Street Children in Somaliland: Addressing Social Policy Gaps and Solutions

Shab'an H. Yusuf

Abstract:- The problem of street children in Somaliland is a manifestation of complex socio-economic, cultural, and systemic challenges that contribute to the marginalization of these vulnerable youths. This paper tries to explore the factors that drive children to the streets, such as poverty, family disintegration, and the lack of access to educational opportunities. Demographically, street children in Somaliland are predominantly male, although girls face greater risks of exploitation. The paper emphasizes the severe health and psychological risks these children endure, compounded by societal stigma that views them as delinquents rather than victims.

It also discusses the national and international legal frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and their applicability to the situation of addressing the plight of street children. Somaliland has made some progress in creating child protection laws, but challenges persist in terms of resources and cultural attitudes. The paper makes a call for action in this regard with a multifaceted approach, involving family counseling, parent education, and community engagement, which can address the root causes and provide sustainable solutions.

Such collaborations between government agencies, NGOs, and international partners are vital to improving the well-being of street children and facilitating their reintegration into society.

Keywords:- Street children, Poverty, Family disintegration, Socio-economic challenges, Child protection, Health risks, Legal frameworks, Exploitation, Marginalization.

I. INTRODUCTION

From the world population, children account a significant portion of the global population, with estimates indicating that they make up approximately 29% of the total population worldwide. According to the United Nations, there are about 2.2 billion children aged 0-14 years globally, which translates to roughly 29% of the total world population of approximately 7.9 billion people as of 2021 (Wilmshurst et al., 2011).

The phenomenon of street children represents a complex interplay of socio-economic factors, cultural dynamics, and systemic neglect that often leads to their marginalization within society. Research consistently highlights that poverty is a predominant factor pushing children onto the streets, as families struggle to meet basic needs, thereby necessitating the economic contributions of their children from a young age (Nouri & Yousef, 2018; Abdullah et al., 2014; Ogunkan, 2023). This situation is exacerbated by parental negligence, where parents may be unable or unwilling to provide adequate care and support, further pushing children towards street life as a means of survival (Nouri & Yousef, 2018; Abdullah et al., 2014; Vameghi et al., 2012).

In many developing countries, the socio-economic conditions that lead to the emergence of street children are multifaceted. For instance, in India, a study revealed that the lack of parental awareness regarding the importance of education, coupled with the pressures of globalization, has resulted in many children abandoning their educational pursuits in favor of street work (Dutta, 2018). This trend is not isolated to a single region; it is a global issue that manifests in various forms across different cultural contexts, with street children often facing a myriad of challenges, including exploitation, abuse, and health risks (Cumber & Tsoka-Gwegweni, 2015; Ayub et al., 2016; Embleton et al., 2013).

II. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this paper focuses heavily on the review of secondary data sources. This includes an analysis of international treaties and conventions that Somaliland has ratified, along with relevant national laws, policies, and government-designed action plans to address children's issues. Furthermore, the study incorporates research reports from UN agencies such as UNICEF, as well as contributions from both international and local NGOs. Academic books, along with credible online sources, are also reviewed to provide a well-rounded perspective. Where necessary, unstructured interviews with government officials were conducted to supplement the data and provide additional insights for the study.

➢ *Street Children: Concepts and Definitions*

The concept of "street children" encompasses a diverse and complex population of minors who find themselves living and working in street environments, often without adequate adult supervision or protection. Various definitions exist, reflecting the multifaceted nature of this issue and the different contexts in which street children are found. According to the United Nations, a street child is defined as "any girl or boy for whom the street in the widest sense of the word (including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults" (Vameghi et al., 2012; Daba et al., 2020). This definition emphasizes the precarious living conditions and lack of support that characterize the lives of street children.

In addition to the UN's definition, UNICEF provides a more nuanced categorization of street children, identifying several subgroups. These include children who live on the streets, those who have run away from their families, children who work on the streets, and those who spend significant time on the streets but return home regularly (Dhawan, 2023; Taib & Ahmad, 2018). This classification highlights the varying degrees of connection to family and the different circumstances that lead children to the streets. For instance, some children may be part of "street families," living together on the streets, while others may be completely detached from familial ties (Dejman et al., 2015).

The phenomenon of street children is not merely a result of individual circumstances but is deeply rooted in broader socio-economic factors. Poverty, family dysfunction, and social dislocation are critical drivers that push children onto the streets (Vameghi et al., 2012; Vameghi et al., 2013). For instance, in many low- and middle-income countries, economic hardship can lead families to rely on their children's income, forcing them to work on the streets instead of attending school (Taib & Ahmad, 2018)

➢ *Problem Analysis: Street Children in Somaliland*

The issue of street children in Somaliland is a pressing social concern that reflects broader socio-economic challenges faced by the region. In Somaliland, the emergence of street children can be attributed to a combination of factors including poverty, family disintegration, and socio-political instability. This analysis will examine into the problem of street children in Somaliland, exploring their demographics, the underlying causes of their situation, and the implications for their health and well-being.

Demographically, street children in Somaliland are predominantly male, although there is a significant number of females who also find themselves in similar circumstances. Research indicates that boys often dominate the street child population due to societal norms that place greater economic burdens on males to contribute to family income (Özbaş, 2015). However, female street children face unique challenges, including higher risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, which are exacerbated by their marginalized status (Chimdessa & Cheire, 2018). The age range of street children typically spans from early childhood to late adolescence, with many children leaving home as young as six years old due to familial pressures or socio-economic hardships (Abubakar-Abdullateef et al., 2017).

The root causes of street child phenomena in Somaliland are deeply intertwined with the socio-economic landscape of the region. Poverty remains a significant driver, as many families struggle to meet basic needs, compelling children to seek work on the streets to support their families (Demartoto, 2012). In addition, family disintegration, often intensified by conflict and displacement, leads to a breakdown of traditional support systems. Many street children report having experienced domestic violence or neglect, prompting them to escape to the streets in search of safety and autonomy (Kertati & Cristiani,, 2022). Furthermore, the lack of educational opportunities in Somaliland contributes to the continuation of street life, as children who are unable to attend school are left with few alternatives for economic survival (Murray et al., 2012).

Health implications for street children in Somaliland are dire. Studies have shown that street children are at a higher risk of physical and mental health issues due to their living conditions, which often include exposure to violence, malnutrition, and inadequate healthcare. The prevalence of substance abuse among street children is also concerning, as many resort to drugs or alcohol as coping mechanisms for their harsh realities (Suryaningsi & Muhazir, 2020). Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety are common, with street children reporting feelings of hopelessness and isolation (Cumber & Tsoka-Gwegweni, 2015). These health challenges not only affect their immediate well-being but also have long-term implications for their development and future prospects.

The societal perception of street children in Somaliland often exacerbates their marginalization. Many adults view street children through a lens of stigma, perceiving them as delinquents or nuisances rather than recognizing their humanity and the systemic issues that have led them to the streets (Veale & Doná, 2003). This negative perception can hinder efforts to provide support and resources to these children, as interventions may be viewed with skepticism or outright rejection by the community. Consequently, street children often find themselves isolated from potential support networks, further entrenching their vulnerable status.

Addressing the issue of street children in Somaliland requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses education, health care, and social support systems. Programs aimed at providing access to education for street children are essential, as education can serve as a pathway out of poverty and street life (Endris & Sitota, 2019). Additionally, health interventions that focus on both physical and mental health are crucial in addressing the immediate needs of street children and promoting their overall well-being (Wayas, 2009). Community engagement and awareness-raising initiatives can also play a vital role in changing societal perceptions of street children, fostering a more supportive environment for their reintegration into society.

III. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK RELEVANT TO STREET CHILDREN

A. International and Regional Legal Framework

The legal and policy framework relevant to street children in Somaliland is significantly influenced by international and regional legal instruments designed to protect children's rights. These frameworks provide a foundation for addressing issues of child abuse and neglect, particularly for vulnerable populations such as street children.

At the international level, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) stands as the most comprehensive treaty dedicated to child rights. Ratified by numerous countries, including Somaliland/Somalia, the UNCRC outlines essential rights for children, including the right to protection from abuse and neglect, the right to education, and the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives (Kilkelly, 2006). The Convention emphasizes that states must take all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures to implement the rights recognized in the Convention, thereby establishing a legal obligation for countries to protect children from harm.

In addition to the UNCRC, the Optional Protocols to the Convention, particularly those addressing the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, further enhance protections for children in vulnerable situations (Bolborici, 2024). These protocols underscore the necessity of safeguarding children from exploitation and violence, which is particularly relevant to street children who may be at risk of such abuses.

Regionally, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) complements the UNCRC by addressing specific issues pertinent to the African context, such as child labor, exploitation, and the need for family and community support systems. The ACRWC obligates member states to take measures to protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect, reinforcing the commitment to uphold children's rights at a regional level (Gangoli et al., 2009).

B. National Legal and Policy Framework

At the national level, Somaliland has made strides in establishing a legal framework that aligns with international standards for child protection. The Somaliland Constitution, adopted in 2001, recognizes the rights of children and mandates the state to protect them from abuse and neglect (Wulczyn et al., 2002). Additionally, the Somaliland Child Rights Law, enacted in 2011, aims to implement the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within the local context. This law emphasizes the right of every child to protection from all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect, and it establishes mechanisms for reporting and addressing cases of child maltreatment (Vidra et al., 2017).

Despite these legal frameworks, the implementation remains a significant challenge. The lack of resources, inadequate training for law enforcement and social workers, and cultural attitudes towards child discipline often hinder effective enforcement of these laws (Kinuthia et al., 2014). Moreover, the legal system in Somaliland is still evolving, and there is a need for comprehensive policies that specifically address the needs of street children, who are particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse and exploitation.

Internationally, Somaliland is a signatory to several key treaties that influence its national policies on child protection. The UNCRC, which Somaliland ratified in 2002, obligates the government to take all appropriate measures to protect children from abuse and neglect (Concepcion et al., 2019). Additionally, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) reinforces the commitment to uphold children's rights at a regional level, emphasizing the need for states to protect children from all forms of abuse and to ensure their development in a safe environment (Rontogianni et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the national policies concerning child welfare in Somaliland are often influenced by international development organizations and NGOs that advocate for children's rights. These organizations play a crucial role in raising awareness about child protection issues and providing support services for street children. They often collaborate with the government to develop programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect, as well as providing rehabilitation and reintegration services for street children (Clarke, 2012).

The National Development Plan (NDP) also plays a crucial role in the child protection policy framework. The NDP outlines strategies for enhancing social services, including education and health care, which are essential for the well-being of street children (Bywaters et al., 2018). The plan emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to child welfare, integrating health, education, and social protection services.

IV. EFFORTS AND GAPS IN ENFORCING LAWS AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

One of the primary efforts in Somaliland has been the establishment of the Somaliland Child Rights Law, which aligns with international standards set by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Fass et al., 2017). This legal framework is intended to protect children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. However, the actual enforcement of these laws is often inconsistent. Reports indicate that there is a lack of resources and trained personnel to effectively implement Child Protection Policy, which hampers the ability of authorities to respond to cases of abuse and neglect among street children (Chen et al., 2021).

Moreover, the societal attitudes towards street children often complicate enforcement efforts. Street children are frequently stigmatized and marginalized, leading to their treatment as criminals rather than victims in need of protection (Michaelson & Ensom, 2022). This societal perception can result in law enforcement agencies being less inclined to intervene on behalf of street children, further perpetuating their vulnerability. For instance, studies have shown that street children in various contexts often face harassment from police, which can include demands for bribes in exchange for non-interference (Afifi et al., 2017). Such practices violate their rights and undermine the legal protections intended for them.

In addition to legal frameworks, various national policies have been developed to address the needs of street children. The National Development Plan (NDP) outlines strategies for improving social services, including education and health care, which are crucial for the well-being of street children (Fass et al., 2017). However, the implementation of these policies is often hindered by inadequate funding and a lack of coordination among different government agencies and NGOs. The absence of a comprehensive approach that integrates health, education, and social protection services leaves many street children without the support they need (Yaffe & Burg, 2014).

Furthermore, the role of NGOs and international organizations is critical in advocating for the rights of street children and providing essential services. These organizations often fill gaps left by the government, offering shelter, education, and health services to street children (Bateganya, 2023). However, their efforts can be limited by the lack of a supportive policy environment and insufficient collaboration with governmental bodies (Fielding & Ballance, 2021).

V. ALTERNATIVE POLICY SOLUTIONS

To effectively address the challenges faced by street children in Somaliland, a comprehensive policy solution that includes family counseling, parent education and training, and the implementation of family support programs is essential. This approach aims to strengthen family units, reduce the incidence of children living on the streets, and promote the overall well-being of children.

Family counseling can play a pivotal role in addressing the underlying issues that lead to children living on the streets. Counseling services can provide families with tools to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and address issues such as substance abuse and domestic violence, which are often prevalent in households with street-connected children. By offering a platform for families to discuss their challenges, counseling can help normalize family dynamics and reduce the factors that push children to the streets (Haan et al., 2020).

Moreover, implementing family support programs that focus on poverty alleviation can significantly impact the lives of street children. These programs can include financial literacy training, job creation initiatives, and access to social services that support families in need. By alleviating economic pressures, families are less likely to rely on their children for income, thereby reducing the likelihood of children being pushed into street life (Zhong & Peng, 2020).

Parent education and training programs are vital for equipping caregivers with the skills necessary to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for their children. Training can cover topics such as positive discipline techniques, child development, and the importance of education. Educating parents about children's rights and the negative impacts of corporal punishment can foster a more supportive home environment, which is crucial for preventing children from seeking refuge on the streets (Kang, 2018).

Additionally, programs that promote awareness of the long-term consequences of neglect and abuse can help shift cultural attitudes towards parenting. By emphasizing the importance of emotional support and healthy relationships, these programs can contribute to breaking the cycle of violence and neglect that often leads to children becoming street-connected (Butts et al., 2013).

Engaging the community in supporting families is essential for the success of these initiatives. Community-based programs that encourage local involvement can help create a supportive network for families in need. This can include mentorship programs where community members provide guidance and support to struggling families, as well as initiatives that promote children's rights and well-being.

Furthermore, raising awareness about the challenges faced by street children and their families can foster a more compassionate community response. By sensitizing the public to the issues of poverty, abuse, and neglect, communities can work together to create a safer environment for children (Devaney, 2017).

VI. MAJOR RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The successful implementation of policies aimed at addressing the needs of street children in Somaliland requires the collaboration of various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, and international partners. Below are the major responsible entities for implementing these policies:

A. Government Agencies

➢ *Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs:*
This ministry is primarily responsible for the welfare of children and families in Somaliland. It plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing child protection policies, including those targeting street children. The ministry can coordinate efforts across various sectors to ensure comprehensive support for vulnerable families.

➢ *Ministry of Education and Science:*
The Ministry of Education is essential in implementing educational programs and initiatives aimed at integrating street children into the formal education system. It can also facilitate training programs for parents and community members on the importance of education.

➢ *Ministry of Health:*
This ministry is responsible for the health and well-being of children in Somaliland. It can implement health programs that address the physical and mental health needs of street children and their families, including access to healthcare services and mental health support.

➢ *Local Government Authorities:*
Local government bodies play a critical role in the implementation of child protection policies at the community level. They can facilitate the establishment of counseling centers, support programs, and community engagement initiatives.

B. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

➢ *Child Protection NGOs:*
Various NGOs focus specifically on child protection and welfare. These organizations can provide direct services to street children, including shelter, counseling, education, and health services. They also play a vital role in advocacy and raising awareness about children's rights.

➢ *Community-Based Organizations:*
Local community organizations can engage in grassroots efforts to support families and children. They can facilitate workshops, support groups, and community mobilization initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of street involvement.

➢ *International NGOs:*
Organizations such as UNICEF and Save the Children often have programs focused on child welfare and protection. They can provide technical assistance, funding, and resources to support local initiatives aimed at helping street children.

C. Community Stakeholders

➢ *Community Leaders and Elders:*
Local leaders and elders can play a significant role in advocating for the rights of street children and promoting community support for families in need. Their involvement can help shift cultural attitudes and foster a more supportive environment for vulnerable children.

➢ *Parents:*
Engaging parents in the implementation of policies is crucial. They can participate in training programs and support initiatives that aim to improve family dynamics and reduce the risk of children becoming street-connected.

➢ *Youth and Peer Support Groups:*
Empowering youth to take an active role in supporting their peers can create a sense of community and belonging. Peer support groups can provide mentorship and guidance to street children, helping them navigate challenges and access available resources.

D. International Partners

➢ *United Nations Agencies:*
Agencies such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) can provide support in terms of funding, technical expertise, and capacity building for local entities working with street children.

➢ *Bilateral and Multilateral Donors:*

International donors can provide financial assistance for programs aimed at addressing the needs of street children. Their involvement can help ensure the sustainability of initiatives and support the scaling up of successful programs.

VII. CONCLUSION

Addressing the needs of street children in Somaliland requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses legal, social, and economic strategies. The existing frameworks, including the Somaliland Child Rights Law and various national policies, provide a foundation for protecting children's rights. However, significant gaps remain in the implementation and enforcement of these laws, often due to resource limitations, cultural attitudes, and a lack of coordinated efforts among stakeholders.

To effectively combat the challenges faced by street children, it is essential to implement comprehensive strategies that include family counseling, parent education and training, and robust family support programs. By focusing on strengthening family units and providing the necessary resources, Somaliland can reduce the incidence of children living on the streets and promote their overall well-being.

Engaging various stakeholders—government agencies, NGOs, community organizations, and international partners—is crucial for the successful implementation of these strategies. Collaborative efforts can foster a supportive environment that not only addresses the immediate needs of street children but also contributes to long-term societal change by promoting healthier family dynamics and community involvement.

Ultimately, the commitment to protecting and supporting street children in Somaliland will require sustained advocacy, resource allocation, and a shift in societal attitudes towards child welfare. By prioritizing the rights and needs of these vulnerable children, Somaliland can work towards a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

REFERENCES

[1]. Abdullah, M. A., Basharat, Z., Lodhi, O., Wazir, M. H. K., Khan, H. T., Sattar, N. Y., … & Zahid, A. (2014). A qualitative exploration of pakistan's street children, as a consequence of the poverty-disease cycle. Infectious Diseases of Poverty, 3(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/2049-9957-3-11.

[2]. Abubakar-Abdullateef, A., Adedokun, B., & Omigbodun, O. (2017). A comparative study of the prevalence and correlates of psychiatric disorders in almajiris and public primary school pupils in zaria, northwest nigeria. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 11(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-017-0166-3.

[3]. Afifi, T. O., Ford, D. C., Gershoff, E. T., Merrick, M. T., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Ports, K. A., … & Bennett, R. P. (2017). Spanking and adult mental health impairment: the case for the designation of spanking as an adverse childhood experience. Child Abuse &Amp; Neglect, 71, 24-31. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.01.014.

[4]. Amo-Adjei, J. and Annim, S. K. (2015). Socioeconomic determinants of birth registration in ghana. BMC International Health and Human Rights, 15(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12914-015-0053-z.

[5]. Ayub, T., Kumar, D., & Shora, T. N. (2016). Psychosocial, demographic, educational and health characteristics of street children - a qualitative study. International Journal of Medical Science and Public Health, 5(8), 1702. https://doi.org/10.5455/ijmsph.2016.09122015290.

[6]. Bateganya, F. H. and Nakanjako, R. (2023). The role and importance of aviation fuel in the health-seeking behavior of child migrants living along the uganda–kenya border at busia. International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies, 14(3), 73-89. https://doi.org/10.18357/ijcyfs143202321635.

[7]. Bolborici, A. M. (2024). Children's rights in conflict according to the international humanitarian law. Bulletin of the Transilvania University of Brașov. Series VII: Social Sciences • Law, 15-20. https://doi.org/10.31926/but.ssl.2023.16.65.3.2.

[8]. Bywaters, P., Scourfield, J., Ct, J., Sparks, T. H., Elliott, M., Hooper, J., … & Daniel, B. (2018). Child welfare inequalities in the four nations of the uk. Journal of Social Work, 20(2), 193-215.

[9]. Chen, J., Pan, Z., & Wang, L. (2021). Parental beliefs and actual use of corporal punishment, school violence and bullying, and depression in early adolescence. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 18(12), 6270. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18126270.

[10]. Chimdessa, A. and Cheire, A. (2018). Sexual and physical abuse and its determinants among street children in addis ababa, ethiopia 2016. BMC Pediatrics, 18(1). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-018-1267-8.

[11]. Conrad-Hiebner, A. and Byram, E. (2018). The temporal impact of economic insecurity on child maltreatment: a systematic review. Trauma, Violence, &Amp; Abuse, 21(1), 157-178.

[12]. Cumber, S. N. and Tsoka-Gwegweni, J. M. (2015). The health profile of street children in africa: a literature review. Journal of Public Health in Africa. https://doi.org/10.4081/jphia.2015.566.

[13]. Daba, D. B., Shaweno, T., Belete, K. T., & Workicho, A. (2020). <p>magnitude of under nutrition and associated factors among adolescent street children at jimma town, south west ethiopia</p>. Nutrition and Dietary Supplements, Volume 12, 31-39. https://doi.org/10.2147/nds.s233393.

[14]. Dejman, M., Vameghi, M., Roshanfekr, P., Dejman, F., Rafiey, H., Forouzan, A. S., … & Johnson, R. M. (2015). Drug use among street children in tehran, iran: a qualitative study. Frontiers in Public Health, 3. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2015.00279.

[15]. Dejman, M., Vameghi, M., Roshanfekr, P., Dejman, F., Rafiey, H., Forouzan, A. S., … & Johnson, R. M. (2015). Drug use among street children in tehran, iran: a qualitative study. Frontiers in Public Health, 3. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2015.00279.

[16]. Demartoto, A. (2012). Need-based street children management in surakarta city of central java province of indonesia. Asian Social Science, 8(11). https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v8n11p107.

[17]. Dhawan, A., Mishra, A. K., Chatterjee, B., Bhatia, G., Ambekar, A., Agarwal, A., … & Chopra, A. (2023). Characteristics associated with substance use and non-use among street children in delhi, india: a community-based cross-sectional epidemiological study. Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine, 46(1), 46-54. https://doi.org/10.1177/02537176231199209.

[18]. Dutta, N. (2018). Street children in india: a study on their access to health and education. International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies, 9(1), 69. https://doi.org/10.18357/ijcyfs91201818120.

[19]. Eckenrode, J., Smith, E., McCarthy, M., & Dineen, M. (2014). Income inequality and child maltreatment in the united states. Pediatrics, 133(3), 454-461. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-1707.

[20]. Embleton, L., Lee, H., Gunn, J. K. L., Ayuku, D., & Braitstein, P. (2016). Causes of child and youth homelessness in developed and developing countries. JAMA Pediatrics, 170(5), 435. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2016.0156.

[21]. Embleton, L., Mwangi, A., Vreeman, R. C., Ayuku, D., & Braitstein, P. (2013). The epidemiology of substance use among street children in resource-constrained settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Addiction, 108(10), 1722-1733. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.12252.

[22]. Embleton, L., Mwangi, A., Vreeman, R. C., Ayuku, D., & Braitstein, P. (2013). The epidemiology of substance use among street children in resource-constrained settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Addiction, 108(10), 1722-1733. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.12252.

[23]. Fass, M. N., Khoury-Kassabri, M., & Koot, H. M. (2017). Associations between arab mothers' self-efficacy and parenting attitudes and their children's externalizing and internalizing behaviors: gender differences and the mediating role of corporal punishment. Child Indicators Research, 11(4), 1369-1387. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-017-9480-9.

[24]. Fielding, W. J. and Ballance, V. (2021). Knowledge, attitudes and practices of corporal punishment in bahamian homes. International Journal of Bahamian Studies, 27, 47. https://doi.org/10.15362/ijbs.v27i0.415.

[25]. Gangoli, G., McCarry, M., & Razak, A. (2009). Child marriage or forced marriage? south asian communities in north east england. Children &Amp; Society, 23(6), 418-429. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1099-0860.2008.00188.x.

[26]. Greksa, L. P., Naganuma, R., Islam, A., Maki, U., & Omori, K. (2006). Growth and health status of street children in dhaka, bangladesh. American Journal of Human Biology, 19(1), 51-60. https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.20573.

[27]. Gupta, A. (2012). Social determinants of health—street children at crossroads. Health, 04(09), 634-643. https://doi.org/10.4236/health.2012.49100.

[28]. Iqbal, M. W. (2008). Street children: an overlooked issue in pakistan. Child Abuse Review, 17(3), 201-209. https://doi.org/10.1002/car.1026.

[29]. John, D. F., Yusha'u, A. A., Philip, T. F., & Taru, M. Y. (2019). Street children: implication on mental health and the future of west africa. Psychology, 10(05), 667-681. https://doi.org/10.4236/psych.2019.105042.

[30]. Katz, C. (2021). Invisible children and non-essential workers: child protection during covid-19 in israel according to policy documents and media coverage. Child Abuse &Amp; Neglect, 116, 104770. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104770.

[31]. Kertati, I. and Cristiani,, C. (2022). The significance of a community institution on education of street children in semarang city. International Journal of Social Science and Human Research, 05(11), 4854-4859. https://doi.org/10.47191/ijsshr/v5-i11-06.

[32]. Kharisma, B., Wardhana, A., Hasanah, A., Remi, S. S., & Nurhanifa, S. (2022). Does the household structure create child labor? the case in indonesia. Bulletin of Geography. Socio-Economic Series, (58), 169-182. https://doi.org/10.12775/bgss-2022-0041.

[33]. Kilkelly, U. (2006). Operationalising children's rights: lessons from research. Journal of Children's Services, 1(4), 35-46. https://doi.org/10.1108/17466660200600030.

[34]. Kumar, D. (2016). Psychosomatic assessment of street children: a gorakhpur experience. Journal of Medical Science and Clinical Research, 04(11), 14247-14252. https://doi.org/10.18535/jmscr/v4i11.116.

[35]. Michaelson, V. and Ensom, R. (2022). Ending the social normalization of violence against children in canada: a

framework, rationale, and appeal to canadian faith leaders. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 19(24), 17016. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192417016.

[36]. Murray, L., Singh, N. S., Surkan, P. J., Semrau, K., & Bass, J. K. (2012). A qualitative study of georgian youth who are on the street or institutionalized. International Journal of Pediatrics, 2012, 1-11. https://doi.org/10.1155/2012/921604.

[37]. Nouri, A. and Yousef, K. (2018). A phenomenological study on the meaning of educational justice for street children. Education, Citizenship and Social Justice, 14(1), 57-67. https://doi.org/10.1177/1746197918760083.

[38]. Ogunkan, D. (2023). A multisource analysis of child streetism in nigerian urban centres. Development Policy Review, 42(1). https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12739.

[39]. Oluwaseyi, A., McGillivray, D., Carnicelli, S., & McPherson, G. (2021). Embedding child rights principles and practises in mega sport event planning. Frontiers in Sports and Active Living, 3.

[40]. Owen, N. and d'Amour, J. B. (2021). Street children and money in relation to covid-19 virus: case study for the street children in the republic of south sudan. European Journal of Social Sciences, 4(2), 73-80. https://doi.org/10.26417/692pkp89p.

[41]. Özbaş, M. (2015). Personal and familial properties of street children—street children: the forgotten or not remembered ones. Journal of Education and Learning, 4(1). https://doi.org/10.5539/jel.v4n1p97.

[42]. Panter-Brick, C. (2002). Street children, human rights, and public health: a critique and future directions. Annual Review of Anthropology, 31(1), 147-171. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.anthro.31.040402.085359.

[43]. Parton, N. (2022). Comparative research and critical child protection studies. Social Sciences, 11(4), 156. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11040156.

[44]. Roche, S. (2017). Child protection and maltreatment in the philippines: a systematic review of the literature. Asia &Amp; The Pacific Policy Studies, 4(1), 104-128.

[45]. Shitindi, S. J., Zhang, Y., & Nyello, A. (2023). Challenges facing street children and copying strategies in dodoma and dar es salaam cities, tanzania. International Journal of Social Science and Human Research, 6(10). https://doi.org/10.47191/ijsshr/v6-i10-39.

[46]. Souza, R. B. d., Porten, K., Nicholas, S., & Grais, R. F. (2010). Outcomes for street children and youth under multidisciplinary care in a drop-in centre in tegucigalpa, honduras. International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 57(6), 619-626. https://doi.org/10.1177/0020764010382367.

[47]. Swahn, M. H., Palmier, J. B., Kasirye, R., & Yao, H. (2012). Correlates of suicide ideation and attempt among youth living in the slums of kampala. International Journal of Environmental Public Health, 9(2), 596-609. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph9020596.

[48]. Swahn, M. H., Palmier, J. B., Kasirye, R., & Yao, H. (2012). Correlates of suicide ideation and attempt among youth living in the slums of kampala. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 9(2), 596-609. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph9020596.

[49]. Taib, N. I. and Ahmad, A. (2018). Boys who work on the streets of iraq are exposed to more traumatic events such as torture than schoolboys of the same age. Acta Paediatrica, 108(4), 725-730. https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.14530.

[50]. Vameghi, M., Rafiey, H., Sajjadi, H., & Rashidian, A. (2013). Disadvantages of being a street child in iran: a systematic review. International Journal of Adolescence and Youth, 19(4), 521-535. https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2012.759601.

[51]. Vameghi, M., Sajadi, H., Rafiey, H., & Rashidian, A. (2012). The socioeconomic status of street children in iran: a systematic review on studies over a recent decade. Children &Amp; Society, 28(5), 352-365. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1099-0860.2012.00456.x.

[52]. Wilmshurst, J. M., Badoe, Ë., Wammanda, R. D., Mallewa, M., Kakooza-Mwesige, A., Venter, A., … & Newton, C. R. (2011). Child neurology services in africa. Journal of Child Neurology, 26(12), 1555-1563. https://doi.org/10.1177/0883073811420601.

[53]. Yaffe, Y. and Burg, D. (2014). Corporal punishment as a parental practice and anxiety in pre-adolescent children. Journal of Social Science Studies, 1(2), 13. https://doi.org/10.5296/jsss.v1i2.5099.