FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE INCREASE OF STREET CHILDREN POPULATION IN KENYA.

A CASE STUDY OF MOLO TOWN, NAKURU COUNTY.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research project submitted to Maasai Mara University is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other university.

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SIGNATURE……DATE……

SUPERVISOR

This research project has been submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor.

REV. DR. KENNETH ODIEMBO

SIGNATURE…….DATE……

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project to my blessed mom, dad and siblings who sacrificed and denied themselves to support my basic education that became the foundation upon which my career is built and to all who aspired to learn, acquire knowledge and skills for the benefit of humanity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project could not have been possible without the immense support and guidance from some people; I wish to acknowledge their unreserved assistance towards this study,

I thank the Almighty God for sustaining me throughout this endeavor giving me strength, good health and wisdom.

I am in debt to my friends for their support in the task of reviewing, editing and typing.

My special thanks to Rev. Odiembo and Dr.Onyiko for their guidelines and for their unreserved support and encouragements.

I also thank the entire Maasai Mara University for making the environment favorable for my study.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NGO- Non-governmental organization

UNCHS- United Nations Human Settlements Program

UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund

NYS- National Youth Service

WHO- World Health Organization

UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations

UNDP- United Nations Development Program

PEV- Post-election violence

IDP- internally displaced person

KAG- Kenya Assemblies of God

FGD- Focused Group Discussion

FBO- Faith Based Organization

CCI- Charitable Children's Institutions

DEFINITIONS

Paternal orphan- a child whose father has died

Maternal orphan- a child whose mother has died

Double orphan- a child whose both parents have died

ABSTRACT

The quest for the study was to examine factors influencing increasing number of street children in Molo town, Nakuru County. The study was guided by four objectives. These objectives are; to identify the influence of social factors on the growth of street children in molo town; to establish the economic factors leading to the growth of street children in molo town; to examine the political factors influencing growth of street children in molo town and to find out how cultural factors influence the growth of street children in molo town. The study was guided by Conflict theory coined by Ritzer. Relevant literature review revealed that there are several factors that contribute to the increase of street children in molo town. The study was mainly qualitative. It employed descriptive research design; preferred because it allowed the researcher to conduct in-depth interviews and observation schedules to gather both factual information systematically and also record the characteristics of interest as they occurred. The secondary target population was 150 children. Four children's homes and rehabilitation center were purposively sampled to participate in the study. They are; Molo street children project, Chazon rescue Centre, KAG children's home and Talents children's home. Stratified random sampling and simple random sampling methods were used to determine respondents. Data was collected through open and closed questionnaires. The categories of respondents were the street children, children in the rehabilitation center and, social workers and administrators from the four centers. The study revealed that there are many socio-economic factors contributing to the increase of street children in molo town, ranging from poverty, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, conflicts, family break-up child abuse and inadequate will from the government towards supporting poor families. The study concluded by the summary from the different objectives' findings and made recommendations to various and relevant stakeholders.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Summary of chapter one

This chapter contains the background of the study which states clearly the problem and the origin of the study research. The statement of the problem also is in this chapter, specific objectives and general objective of this study also helps the researcher to be more focused in the study. The research questions which are derived from the research objectives help the researcher obtain data relevant to the study. Significance of the study, limitations of the study and scope of the study and justification of the study are also included in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

A street child is any boy or girl who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street(in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc) has become his or her habitual abode and/or sources of livelihoods, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.(Inter NGO, 1990). A street child is a term for children experiencing poverty, who are living in the streets and they also develop their own ways to overcome such difficulties.

There are two groups of street children. The first group is 'children of the street' (children who are homeless, and streets in the urban areas are their source of livelihood, where they sleep and live). The second group is 'children on the streets'. They work and live on the streets in the day time but return back home at night where they sleep, although some of them sleep occasionally on the streets (UNCHS, 2000).

Street children share some common characteristics such as; difficulties in obtaining food, clean water, healthcare, toilet and bath facilities, and lack of adequate shelter. They also suffer from absence of parental protection, and also lack moral and emotional support (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999).

The majority of street children are boys (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999; Le Roux and Smith, 1998). Due to cultural sanctions, females are less represented, as females are more controlled by their families. The average age at which street children start living on the

streets is between 9 to 12 years old and keep living on the streets until they reach age 15 to 16. Then they start looking for stable jobs. (Rizzin et,al, 1994)

There are an estimated 250000 street children in Kenya today and over 60,000 are in the major cities. Rapid and unsustainable urbanization in the post-colonial period which led to entrenched urban poverty in cities such as Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa is an underlying cause of child homelessness. Rural urban migration broke up extended families which had previously acted as a support network, taking care of children in cases of abuse, neglect and abandonment as reported by UNICEF (1999).

Most street children sniff glue and that is the street culture even in molo and the majority of street children in the slum are habitual solvent users. Glue sniffing is functional to the street children's it tends to dull the senses of the hardship of life in the street and also provides a link to the support structure of the street family as a potent symbol of a shared experience.

1.2 Statement of the problem

While the distinction between 'children on the street' and 'children of the street' has been useful, some overlaps and grey areas still remain. The street life is uncomfortable, not conducive and dirty, violent, harsh and unpromising. Initiatives from the government, international community, civil societies and individuals towards poverty eradication have to greater extent improved livelihoods for Kenyans.

Street homes have been constructed, children have been adopted but the problem of street children still remains unresolved fully. As Sonia D. (2009) writes, in her short while stay in Molo, she realized there were children living by themselves in parts of the town, with some looking after other children. The children are ravaged by poverty, big victims of post-election violence, and in the bigger picture globalization.

It is notably and evident that some of these children are sent out by their parents to beg on the streets. On their stay in the streets, social evils maneuver and most of them start engaging in drug abuse and eventually crimes. Population of Molo street children accelerated as a result of post-election violence. Molo has a history of high volatility; parents put their children in rental premises during times of tension but later reclaim them when things calm down. Currently, there are up to 200 such children in Molo.

Assumptions have always been linking or associating street children to poverty. The Kenyan government in 2003 took over 60000 street children countrywide to NYS for rehabilitation. Eventually, to the surprise of many, 50000 escaped and went back to the streets. Some people, NGOs and the government have tried to look at the reasons why this happened, but no solution has been found. This shows that there is/are factor(s) beyond poverty that make it comfortable in the streets or lead to the increasing street children. This therefore gives a platform for more studies as pertaining street children on the factors leading to their increasing.

1.3 objectives of the study

1.3.1 general objective

The general objective is to analyze factors that influence growth of street children in molo town, Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives if this study will be;

1. To identify the influence of social factors on the growth of street children in molo town.
2. To establish the economic factors leading to the growth of street children in molo town.
3. To examine the political factors influencing growth of street children in molo town.
4. To find out how cultural factors influence the growth of street children in molo town.

1.4 Research hypotheses

1. To what extent do political factors influence growth of street children in molo.
2. How does single parenthood influence the growth of street children in molo.
3. In what ways does poverty lead to increased number of street children in molo.
4. How does political and economic instability relate with growth of street children in molo.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study acknowledges existence of street children in Kenya. It aims at obtaining information on the factors influencing the high growth rate of street children which could help in policy development. This information will help the families, communities, organizations, civil societies and the government to make appropriate decisions intensify efforts and plan for better strategies on how to reduce the number of street children in our towns and cities.

The findings in this study will also help supplement the Dakar Framework for education for all(EFA, 2000), whose objective is expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children for the purpose of achieving equity in terms of participation.

1.6 limitations of the study

The major limitation of the study will be getting information from the street children. Studies have shown that street children have developed attitudes and capacities to tell stories. They might lie about age, family background, their being on the streets, challenges (life in the streets, and their current circumstances is included in their well-rehearsed scripts, Felman, 1989, Leite and Esteves 1991)

Time constraint may also hinder the study, because the study will be scheduled within a limited period, the researcher will be forced to work on a limited sample population, which may not yield reliable and accurate results.

Limited resources are another limitation. Resources such as finances, the cost of the study will be higher due to transportation and communication costs, data collection tools personal effects among others.

1.7 Scope of the study

The study will only cover molo town. This is mainly due to limited resources in terms of time and funds required in undertaking the study on a large scale. The selected key issues are political factors, social factors, economic factors and cultural factors. Data will mainly be from past information, either as recorded (books, journals, articles, sites) or as remembered by the respondents. Hence, findings may be facing the limitation of memory lapses.

1.8 justification of the study

Factors influencing growth of street children have been well documented. However, there is limited information that goes beyond poverty as a factor for this phenomenon. This study sought to document more explained factors leading to the growth of street children.

CHAPTER TWO.

LITERATURE REVIEW.

2.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the literature either directly or indirectly as related to the study. The chapter focuses on what the researchers, scholars, and educationists have found out and said about street children. First the study examines the historical perspective of street children and their emergence in Kenya, chronological review by different authors and it further looks at the factors/causes of increase of street children i.e. economic factors, social factors, political factors and cultural factors.

2.2 Historical perspective of street children

Street children has been defined in various ways depending with the nature of lifestyle lived by these children. According to Glauser (1990), Ermu(1981), Mwaura (2002); Street children are increasingly recognized by sociologists and anthropologists to be a socially constructed category that in reality does not form a clearly defined, homogeneous population or phenomenon. Amnesty international (1991) has categorized street children into two main categories in efforts to define them: First, Children on the streets as those engaged in some kind of economics activity ranging from begging to vend with most of them going home at the end of the day and they contribute to their family earnings. Because of the economic fragility of the families, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets. Secondly, are children of the streets who actually live on the streets (or outside a normal family environment). Here family ties may exist but are tenuous and are maintained only casually or occasionally. UNICEF (1998) defines street children as a concept of boys and girls aged less than 18 years for whom the street (including unoccupied dwellings and wastelands) has become home and a source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. This definition has reduced the contention in the many definitions held by various authors, practitioners and policy makers who have for many years raised questions on the true definition of a street child.

Wangenge G. Ouma (2004), shares the Amnesty international definition in his categorization as to include, children of the streets and children of the streets with the former being those who work in the streets by day and return home at night, while the

latter as those who live full time on the streets and sleep there at night. He continues to say that genuine children of the streets are; either orphans or those abandoned by their parents. According to WHO (1990) Street child may be a Child of the streets, has no home but the streets. The family may have abandoned him or her or may have no family members left alive. Such a child has to struggle for survival and might move from friend to friend, or live in shelters such as abandoned buildings. A Child on the street is visiting his or her family regularly. The child might even return every night to sleep at home, but spends most days and some nights on the street because of poverty, overcrowding, sexual or physical abuse at home. A part of a street family**:** Some children live on the sidewalks or city squares with the rest of their families. Families displaced due to poverty, natural disasters, or wars may be forced to live on the streets. They move their possessions from place to place when necessary. Basically street children from the definitions explained above share the similar views as to those on the streets and those children of the streets. A very close definition has also been given by Cradle and The Undugu Society of Kenya the two organizations working to improve the life of children and youth in Kenya. The two categorize Kenyan street children into four main categories as below: Some children who work and live on the street full-time, living in groups in temporary shelters or in dark places, corridors or dark alleys. The second category is children who work on the streets by day but go home to their families in the evenings. Many of the street children in the country fall in this category. The third category is children who are on the streets occasionally, such as in the evenings, weekends, and during school holidays. The fourth category is known as street families, children whose parents are also on the streets. The history of the street children is not a new phenomenon. In Tsarist Russia, 17th century sources described destitute youths roaming in the streets and the phenomenon survived every attempt at eradication thereafter. In 1848, Lord Ashley referred to more than 30,000 naked, filthy, roaming lawlessness and deserted children in and around London. By 1922, there were at least 7 million children in Russia as a result of nearly a decade of devastation of war and the Russian civil war. These children formed gangs and engaged in petty theft and prostitution. Prior to the coming of Europeans African communities were strongly interwoven together. There was no welfare institutions like orphanages and children‘s home but the social structure of the society had a strong system of taking care of all children and the other members of the society who were in need. With the coming of the white man‘s cash

economy, the strong social fabric has slowly broken and gradually children with no care are increasing day by day. The de-stabilization of the colonial impact also led to many children left stranded through neglect, disease, death and poverty. Relating to the colonial ties, Kenya has been facing a severe and chronic and disturbing moments of street children with approximately 300,000 of ages five to seventeen living and working in the streets.

2.3 Review by different authors.

Ahmedullah Mia (1990), showed the problems of the street and the working children in Bangladesh. In his study, 1.8 million children in the age group of 15-18years were present I 1990, he postulated an increase to three million by 2000which would constitute 64% of the urban poor.

D'lima, Gosalia (1992), highlighted the probable sites where most of the street children were found. He observed that street children are mostly found in the vicinity of railway stations, street junctions, bridges; half-way dug pavements and market places. Symonds (1993) observed indulgence of street children in delinquent behaviors and are more aggressive. He argued that such children become withdrawn, hyperactive and have night terrors while others run away from home.

Kevin J Lalor (1998) highlights the widespread abuse of street children. He reported that more than half of the children questioned in his study admitted to being regularly physically attacked. Girls were often sexually abused i.e. rape or sexually attacked. Justice Ananth Mane (2003) observed that children around the world suffer appalling abuses. Too often, street children are killed or tortured by police. Boys as young as 7years are recruited to serve as soldiers. Sometimes as young as six, are forced to work under extremely difficult conditions, as laborers or in forced prostitution. Refugee children separated from their parents and families are vulnerable to exploitation, sexual abuse or domestic violence. Ironically, within the care of the state, children are often subject to abuse and mistreatment-orphaned and abandoned children are housed in appalling institutions where they suffer from cruelty and neglect.

UNICEF (2008) reported that, the present condition of the urban child, particularly the street child is a cumulative consequence of rural landlessness and unemployment, rural-out migration, municipal incapability, eroding spirituality, values and support structures, and criminality. Increasing proportions of children are born and growing

up in urban, low-income environments, joining the poverty cycle due to their limited options for future, and thus threatening their own development as well as that of the community and country as a whole. Therefore, urbanization is a child rights issue.

UNESCO (2014) "Being a street child means going hungry, sleeping in insalubrious places, facing up to violence and sometimes becoming an expiatory victim: it means growing up without companionship, love and protection, it means not having access to education or medical services, it means losing all dignity and becoming an adult before even been a child."

2.4 Factors/causes and street children

2.4.1 Economic factors and street children

Economic poverty is a factor cited by many different scholars as pushing children to the streets (Alexander rescue, 1998; Peacock 1994; Scheper-Hughes and Hoffman 1998).

In Bombay, 50.000 children are illegally employed by 11750 hotels, restaurants, canteens, tea shops and food joints, Bose A.B (2005). Children lack protection from the family and the law, and employers often exploit them, making them virtual prisoners, sometimes withholding pay and abusing them, Patel, Sheela (2005).

A recent UNDP-government policy paper in Bangladesh points out poverty as the driving force for increasing number of street children. It also suggests that the influx of migration could be stopped if sufficient income earning activities are created in rural areas through massive poverty alienation, Arise (2001).

Bourdillon (1991), sees the predicament of children living and working on the streets in urban and slum areas as a recent phenomenon in Kenya. Prior to independence in 1963, it was almost impossible for children to work in the streets as car washers, beggars or parking boys. The municipal by-laws were strict and brutally enforced. With independence, muchini (2000), notes that such enforcements became slack and unpredictable leading to increased number of street children.

As street children must provide for themselves, work is a very important aspect of their lives. Chatterjee (1992). Working conditions for street children are often poor because they are confined to working in the informal sector unregulated by the government policies.

2.4.2 Social factors and street children

Patel (1990) after interviewing 1500 children in his study in Bombay, he claimed that the major reason for increasing number of street children was not poverty but family violence. Another Indian study showed that although poverty was a significant aspect of the children being on the streets, family discord was the major problem, Sondhi and subrahmanyarng, (1990).

Family structure, ill-treatment by parents or guardian, disobedience and laziness, family disputes and evictions from home, parental neglect, irresponsible and indifferences are some of the social factors accredited to the rising number of street children.

A case in Zimbabwe presents sexual abuse, family violence and frequent beatings leading to increasing number of children running away from home. Parental neglect not only causes children to drop out of school, but it also makes them realize early on that they have to feed themselves, Sondhi and subrahmanyarng,(1990)

Overcrowding in homes was seen to be also a contributing factor to children going to the streets. In the report of Simukai and Thuthuika Street Children program (2000), they acknowledge that children who leave their homes for reasons other than economic pressure tend to be more difficult to rehabilitate than those forced to the streets by poverty. Those on the streets as a result of poverty are easy to reform, as once their basic needs are met, they are satisfied.

Behavioral reasons among the children such as desire to have money and negative peer influence are ranked intermediate by both groups. Children are sometimes attracted by their peers wearing the most converted consumer items such as American caps or jeans. Children also have a desire for adventure. Some of the children have been attracted by new experiences, Sondhi and Subrahmanyarng,(1990)

2.4.3 Political factors and street children

There are very many children in the streets who could be the future leaders of this country Kenya but they do not get ample opportunities to grow up as responsible citizens. Poverty, illiteracy, child labor, early marriages and malnutrition are the major obstacles in fulfilling our expectations. On top of that, they are being involved in political activities such as rallies and political gathering. They are used for picketing, breaking cars, setting fire on cars or even for hurling bombs. These activities are illegal in the eyes of law. This causes serious harm to them. Sometimes it becomes the cause of their premature deaths.

Sometimes they fall victim to serious injuries and lose limbs. Children's involved in political violence have a bad impact on their tender minds. They become inspired to indulge in violent activities. They are introduced to different political leaders who use them to serve their own purposes. The leaders give them weapons and in this way a child becomes a miscreant. In other words their engagement in political violence will ultimately destroy our future generation.

Veale (1992), in a comparative study of street children in mid-19th century Ireland and the current Kenyan street children wrote that civil unrest was the reason for the origins of street children in most countries. Civil unrest dating from Mau Mau struggle for independence has been connected to the origins of Kenyan street children (Nowrojee, 1990). There are also many street children in counties like South Africa where the high numbers have been linked with country's violent political problems Swart (1998). In all of Latin America, Colombia has had one of the most violent popular uprisings. Indeed, its current violence has been linked to the high incidence of street children (Apterkar, 1989).

2.4.4 Cultural factors and street children

Hostility towards street children in East Africa and Latin America might pertain to family structure. The elite and the masses in Latin America raise their children in different ways. In the elite Latin American homes, fathers are present and powerful. Boys learn to respect the father's authority. By contrast among the poor in Latin America, it is common to have women at the Centre of families, and boys are raised not so much to respect authorities to gain an early independence from home. Street boys inadvertently press the issues of adult authority at a time when traditional authorities are in jeopardy (Aptekar, 1989, 1990, 1992).

2.5 Theoretical framework

The study adopted the conflict theory to explain and discuss the problem of street children.

2.5.1 Conflict Theory.

According to Ritzer (2000) the conflict perspective considers how society is held together by power and coercion for the benefit of those in power. In this view, social problems emerged from the continuing conflict between groups in the society based on social class,

gender, ethnicity race are in the conflict, and the powerful groups usually win. As a result this perspective offers no easy solutions to social problems. There could be a total overhaul of the system, but that is unlikely to happen. We could reform parts of the structure, but those in power would retain their control. The biggest social problem from this perspective is the system itself and the inequality it creates.

It has been well documented that street children more often than not are bound to come into conflict with the security forces and the law. Pinheiro (2006) notes that it is important to remember first that street children usually come from the poorest sectors of society and often from indigenous minority or low class groups and second once on the streets, many children engage in risky, often illegal, behavior in order to survive including begging, loitering theft and prostitution.

In applying the conflict theory to the street children problem and negligence of those in power in addressing this issue it is evident that there is a lack of will to develop long term structures to assist street children challenges. For instance, in colonial Kenya: street children in urban areas to outskirts of the city which led to the development of informal settlements. This has translated to the designing of short term interventions which are rather ignorant of the underlying causes of the street children phenomena.

Nowrojee (1990) espouses the conflict perspective by noting that civil unrests dating from Mau Mau struggle for independence has been connected to the origins of Kenyan street children. Emergence of violence in Kenya can be traced back to era of multi-party politics in 1992. Ethnic conflicts have led to conflicts that have contributed to destruction of property, livelihoods and to loss of life. Post-election violence has been more pronounced in the Rift Valley province of Kenya during the 1992 Molo clashes and 2008 post-Election Violence of 2008. During the 2007/2008 PEV families in Rift Valley region were displaced from their homes exposing them to hunger, vagaries of weather and health risks. Despite calls to resettle them, there has been poor coordination and implementation of these efforts by the government with majority of families still living in makeshift camps. The government had set the December 31st 2009 for the profiling exercise of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) but since then the exercise has not been completed resulting to tensions among IDPs who are settled in camps .

Conflict theory and street children phenomena can also be discussed from the point of view of the local business communities' worries about the safety of urban streets which

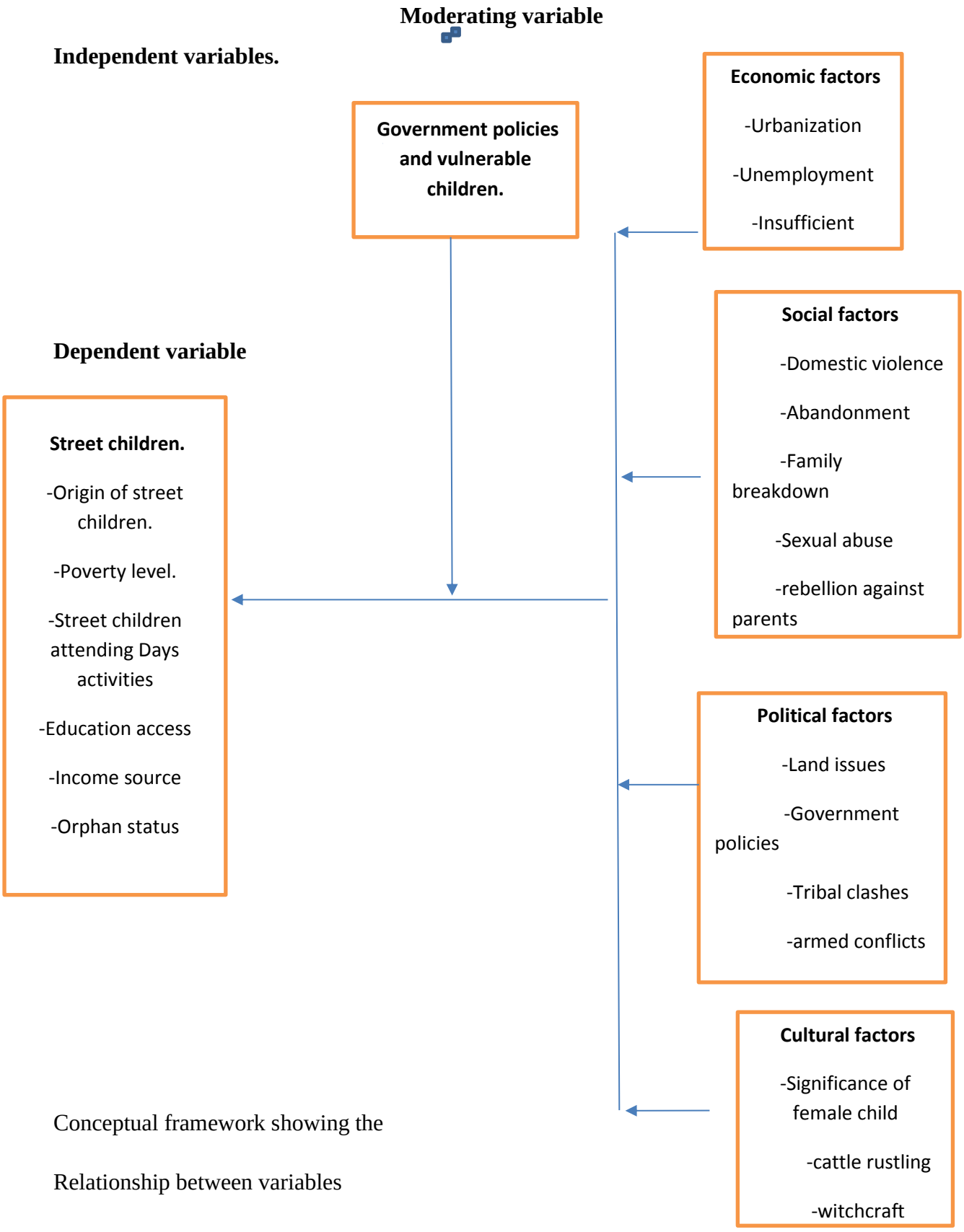
stands paramount. Dahrendorf (1959) explains that conflict of interest is inherent in any relationship because those in powerful positions will always seek to maintain their dominance. Contemporary conflicts theorists have argued that conflict emerges from other social bases such as values, resources and interests. Mill (1959) argued the existence of power elites a small group of political, business and military leaders who control our society.

As such there has been growing financial and political leverage of NGOs interfering in local affairs in the name of street children's rights is looked upon with suspicion.

2.6 Conceptual framework.

In this study the independent variables are the factors leading to street children increase or decrease in Molo town which include economic, social, cultural and political factors while the dependent variable is the street children increase. The independent variables contribute to the increase of the street children which is a dependent variable. The government policies on orphans and vulnerable children are a moderating factor. Social factors include; domestic violence, abandonment, family breakdown, sexual abuse, rebellion against parents, lack of parental guidance, large family size, peer influence, poverty, alcoholism in the family, orphan hood. The economic factors include; unemployment, urbanization, insufficient income, poverty. The political factors include; land issues, government policies, tribal clashes, armed conflicts, poor government policies, post-election violence and the cultural factors include; significance of female child, cattle rustling, and family structure, role of extended families, witchcraft, and importance of many children.

Figure 1: dependent and independent variables relationships



Conceptual framework showing the

Relationship between variables

Source; Diagram from Osman (1990)

CHAPTER THREE.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the research methodology that the study applied. It discusses the design, target population, sample and sampling procedure, study instruments, data collection, and data analysis and interpretation.

3.1 Research design

This is the document of the study. It defines the study type (descriptive, correlational, semi-experimental, review, meta-analytic) and sub-type.

In this study, descriptive design was used. It is the process of collecting data in order to test the hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject under study. It was adapted to explore the factors that influence the increase in the number street children in molo town. Descriptive designs are used in preliminary and exploratory studies, (Luck, Ruben 1992), to allow researchers to gather information, summarize, present and interpret for the purpose of clarification (Orodho, 2004). It was used to elicit street children and youth perceptions to substance abuse, prevention strategies and to identify factors that may assist or hinder quitting,(Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999)

According to Borg and Gall (1989), descriptive survey research is intended to produce statistical information about aspects of education that interest policy makers and educators. Gay (1978), further noted that descriptive research has the advantage of answering questions concerning the current status of the subject of study after collecting data.

3.2 Target population

Target population are the members of a real or hypothetical set of people, events or objectives to which the researcher hopes to generalize the results of the research study, (Borg and Gall, 1990). Best and Bell (1972) defines the target group of the study as any group of individuals who have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest for researcher in his/her study.

The target population for this study was street children families living in molo town. Molo has estimated 150 street children with 10% inclusion in the actual study. There was also a population representative from the entire population, easily accessible, street children rehabilitation centers, sub-county children's office and five parents within the study area. Street children were eligible for the research especially those of ages 10-20 years currently not enrolled in learning institutions.

3.3 Sampling

3.4.1 Sample Size.

The sample size for organizations working with Molo Street Children were four namely; Molo street children project, Chazon rescue Centre, KAG children's home and Talents children's home. The study sampled program coordinators and social workers in each organization. The researcher targeted 3 members of government agencies working with street children who included the District children's officer of Molo sub-county, the county department of social services and the county's children department (Nakuru county). A probability sample was used where every unit in the population had a chance to be selected.

3.4.2 Sampling Procedure.

According to the county Director of children in Nakuru County there are approximately 150 street children in Molo town. Stratified random sampling was what the researcher used to divide his study into five locations into homogeneous strata or levels, represented by the males and the females and then selected individual from each stratum by simple random sampling technique where every random sampling technique were every tenth elements will be picked at random.

3.5 Data Collection Methods.

Relevant data for this study was collected through primary and secondary methods. Primary data refers to data collected for a specific research problem at hand, using procedures that fit the research problem best. Secondary data on the other hand refers to data that has been collected before and is available to the researcher.

3.5.1 Qualitative and Quantitative Methods.

The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods, where quantitative methods placed more emphasis on quantification compared to qualitative methods which placed more emphasis on information generated. Quantitative methods of data collection were used for the majority of respondents who are the units of analysis for the study. Qualitative methods allowed the researcher to collect rich and in-depth data from the sample to facilitate for the construction of their own view point. Qualitative research methods focused on the quality of data on a rather small and purposive sample which included the NGO service providers and government agencies officer in Molo town.

3.5.2 Focused Group Discussions.

As Kumar (1987) notes the focus group discussions is a form of rapid assessment, semi-structured data gathering method in which a purposively selected set of participants gather to discuss issues and concerns based on a list of key themes drawn up by the researcher. This was one of the key methods of data collection in this study and involved service providers from the 4 non-governmental organizations directly involved with street children.

3.5.3 Key Informant Interviews.

Patton (2002) defines key informant interviews as a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives with children officers and staff from Department of Social Services. The researcher adopted semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions which were employed as one of the methods for data collection to provide qualitative data which complimented the quantitative data.

3.5.4 Secondary Sources.

The researcher used the secondary sources of data as part of data collection methods for the study. These were rom published and unpublished materials, journals, newspaper articles and studies on the phenomenon of street children. Secondary data allowed the researcher to detect and identify trends in the social and political challenges facing street children after the post-election violence in Molo town.

3.6 Tools for Data Collection.

The researcher employed different researcher tools in the data collection process. These tools had elements of both quantitative and qualitative approaches and were recommended in order to strengthen data collection for the study. Alternatively, three or more different kinds of data (for example questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions and observation) were applied on the same problem to complement each other.

3.6.1 Observation.

The researcher used participant observations a method for data generation. Sommer and Sommer (2001) argue that observation help researchers answer questions such as how do environments create opportunities or obstacles for people such as a place to informally talk, view entertainment together, or prohibit communication? How do people manipulate or change their surroundings to meet their needs? In this study the unit of observation was the street children homes.

Punch (2000) notes that participant observation occurs when the observer becomes part of the environment of the people being studied. Punch proposes the use of participant observation with children while they are in their own spaces as it enables them to feel more comfortable. According to Punch there are likely to be some differences between what people say they do and what they actually do in practice which is why it was necessary to include observation methods. The researcher developed an observation checklist which was used to observe the activities of street children during the different times and the use of space in their environment. The method enabled the researcher to observe how street children in molo town interact with their environment and also have a firsthand view of the interactions between individuals and other groups of children.

3.6.2 Questionnaire.

The study employed semi-structured questionnaire instruments to gather information from street children. The preferences for using questionnaires for informants is based on the fact that respondents are able to complete it without help and anonymously. The method is also cheaper and quicker than other methods while reaching out to a larger sample (Bryman.2008: Cohen, 2007). The questions were developed based on the information required to reveal the causes of the factors that led to their being on the

streets, activities that street children are involved in Molo town, challenges they face, knowledge and use of interventions offered by government and non-governmental service providers. The questionnaires with close-ended response items were pre-coded in order to facilitate the process of data entry into computer software. The researcher administered the questionnaires using face to face interview approach. This assisted the street children to better understand the questions of the study.

3.6.3 Focused Group Discussion Guide.

The study proposed the use of focus group discussions to gather information from non-governmental service providers. Burgess (1988) recommends the technique as it encourages discussion and getting what is important to respondents. The researcher held a group discussion with the social workers from the NGOs working with street children in molo town. The guide was designed according to the various themes that are of importance to the study. These include the push and pull factors that have led to the increase to the number of street children in Molo town, social and political factors, services they offer to street children and the assistance they would require to strengthen their efforts to assist street children.

3.6.4 Key Informant Interview Guide.

The study used in depth interviews with key informants of the study through in depth interviews the researcher was able to develop a professional perception of social and political challenges facing street children, interventions designed to assist them and create a guide to conduct the information gathering process from the categories of respondents.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments.

When eliciting children's views, difficulties which child researchers must confront include the question that is often asked whether they can really believe children can account for their experiences (Morrow, 1999). Ennew (1994) recognizes that lies and evasions are less likely to occur when a researcher has built up a relationship of trust with children. In this regard time needs to be investigated to form a relationship of trust with children. Thus, time needs to be invested to form a relationship and gain their trust. Building rapport is one way of establishing validity and reliability in research work with street children as suggested by punch (2002) and Marrow (1999). The researcher involved

the children to participate more freely in the discussions by holding an energizer as suggested by Lalani (2009).

The use of a children familiar environment and setting is also a strategy used to establish validity and reliability in research work with children (Punch, 2002). The FGDs with street children took place at the Molo stadium and kaloleni in the outskirts of the molo town where the children frequently play. The researcher also continually advised the children that there is no right or wrong answers. An additional issue of research work with children is that the choice of which data to include and the interpretation of the data is in power of the adult researcher (Punch 2002). The danger here is the bias of the researcher because as an adult researcher may have their own opinions and views of the world. Fine and Sandstrom (1988) argue that as grown-ups are limited by our tendency to process children's talk through their own view of the world.

According to Orodho (2004) validity in the sense raised in this study is the degree to which the empirical measure of the concept, accurately measure the concept. To validate the questionnaire, the researcher carried out a pilot survey to the selected separated respondent, but a similar sample to the one in the study. The researcher administered the questionnaires twice to selected separate, but similar responded to the sample in the study using the test of the coefficient stability method.

The reliability of a research instrument concerns the extent to which the instrument yields the same results on repeated trials. The tendency toward consistency found in repeated measurements is referred to as reliability (carmines and Zeller, 1979).

The reliability of research instrument conserves the extent to which the tool yields the same results on repeated trials hence, the tendency towards consistency found in repeated measurement in what is referred to as the reliability of the research instrument.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure.

After stabling the validity and reliability of the instruments the researcher sought written permission from the university to enable him conduct the field work. Eventually the researcher administered the questionnaire to the respondents.

3.9 Data Analysis Techniques.

Data analysis process involves several activities: data coding, entry and modification. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods both of which required different processes. Qualitative data from the in depth interviews and focus group discussions was categories into different themes as they emerged during the field interviews as suggested by Lalani (2009) after which thematic analysis was done of key issues raised by discussants. For quantitative data cleaning of generated information through coding was undertaken to identify errors, omissions and inconsistencies which was then followed by data entry process, using the Statistical package for social scientist. The researcher undertook a descriptive statistical analysis of the information gathered from the respondents. Descriptive statistics were presented in tables and the researcher's interpretation in verbatim.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in research can be defined as ensuring that the researcher conforms to the standards of conduct of the authorities in the area of research. Examples of ethical issues that may arise are voluntary participation of respondents, deception to participants, anonymity and confidentiality of information given, analysis and reporting, harm or danger to participants and any other professional code of ethics expected. To ensure that the research is done in an ethical manner according to the expectations of all authorities, a letter from the university was obtained. The researcher informed the respondents that the instruments being administered was for research purpose only and the responses from the respondents would be kept secret and confidential. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the University to collect data from the organization. Also, due to sensitivity of some information collected, the researcher held moral obligation to treat the information with utmost propriety. Further, since the respondents were reluctant to disclose some information, the researcher reassured the respondents‟ confidentiality of the information given.

CHAPTER FOUR.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION.

4.0 Introduction.

This chapter presents the study data and the interpretation aimed at drawing logical and sensible inferences from the information obtained from the study. The presentation analysis and interpretation are based on research questions of the study.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Study Respondents

The research sought to describe the distribution of the study respondents according to gender, age, level of education, size of family, time spent on the streets and activities done while on the streets.

4.1.1 Gender Distribution.

With regard to the variable of gender, out of the 45 respondents that were interviewed, 80% of them were male compared to 15.6% who comprised of female street children. The study findings showed that majority of street children are male as shown in table 4.1.

Table 1: Gender distribution among respondents.

Gender of respondents	Frequency	Percentage %
Male	36	80
Female	7	15.6
Missing Response	2	4.4
Total	45	100.0

Table 1 shows the gender distribution among the respondents. From the above analysis, it is clear that 15.6% female street children are on the streets compared to their male counterparts who account for 80%. One street boy aged 17 years explained during the study that:

"*When my parents died, my sister was taken to live with my aunt and my brother and I was told to take care of our home. Nobody could come to visit us, when we finished spending all the money and food that was donated during the funeral of our mother, we started sleeping hungry and no one could give us anything including our uncle who lives in the neighborhood. So we decided to start going into the streets in the*

morning to beg for food and money and come back in the evening and eventually decided to sleep on the streets."

The above findings are similar to a study by Oino (2012) who found in one of the focus group discussions with street children in Nakuru county children's office that whenever children are orphaned, most of the caretakers seem to prefer to foster girls neglecting boys because traditionally, girls are a sign of wealth in future unlike boys who will want to inherit land when they grow up. It is also seen as a bad omen for girls to be on the streets as they will engage in activities such as prostitution that shake the morals of the society. The other reason why there are less female street children was that girls unlike their boy counterparts would easily be absorbed in alternative family activities including working as house girls, early marriages instead of joining street life. Similarly they were also the first choice target for those engaged in the rehabilitation of street children. This in overall makes girls to be fewer on the street than their male peers on the streets. Similarly, some cultures seem to be more protective to the girl child than the boy child and the presence of girls on the streets. According to Aptekar and Ciano-Federoff (1994), this will be challenging to the existing norms and values within society and their presence on the streets violates the cultural norms for female behavior.

4.1.2 Age of Study Respondents.

With regard to age, children between the ages of 6-10 years were 15.5%. Respondents between the ages of 11-15 were 55.6% and 28.9% were between the ages of 16-18 as shown in the table 4.2. It is noteworthy that the ages of the children were bound to be subjective based on what they believed their ages were since we had no objective way of verifying children's ages.

Table 2: Age of respondents.

Age group	Frequency	Percentage %
6-10 years	7	15.5
11-15 years	25	55.6
16-18 years	13	28.9
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.2 above shows the ages of respondents, 15.5% of the respondents were aged between 6-10 years. Respondents aged between 11-15 years were the majorities which were 55.6% those between aged 16-18 years were 28.9%.

4.1.3 Education Level of Study Respondents.

Most children in the street have hardly completed primary education; in all of the areas a larger percentage of the children had no formal education with none of them having attended secondary school. 17.8% had no formal education, 60% were attending primary school. Those who had not completed primary school were considered as having no formal education.

Table 3: Level of Education among respondents.

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage %
None	8	17.8
Nursery	3	6.7
Class 1-4	12	26.7
Class 5-8	15	33.3
Secondary	2	4.4
Missing response	5	11.1
Total	45	100.0

The study observed that many children could not afford to go to school and come back home only to have nothing to eat and this leads to drop out. They then start to work and what they get helps to supplement family income.

Table 4.3 indicate the level of education among the respondents. The majority 33.3% had reached between class 5 and 8 while 26.7% between class 1 and 4.those who had attended nursery school were 6.7% while those who had attended secondary school were 4.4%.

4.1.4 Reasons for Being Out of School.

The findings of the study showed that Children with no formal education had dropped out of school due to various factors. Some of these factors included inability to pay fee because of parent's deaths or poverty of the parents.

Table 4:Reasons for being out of school.

Reason for being out of school	Frequency	%
Lack of fees	23	51.5
Hatred for school	4	8.9
Desire for money	6	13.1
Never been to school	4	8.8
Peer pressure	5	11.1
Other	3	6.6
Total	45	100.0

From table 4.4 it is shown that children with no formal education had either dropped out of school for various reasons or had attended school at any point in their lives. 51.5% cited inability to pay fees while 8.9% could not go to school because they hated school. Those who were influenced by peer pressure were 11.1% while those who did not attend school because of the desire to have money were 13.1% other reasons for respondents being out of school contributed to 6.6%.

4.1.5 Time Spent on the Street.

Most respondents indicated that they had been on the street for a period of less than one year (44.5%). Some children on the streets said that they have been born from parents who themselves were street children (not necessarily from Molo) and 37.8% have been there between 1 to 3 years. This would suggest that growth of number of street children is increasing in Molo town which would probably due to the harsh economic times experienced in Kenya in the recent times. It is worth noting that 4.4% of the said respondents have been on the streets for about five years. Most of the respondents in this category cited that they had to leave home due to tribal hostilities in the areas they came from which would probably coincide with the fighting in some of the unstable surroundings.

Table 5: Time spent on the street.

Duration on the streets	Frequency	%
Born on the street	2	4.4
Under 1 year	20	44.5
1 to 3 years	17	37.8
3 to 5 years	4	8.9
Over 5 years	2	4.4
Total	45	100

The table 4.5 shows the duration that children have been on the streets. Most children 41.62% have been on the street for a period of less than one year, some children on the streets are said to have been born from parents who themselves were street children. 31.47% have been there between 1 to 3 years. Though the number of street children keeps growing this portion is very small mostly because of the very low life expectancy of the children in the streets owing to use of drugs, lack of medical care and basic needs, involvement in crime which often leads to imprisonment or death at the hands of mobs and very few get a way out to rejoin the society. About 3.56% were born on the streets. These are majorly from rape from older street children, prostitution by girls on the streets, careless sexual relations and few from street families.

According to the chart above poverty is the major cause that takes children to the streets and according to our study it counts for 58%, lack of school fees counted for 23%, peer pressure 10% and other causes was 9%.

4.1.6 Activities in which study respondents Engage In.

According to the study the respondents engaged in economic activities to make money and therefore most of them get money through begging on the streets. Some of those who give them money do so out of pity and the children's persistence, something these children readily take advantage of whether or not they engage in any other economic activity. This makes begging 46.7% rank highly on the activities they engage in followed by vending of petty things

(sweets mostly) which is 33.4%.

Other activities involved washing cars 8.9%, they are also forced into criminal behavior or into the same kind of work that other poor adults do to survive.

Table 6:: Activities respondents involve in.

Activities	Frequency	%
Washing cars	4	8.9
Begging	21	46.7
Vending	15	33.4
Touting	2	4.4
Carrying luggage	1	2.2
Others	2	4.4
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.6 show the activities the study respondents engaged in. carrying luggage had 2.2% which is the lowest among the activities done and this is because it is so tiresome and most of the respondents did not like involving themselves in activities that are tiresome, plus physical injuries and body weakness as a result of malnutrition followed by touting 4.4%.The more complicated and valued the activity became the less these children find themselves doing them such as washing cars. When children's body image changes to that of an adult, they are forced into criminal behaviors or into the same kinds of work that other poor adults do to survive. The reason for this is that the small children are looked on as being cute and receive alms because of it, but when they get big enough to be perceived as adults they are considered dangerous and so getting money from the public is more difficult.

4.1.7 Average Income by the study respondents.

Most of the respondents engaged themselves in various economic activities and they also get some income to cater for their basic needs through these activities. Most of them earned between ksh 201-300 which represented 39.59% of the respondents, very few earned more than ksh 501 which represented 4.07% of the respondents.

Table 7: Average income of the study respondents.

Average income per day	Frequency	%
Less than 100	6	13.4
100-200	9	20
201-300	19	42.2
301-400	7	15.6
401-500	2	4.4
More than 501	2	4.4
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.7 shows average income of the respondents per day. According to the study the respondents reported that 13.4% of them earned less than ksh 100 per day, 20% earned ksh 100-200 per day. Some of the respondents earned between ksh 301-400 which represented 15.6%.

However, rarely would their earnings go beyond ksh 400 with only 4.4% earning between ksh 401 to 500 and 4.4% earning more than ksh 500 or more.

4.1.8 How income was spent by the study respondents.

Contrary to popular belief, the children reported that most of their money is spent on buying basic necessities and contributing to the household's income. A few admitted to buying alcohol and drugs while some said that they pay the older boys for protection on the streets. Most of those who stay with relatives and guardians would contribute to house hold income but this was not a major proportion mainly because majorities are now staying on the streets. As they live in the streets most of these children group up into gangs and they have to pay for protection from the other gangs.

Table 8:How income was spent by the study respondents.

Expenditure	Frequency	%
Contribute to house income	25	55.6
Pay for protection	10	22.2
Buy alcohol and drugs	8	17.8
Buy basic necessities	2	4.4
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.8 is an illustration of how respondents spend the income that they earn on the street. Most of the respondents spent their income contributing to their house income which represented 55.6%, those who paid for protection were 22.2%. Buying of alcohol and drugs was represented by 17.8% and 4.4% was used to buy basic necessities.

4.1.9 Size of study respondents family.

Most respondents come from average to large families. The number coming from families of greater than 10 is significantly low. The trend seems to suggest that as the family size increases the susceptibility of children to go to the streets increases. Very few of respondents come from small families; those form family size of 1-3 represented 6.7%. In overcrowded households (kaloleni, mutirithia and munju river), children may decide to leave home to make room for younger siblings and elderly family members. The largest family size according to the respondents was size 7-9 which represented 64.4%. The children who still had ties with their families were asked whom they stay with and found that family played a big role in their lives.

Table 9:Size of the respondent's family.

Size of the family	Frequency	%
1 to 3	3	6.7
4 to 6	6	13.3
7 to 9	29	64.4
Greater than 10	7	15.6
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.9 shows the biggest family size was 7-9 which represented 64.4%. Those with family size greater than 10 represented 15.6% while 13.3% had family size 4 to 6.

4.1.10 Whom respondents live with.

The interview included a question to determine the role of the extended family in the lives of the respondents. Most of them lived at their home and this represented 33 who were staying with relatives. Most of these relatives were grandparents and elder siblings. The rest stayed with non-related guardians. Most of the children living with their guardians are in that predicament because either mothers or father have died.

The taking up of children by guardians more so grandparent, usually led to large overcrowded families. Nonetheless it is a cultural norm in Africa for parents to bear many children, hence poverty and unemployment. People had a big family for security reasons and it was a sign of wealth.

Table 10:Whom children live with

Children living at home	Frequency	%
With relative	33	73.3
With non-relatives	12	26.7
Total	45	100

The study determined the role of the extended family in the lives of street children. Of the street children who lived at home, 33 were staying with relatives representing about 73.33% of them while 12 lived with non-relatives representing 26.7%. Most of these relatives were grandparents and elder siblings. The rest stayed with non-related guardians.

Table 4.10 shows that the extended family safety net still exists although growing poverty, urbanization, individualism and western influences are undermining the extended family system. Kenyans, like other Africans have usually shown great pride in the extended family. It has been one of the cornerstones of African culture and traditions, especially for the socialization and apprenticeship roles.

4.5.3 Reasons for fight among guardians.

In Kenyan society, authority and society view street children as a problem. But while the consequences of the growing number of street children are a problem, these children are not responsible for their predicaments. They are turning to the streets because of the failure of the educational system, parental negligence excessively large families, growing poverty and society's inability to provide a future for its children.

Most of the respondents did not know the reasons why the guardians fought, this represented 84.5% at a frequency of 38 respondents, while those who fought over money were 4.4%

Table 11:Reasons guardians fought.

Reasons for fighting	Frequency	%
Over money	2	4.4
Drunkenness	3	6.7
No reason	2	4.4
Don't know	38	84.5
Total	45	100.0

Table 4.11 shows the reason why guardians of the respondents fought, 6.7% fought because of drunkenness while 4.4% had no apparent reason for fighting.

4.2 Cultural Influence on the Growth of Street Children.

Some cultural beliefs have led to the growth of children on the streets. In our African culture earlier the father is the sole bread winner and a security figure, therefore when the father dies children suffer and finally go to the streets to help themselves. Also the important supervisory and disciplinary role played by the father suffers very big blows upon his death.

In Nairobi for example the great majority of street children are Kikuyu. This is because the kikuyu are prevalent or because they live in and around Nairobi. Large families were always considered a show of economic strength and some people still hold the notion to present day. As earlier explored the larger size of a family the more the likely hood the children were to end up in the streets when economic pressure mounts.

Street life for children is a life of fear. Being robbed as they rob too, beating as they beat others, harassment, destitute, contracting diseases and a hostile society is an ingredient of everyday street life. Those who believed on the cultural practice of many women were 10 which represented 12.5%.

Table 12:Cultural influence on growth of street children.

Cultural Belief	Frequency	Percentage %
Many women	2	4.4
Many children	35	77.8
Education for girl child	8	17.8
Total	45	100

Table 4.12 shows that 77.8% of the respondents had the cultural value of many children. The cultural practice of education for girl child where the girls were not educated was 17.8%. Most of the girls were married at an earlier age therefore they were not educated compared to boys.

4.3 Street Children Interventions in Molo town

The study sought to establish interventions and services provided to street children where study participants were asked to indicate whether they were aware of these services. Knowledge of the services would influence the decision of street children to seek or utilize such services. As revealed in the findings of this study, street children‘s networks strengthen the ability to form bonds on the streets. Street children also extend their networks not only to other street children in different bases, but also to the business community, people and institutions they consider beneficial to their survival while on the streets. According to Lewis Aptekar (1988), friendships between street children permit the forging of affective relationships otherwise denied by abusive families. As shown in the previous discussion, street children rely on one another for money, food, security and

protection, love, encouragement and emotional support. Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) were also involved in providing services to street children. Churches were identified 20.0 % of the study participants and were involved in providing clothing and spiritual guidance to street children.

The key informant interviews revealed that most of the service providers' intentions were selfish. For instance, the business community gave street children food that was about to expire or date had already expired such as bread, cakes and milk. Further, individual and groups also cover-up as street children service providers where they source funds from well-wishers and other established NGOs and the community. This has led to children having a negative perception of any assistance that they would otherwise receive from genuine entities. The government has the mandate to regulate any activities undertaken by charitable children institutions (CCI) under the children (charitable children's institutions) regulations of 2005. For instance where the person or organization registered to run an institution e.g. if a church is registered to run an institution, then the church is the Administering Authority. They are always required to register with the Area Advisory Councils who follow the due process as required.

Table 13:Service Providers for Street Children

Service provider	Frequency	%age
Business men	23	51.1
NGO's	10	22.2
Churches	7	15.6
County government	3	6.7
None	2	4.4
Total	45	100

Table 13 indicates the main service providers to the street children in Meru town, 51.1 % of the respondents indicated they get support from business men 22.2 % from NGOs, 15.6% from churches and 6.7 % from the County government, and 4.4 indicated they did not receive any form of support.

Table 14:services provided

Services provided	Frequency	Age%
Clothing	10	22.2
Guidance and counseling	2	4.4
Food	25	55.6
Medical support	4	8.9
Recreational activities	4	8.9
Total	45	100

Table 14 shows there were several services that were identified by street children in Molo town. As indicated majority of the services provided were food related with 55.6 % of the responses showing this. Clothing was also observed in the data where 22.2 % study participants indicated this service. Guidance and Counseling was represented at 4.4 %. This implies that counseling and rehabilitation were not a priority area. FGDs with the social workers indicated that counseling and rehabilitation was affected by shortage of staff and inadequate technical expertise to undertake the exercise and lack of special facilities to offer counseling services.

4.5 Challenges faced by street Children Service Providers

The study further sought to identify challenges faced by service providers in their day to day operations to assist street children. These include; Communication - street children are from different ethnic affiliations/communities and as such presented a challenge to service providers in communicating to them especially illiterate ones. Moreover, there are also children with special needs who are on the street, therefore need for special communication which is a challenge to the social workers since they lack expertise in sign language. Children also ask for food in order to give any information during the interviews which Social workers are not able to provide. Security was also a concern that affected social workers in their day to day work where they could not access all children especially within the barracks for fear of being attacked by hostile street children especially female Social Workers. Finances were also identified as a key constraint in service provision. Lack of adequate facilities in the Children Remand Homes, Rescue Centers, and Charitable Children institutions for safety and rehabilitation of street children and shortage of social workers was also a constraint identified where an officer

would has to do both the office tasks and also undertake fieldwork exercises such as reintegration activities which become tasking thus affecting the morale and performance of their duties of assisting street children.. The study established that street children abuse several types of drugs which included, gum, *changaa*, bhang, *kuber*, tobacco, and Legatine and become addicted, hence complicating their rehabilitation process.

CHAPTER FIVE.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.0 Introduction.

This chapter highlights the major findings of the study and draws conclusions based on the findings therein. It also presents the recommendations for policy and the key areas for further research as informed by the findings of the study.

5.1 Summary of the Study.

The study sought to investigate the factors leading to increase in the number of street children in Molo town, Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

1. To identify the influence of social factors on the growth of street children in Molo town.

2. To establish the influence of economic factors on the growth of street children in Molo town.

3. To examine the influence of political factors on the growth of street children in Molo town.

4. To identify the influence of cultural factors on the growth of street children in Molo town.

The study adopted descriptive design; as a way to explore the factors that influence the increase in the number of street children in Molo town.

The study was able to administer and analyze 45 questionnaires to street children in Molo town, and also had 6 key informants' interviews. Key informant discussion with social workers and focus group discussions with street children.

The study findings revealed that street children face several problems in Molo town. The findings are summarized in these four sections as presented here below;

5.2 Conclusion.

5.2.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.

The researcher sought to find out the distribution of the street children according to gender, areas of origin, age, level of education. The study revealed that most of the street children are boys comprising 80% while girls constituted 15.6% of the respondent. The average age of the respondents was 13 years. Most of the respondents had hardly completed primary education. In all four areas 17.8% had no formal education while 64.6% had formal education.

5.2.2 Economic Factors and the Street Children Population.

Orphans are over represented among the respondents. There is an important distinction between paternal and double orphans. Paternal orphans make up a large proportion of the respondents. The majorities live with their mothers and spend the days on the street. The major reasons for being on the street are poverty, weak parental supervision and conflicts at home. Double orphans are also at risk of living on the street permanently in very difficult circumstance. Maternal orphans are less common on the streets.

Most of the respondents were unable to attend school because of unaffordability. Therefore, the time they would have spent in school is spent on the streets trying to contribute to family income or look for all means possible to get money to fund for their basic needs.

5.2.3 Social Factors and Street Children.

The findings showed that children are going to the streets because of the failures of the educational system, parental negligence, excessively large families, growing poverty and poor socialization and apprenticeship. Ill treatment by parents or guardian, disobedience and laziness, parental neglect and irresponsibility are other reasons. Many children reported that they flee their homes and go to the street because of sexual abuse and other forms of violence such as frequent beatings.

The belief in big families, having many children, leads to an economic burden on families, making it hard to satisfy basic wants and thus driving children to the streets.

5.2.4 Political Factors and Street Children Growth.

The study found out that one of the factors influencing the increase in the number of street children population in Molo town was politics, particularly the post-election violence in 2007/2008. During and after the post-election violence there was a lot of instability which caused heated tribal clashes. About 32% of the children interviewed from those areas indicated that the reason why they were on streets was because their parents were on streets due to internal displacement. Their houses were burnt down and some of their relatives killed. Since then their parents have never been able to raise enough resources to sustain their families.

Areas that had been marred by the political and tribal violence recorded more children on the streets and moving further away from home as compared to areas that had little or no political instability.

5.2.5 Cultural Factors and Street Children.

The study revealed that there are more boys on the street than girls. This was because there is discriminatory care on the girl child than the boys. The chances of boys ending up in the streets are higher than those of a girl under the same conditions.

The study also concluded that the extended family safety set, still exists, although growing poverty, urbanization, individualism and westernization are undermining the extended family system in Kenya. It has been one of the cornerstones of African culture and traditions and it has served as Africa's social network for the young, the elderly and the disadvantaged.

5.3 Recommendations.

As a result of the findings from the study area, the following recommendations were made

i. Poverty alleviation and pro-family policies and programs is still the most important approach to the issue of street children.

ii. Sensitization and partnering among different stakeholders i.e. children institutions, government and the community on the issue of responsible parenting.

iii. Paternal orphans, who are often ignored because they are not captured by official orphans statistics, should get more attention, because these children appear to be highly vulnerable to serving family ties and drifting on the streets.

Iv. Children, who are the back bone of a nation, are insecure at home as well as on the streets. The government should make effective legislation and ensure strict implementation of the laws concerning child rights, education system and awareness. All institutions, from top to bottom, should be activated to save children from uncertainty and vulnerability.

v. Quantitative and Qualitative analysis indicated that a large number of children live in the streets as a result of poverty, breakdown of family institutions and illiteracy. Therefore, income resources may be increased by developing industrial sector and spread it all over the county.

vi. The study indicated that existing number of street children are extremely vulnerable and their lives are at stake for various due to many kinds of risks, including physical harm, sexual abuses and harassment. In this regard rehabilitation and skill development centers for street children may be established to change their lives and save them.

vii. Research analysis indicated that street children are living in difficult circumstances; they cannot meet basic needs: food to survive, clothes to meet seasonal needs, treatment to save themselves from diseases, space to live. In this regard all the government departments may be activated to do the job of their part and save the lives of these future stars.

viii. The study reveals that street children were involved in drug abuse, sexual abuse and other deviant behaviors; even they are misused by law enforcement agencies, police, and other adults. In this regard existing rules and laws may be implemented and drugs, ingredients like glue may be prohibited. Awareness campaigns, seminars and trainings may be arranged for police and other law enforcement agencies to save street children‘s lives.

ix. Donations and grants for specific Children Projects should be utilized effectively to foster their sustainability.

x. Qualitative analysis indicated that different types of education systems and lack of qualitative education keep away children from primary and other education institutions. In this regard universal education system may be adopted all over the country and reforms in education system may be adopted. Especially, female literacy rate may be enhanced.

5.4.2 Suggested Areas For Further Research.

Based on the analysis and findings of this study, a number of avenues for further research were identified. Whereas there were reasonable grounds to believe that the said economic factors, political, cultural and social factors contribute significantly to the increase in the number of street children, a few guardians and children admitted that they were either cursed or bewitched. This is because there was no other reason that could explain otherwise as some of them came from relatively stable economy and political backgrounds and there were no major social or cultural issues which were identified in the study that could make a child to run to the streets. This study therefore concludes that:

1. A further research to investigate the role of witchcraft, curse or evil spirits in the increasing number of street children.
2. A study be carried out to investigate where street children end up when they grow beyond the age of 18 years.
3. There is need to investigate the level of knowledge attitude and awareness of street children phenomenon among the communities within Molo town and its environment.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STREET CHILDREN IN MOLO TOWN.

My name is **Simon Kinyanjui a** student at the **Maasai Mara University** undertaking my studies in the **Bachelor of Arts in Community Development.** I am undertaking a study on the causes of increased number of street children in Molo town. You have been chosen to participate in the study and any information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality it deserves.

Instructions.

You are requested to respond to the questions faithfully and honestly.

Answer all questions in the spaces provided. Use a Tick for the questions with choices in the appropriate box.

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

1. Sex male ( ) Female ( )
2. Age bracket 0-3years ( ) 4-8 years ( ) 9-13 years ( ) 14-18 years ( )
3. For how long have you been staying on the streets; below 1 year ( ) 1-3 years ( ) 3-5 years ( ) over 5 years ( )
4. What is your level of education? a) No formal education ( ) b) attending primary school ( ) c) completed primary school ( ) attending secondary school ( )
5. Where were you born.....?
6. In which village do you currently live.....?
7. Are you an orphan? Yes ( ) No ( )
8. If yes what is your orphan status? Double Orphan ( ) paternal orphan ( ) maternal orphan ( )
9. Whom do you stay with? Parents and step parents( ) Relatives ( ) Siblings ( ) Friends ( ) foster parents ( ) No guardian ( )

SECTION B: OCCUPATION.

10. Do you work in the street? Yes ( ) No ( )

11. If yes what is your occupation.....? What is your approximate income per day.....?

12. What are your parent's main sources of income.....? What is your parent's approximate income per month.....?

13. How do you spend your money? Buy basic necessities ( ) Buy household goods ( ) Buy alcohol and Drugs ( ) Pay for protection ( ) any other use…….

SECTION C: EDUCATION

14. Do you go to school? Yes ( ) No ( )

15. If yes which level are you? Primary ( ) Secondary ( )

16. If primary which class are you……..?

17. If secondary you are in form? One ( ) Two ( ) Three ( ) Four ( )

18. If not going to school, why don't you go to school…….?

SECTION D: PARENTS

19. Does your mother drink alcohol? Yes ( ) No ( ) How often? Daily ( ) 2-3 days per week ( ) 4-6 times a week ( )

21. Does your father drink alcohol? Yes ( ) No ( ) How often? Daily ( ) Twice per week ( ) More than 3 times per week ( )

22. Do your parents/guardians fight? Yes ( ) No ( ) How often? Daily ( ) twice per week ( ) more than 3 times per week ( )

23. Reasons for fighting. Over money ( ) Drunkenness ( ) No apparent reason ( ) don't know ( ) other reasons ( )

24. How many people live in your home? 1-3 ( ) 4-6 ( ) 7-9 ( ) more than 10 ( )

22. Please tick one area which represents the reason why most street children find themselves on the streets. Where by 1 represents strongly agree and 5 represents strongly disagree.

Table 15:Likert scale.

Poverty	1	2	3	4	5
Hunger	1	2	3	4	5
Ill parent	1	2	3	4	5
Evil spirit	1	2	3	4	5
Laziness	1	2	3	4	5
Orphaned	1	2	3	4	5
Peer pressure	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of fees	1	2	3	4	5

APPENDIX 2: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

1. What are the social challenges facing street children in Molo town (*for boys and girls?)*

2. What are the political challenges facing street children in Molo town *(for boys and girls?)*

3. What services are provided for street children by your organisation?

4. What criterion is used to determine intervention programmes for street children in Molo town?

5. What are the legal instruments (tools) you use in safeguarding street children needs? (*The Constitution of Kenya 2010, Children Act of 2001, Department of Children Guidelines*)

6. What are the challenges faced in implementing legislation in safeguarding rights of street children?

7. How do you overcome challenges you face?

   (a) As an organization

   (b) As an individual

8. What services do you offer to street children in Molo town? (*Multiple responses possible*)

9. In your opinion what can be done to overcome these challenges in future?

10. From your experience what reasons do children give for choosing to come to the streets?

11. As a service provider in Molo town, are you aware of where the street children originate from?

Yes ( ) No ( )

(b) If yes, list the main places where street children in Molo Town come from?

12. List the reasons children give for leaving home/regions to come to Molo town.

13. In your view what can be done to reverse/minimize the migratory trend you have witnessed.

APPENDIX 3: KEY INFORMANT GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OFFICERS

1. What factors contribute to the street children phenomenon in Molo town?

2. (a) From your experience are you aware of where the children originate from?

   Yes ( ) No ( )

   (b) If yes, list the main places where street children come from?

3. What are the reasons children give for leaving home/regions to come to Molo town against other major towns?

4. What socio–political challenges affect street children in Molo town?

5. From your experience, what challenges do you face in safeguarding and protecting street children?

6. What legal instruments (tools) do you use in safeguarding street children?

7. What interventions are in place in Molo town to address issues of street children?

8. Who are involved in providing these interventions?

9. What challenges do service providers experience when giving interventions to street children within Molo town?

10. In your view what can be done to overcome these challenge?

APPENDIX 4: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR STREET CHILDREN.

1. What made you come to the streets of Molo town? What challenges do you face in the streets of Molo town?

2. What services do you receive from;

a) The Government / Municipality

b) The Non – Governmental Organisations

c) The community
d) Church Organisations

3. What is your view about the services provided to street children identified above in relation to access?

4. What do you think can be done to improve your life in the streets of Molo town?

5. Where do most of the street children in Molo come from?

6. Do you have children who have been born and raised in the streets of Molo town?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Table 16:APPENDIX ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE STUDY

ITEM	UNIT COST (Ksh.)	WORKINGS	TOTAL (KSH.)
6 pens	@20 each	20*6	120
1 Ream of foolscap	450	450*1	450
1Flash disc	1000	1000*1	1000
1Spiral binding copies	@50 each	50*1	50
Hard binding, 1copy	@600each	600*1	600
Photocopying expenses			500
Secretarial and printing cost			2500
Internet			600
Telephone			500
Travelling			1500
Miscellaneous expenses			200
Research assistant			1000
TOTAL			**9,020**

Table 17:APPENDIX 6: WORK PLAN FOR THE PROJECT

TASKS	**FROM**	**TO**	**JANUARY**		**FEBRUARY**		**MARCH**		**APRIL**	
Length in days			8	13	12	14	17	12	6	16
TOPIC SELECTION	9/01/18	17/01/18								
CHAPTER ONE	18/01/18	31/02/18								
CHAPTER TWO	1/02/18	13/02/18								
CHAPTER THREE	14/02/18	28/02/18								
DATA COLLECTION	1/03/18	18/03/18								
CHAPTER FOUR	19/03/18	25/03/18								
CHAPTER FIVE	26/04/18	29/04/18								
PROJECT COMPILATION	30/04/18	03/04/18								