis Ababa, stadium area.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives-

1. To understand the challenges being faced by the street children.
2. To assess types of child abuse on the street in stadium area
3. To describe the problems of basic needs of street children in stadium area.
4. To understand the coping mechanism of street children.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Children represent hope and future in every society; therefore, solving the problems of children in general and the street children in particular can serve as an input for sustainable development. For this reason the researcher is interested to see on the issues of street children who are the most vulnerable part of the every society. Hence the researcher is working in the profession with the area of public health and

He believes the situation of street children need to be well addressed to the different stakeholders. So this study is important; to identify the life experiences of street children and on the other hand, it paves the way for those who are interested in this area, since it will contribute as a baseline for those who are interested to conduct further investigation about this issue.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study was limited to Addis Ababa specifically it was limited kirkos sub city in Addis Ababa stadium area. Hence the researcher believed that the study contributes as a baseline for all responsible stakeholders to understand the multifaceted problems of the street children by exploring their life experience on street.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study will have five chapters of which are arranged in the following way:

The first chapter comprises introduction, background of the study, problem statement, study objective, research questions, operational definition; study limitation, research significance, delimitation of the study and conceptual framework;

The second chapter consists of Literature review, definition of street children, underling cause of street children, magnitude of the problem, street children in Ethiopia,

Chapter three comprises research design, research approach, research method, background of study site sampling method, data collection tools, , data analysis and ethical consideration;

Chapter four contains presentation of the results and findings and analysis:

Chapter four contains conclusion, recommendation

1.8 Operational Definition

In this study street children are children who are currently in Addis Ababa stadium area. These are also groups of people who are living and doing their daily activities on street.

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Research Approach

The nature of the study is qualitative research methods. Children on street will be the major informants of this study. Great emphasis will be given to children to provide information pertaining to their conditions of life. The research method that has going to be employed in the study is qualitative research approach. The justification for this is that the research is largely depends on the experiences of the street children who are on street.

As (Denzin and Lincoln, 2008) explain qualitative research tends to be interpretive and seeks to understand a phenomenon in its context in greater depth. Moreover, it seeks to elucidate the nature of social practices, relationships, and beliefs along with the meaning of human experiences from the participants' point of view. The research was carried out in line with the scientific method of the social work research. Exploratory study in qualitative method is advantageous in giving opportunity for participants to respond in their words. For this study data was collected, analyzed and interpreted in

relation to the research questions and objectives. And the data collection technique used in this study includes in-depth interviews guide, observations, focus group discussion, key informants and unstructured interview guides will be used for interviewing research participants.

3.2 Data collection Tools

The instruments going to be applied are in-depth interview guides and focus group discussion guides to investigate information from the research participants. The instruments will be first developed in English and then translated into the local language, Amharic. This enables the community to understand and respond all questions easily. Before the data collection, researcher developed FGD guides and in-depth interview guide.

3.2.1 In-depth interview guide

In-depth interview is a technique designed to elicit a vivid picture of the participant's perspective on the research topic. During in-depth interviews, the person being interviewed is considered the expert and the interviewer is considered the student. The researcher's interviewing techniques are motivated by the desire to learn everything the participant can share about the research topic.

In depth interview is an effective qualitative method for getting people to talk about their personal feelings, opinions, and experiences. It is also an opportunity to gain insight into how people interpret .As a general rule, in depth interviews, the participants are more confident, more relaxed and they feel more encouraged to express the deepest thoughts about a certain subject (Lofaland and Lofland, 1995). This helped to gather detailed information on problems they were facing on the street and ways they were dealing with the problems. Eight of the participants were interviewed at their place. The researcher took note on paper and recorded the interviews and then transcription was done.

3.2.2 Focus group discussion guide

As (Kruger and Casey,2000) note, the purpose of focus groups is to promote a comfortable atmosphere of disclosure in which people can share their ideas, experiences and attitudes about a certain topic. Moreover, Focus groups allow the researcher to get both individual and interactive opinions by looking at how the subjects react to one another and this allows the researcher to record both words and nonverbal behaviors. In addition, it will give the chance to learn about the language that the focus group discussants use to describe the researchers topic of interest.

Focus group discussion implies a group discussion in order to identify perceptions, thoughts and impressions of a selected group of people regarding a specific topic of investigations (Kairuz, Crump and O'Brien, 2007). So in this study the group discussion will be done by male and female sex separately. And in both cases note was taken and recorded with tap recorder and finally transcribed by word processor.

3.2.3 Key informant Interview guide

For this research the researcher has interviewed three key informants who are employees of the organization. One of the key informant is a social worker who is working for the organization, the other one is a police man and the other is health officer in a clinic .The researcher believed that this informants have detailed information due to the attachment they have with the children in their day to day activities. And they were interviewed separately in their work place. Data will be recorded by tape recorder and finally will be transcribed and analysed.

3.3 Sampling method

Purposive sampling enables an initial understanding of the situation, and to identify and differentiate the needs of one or more relevant groups. It produces a sample where the included groups are selected according to specific characteristics that are considered to be important as related to vulnerability and group differences can be compared and contrasted and a variety of experiences can be summarized

(Krueger and Neuman, 2006). Hence, Purposive sampling technique will be employed to select the research participants.

3.6 Ethical considerations

Throughout the research, all measures were taken to make sure that the research was conducted in an ethical manner. Research on the issue of children is very sensitive one especially children of the most vulnerable are those who are on the street. Therefore, making ethical consideration is essential and it is the basic part of methodology of the research. Hence, written and verbal consent will be obtained from the street children who fulfill the inclusion criteria and let them know they are part of the research participants. Then the informed consent will be incorporated for those who are only voluntary and who want to be part of the research and their willingness to be interviewed or take part in focus group discussions.

3.7 Methods of data Analysis

Kruger and (Newman, 2003) explained that concept formation is an integral part of data analysis and begins during data collection. Thus, conceptualization is one way that a qualitative researcher organizes and makes sense of data and analyzes data by organizing it into categories on the basis of themes, concepts, or similar features. To record the interviews, the researcher used tape recorder during data collection, take a note to record expressions of participants that could not be recorded by tape like facial expressions and gestures then data will be transcribed using word processor. The transcribed data will be coded thematically.

3.4 Coding

(Bryman, 2008) suggests coding as one possible tool in the analytic process of qualitative research. He recommends certain steps, which are important in the coding process. The first step is to transcribe the recording and get an overview of the collected data by reading the transcription, the observations notes and other documents. Next, coding the data by reading it again and make notes about

the important and most common topics. The final step is to concentrate and combine the codes into another level of codes so that there are a reasonable number. In this study the codes will be related to the aim, research questions, previous research and theoretical framework. However, due to the time limit of this study, a faster version of coding is necessary. (Bryman, 2008) advises to listen to the recording closely to spot the information that is relevant to the study. When spotted, only the relevant information needs to be transcribed, as a lot of the recorded data will be useless. In this manner the transcription will be less time- consuming.. hence for this study data will be recorded with tape recorder and after it will be transcribed by word.

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Annex I

I. Interview guide for in-depth interview.

- a. Can you tell me about your day to day activities on street ?
- b. can you tell me the challenges you are facing on street?
- c. how do you get your basic necessities /materials for living?
- d. can you tell me how do you help each other on your day to day activities of street life ?
- e. Can you tell me the bad things that you face on your health while you are on street?
- f. How do you cope up with the problems you are facing on street?
- g. What were the factors that forced you to be on street?
- h. What are you thinking about your future life on street and what are you planning for?

II. Interview guide for focus group discussions

- a. what are the challenges as being a female /male and living on street?
- b. can you tell me about the bad conditions you experience on the street with drugs and sleeping place ?
- c. Can you tell me the bad things that you face on your health while you are on street?
- d. can you tell me about street life and sexual abuse?

III. Interview guide for key informants

- a. What are the challenges they are facing?
- c. Can you tell me the overall living condition of street children?
- b. What kind of services are your organization providing for street children.

Annex II
Concent Form

My name is Haile Sebrato .I am a second year post graduate student at St.marry university/IGNOU, school of social work .I am undertaking a research to get my masters degree. The main objective of my research is to explore the reasons for streetism and life experience of street children. You are selected to participate in this research because your life/work experience is directly related to the research process is found to be crucial to attain the research objectives. I would like to assure you that all the information that you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purpose. Therefore, I would like to genuinely ask you to put your signature so as to make sure that you agreed to participate in the research process and provide information that would be necessary for the completeness of the study .If you decide to participate in the study, you have a right to terminate yourself from research at any time and that will not harm you by any means. I may ask some personal information that some people find difficult to answer. I am not going to talk to anyone about what you tell me. Your answers are completely confidential. Your name will not be written on this form and will ever be used in connection with any of the information you tell me .You do not have to answer any question that you don't want to answer, and you may end this interview at any time you want. However, your honest answer, to these questions will help me to better understand the current situation of the on the experience of street children in the rehabilitation center. I would greatly appreciate your help in responding to this study. The interview will take about an hour and therefore I ask your patience for the time I will take to finish my interview. Would you be willing to participate?

Signature of the interviewer.....

Date.....

(Participates will give their informed consent verbally)

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