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Education and Healthcare Possibilities for Street Children in Babati Town, Tanzania

**By
Sanjidaa Sayeed
Supervisor: Lise-Lotte Hallman**

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Abstract

Street children are the most vulnerable group in any society. It is estimated that 150 millions children lives on the street in the world. Most of these children lack all basic needs. This study is been done in Babati district, Tanzania. Focus of this study is to examine the possibilities to Education and Healthcare of street children in Babati. This is a qualitative study based on semi structured interviews with street children, authorities responsible for Education and Healthcare of these children and other actors involve in this subject.

The result of this study is that the government of Tanzania has developed a guideline (focus on HIV/AIDS related problems causing orphans) to assist these children with shelter, food, education, healthcare etc. There are 656 identified street children in Babati is receiving assistance from the authority but the interviewed street children are receiving any assistance are none. NGOs in Babati working with street children follow the same guideline assisting street children. Children not falling under this guideline do not have many chances to receive any assistance from the authorities and other actors in Babati. The authorities and actors need to expand their focus on reaching all street children in Babati.

Key words: *Street Children's Right, Education, Health, Poverty, The Authority, Most Vulnerable Children.*

List of acronyms

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CRS- Catholic Relief Service

DHSWO- The District Health and Social Welfare Officer

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus

MOHSW- Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

MVC- Most Vulnerable Children

NCPA- The National Costed Plan of Action

NGO- Non Governmental Organization

UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund

WHO- World Health Organization

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1. Introduction

What is the definition of street child? It is important to understand and clarify the different definitions of street children. Children who live on the street and make their earning from the street can be defined as street children, children who works in markets called “market children” are classified as street children too.¹ Another definition of street children is “any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become her or his habitual abode and/or sources of livelihood, and who is not adequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults”². The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) divided street children into three different categories. Those are:

1. Children under eighteen who live alone most of their life in the street or live permanently on the street by themselves.
2. Children live and work on the street most of the time but have regular connection with their family.
3. Children who work on the street but do not live on the street mostly return home daily. These children often attend school too.³

There are about 150 million street children all over the world estimated by United Nations and it is increasing daily.⁴ Street children are increasing mostly in the cities because of the urbanization in the last two decades.⁵ In poor countries the government usually has many other problems therefore these children are often neglected among other urgent issues. Consequently this group is ignored, misunderstood and sometimes harassed by both the government as well as the society.⁶

¹ Mexico Child Link Trust, Street children statistics, retrieved 2 April 2010.

² The United Nations Children's Fund, A Study on Street Children in Zimbabwe *Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Adolescents In Zimbabwe*, 2001, p.89-104, retrieved 2 April 2010.

³ Mexico Child Link Trust, Street children statistics, retrieved 2 April 2010.

⁴ Pangaea, Street children-community children, retrieved 2 April 2010.

⁵ The problem of street children in Africa: An ignored tragedy, 2000, p. 4, retrieved 2 April 2010.

⁶ Ibid, p. 6

Street children is a social problem which is not limited to a geographical area, it is a global problem. Street children are the most vulnerable group in the society and also the most deprived group of all. Around the world, street children face difficulties like physical violence, harassment, sexual abuse, drug addiction, violation of human rights etc.⁷ To overcome those eventualities, they need care and protection. These children together with orphans are often identified as “vulnerable children” by many states.⁸ There are a number of national and international organisations and NGOs who are working for street children to provide them with the social services and care that the society and the government has failed or ignored, still the work is very limited.

Every child has the right to education and health care along with other basic need like shelter, food, clean water etc. UNICEF’s *Convention on the Rights of the Child*⁹ is adopted all over the world (except in nine countries) and advocating for the children’s right. Together with governments and other institutions they are trying to reach out to every child and meet their needs. As the situation looks now and for the near future, there are still millions of children who are deprived from these basic needs and the numbers are only increasing. These children are commonly deprived from their basic needs as education and healthcare in both developing and so called developed countries.¹⁰

“Education is central to development and a key to attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality and lays a foundation for sustained economic growth.”¹¹

Even though street children are often the victims of deprivation of basic need that every child has right to yet there are some differences between vulnerable children’s situation in developed countries and in the developing countries.

In developed countries the reason for children living on street are often because of dispute between parents, domestic abuse or other social problem but not mainly because of poverty. These children are often older than sixteen and the majorities, around 74% are female. The

⁷ Densley, M. K. and Joss, D. M. 2000, p. 217

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Unite for Children, *Convention on the Rights of the Children*, Introduction, 2008, retrieved 18 April 2010.

¹⁰ Densley, M. K. and Joss, D. M. 2000 p. 218-219

¹¹ World Bank, *supporting education in Tanzania*, retrieved 6 April 2010.

vulnerability for street children in developed countries is lower than the developing countries due to the fact that the developed countries have more resources to take care of these children, which the developing countries often lack since developed countries often have strong institutions and welfare system.¹²

In developing countries along with problems like domestic abuse, conflict with parents and other social problems, poverty is the biggest trigger for street children leaving home. Street children in these countries are mostly in between 5-18 years old majority are between 10-14 years. The majority of these children are boys, around 70-90%.¹³

In many of the studies all over the world it is shown that poverty leads many underlying problems which cause that the children ended up living on the street and become, per definition, street children. As many as 60% of these children are working on the street to support their family, the rest 40% are often homeless and in many cases orphans.¹⁴ In a study Global Action For Children has mentioned that there are 132 million orphans under age of 18 in the developing countries and this year 2010 there will be 25 million more children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.¹⁵ UNICEF has a campaign Unite for Children - Unite Against AIDS and in that campaign they have pointed out the problematic situation for the children orphaned by HIV/ AIDS in Africa. Some of the difficulties these children face are economic hardship, disrupted school attendance, discrimination etc. The orphanage children due to HIV/AIDS and the street children experience the same type of difficulties.¹⁶

1.1 Background

Tanzania is one of the developing countries in the world. Street children's situation is a growing problem in this country along with many other African countries.¹⁷ The major causes for the increasing number of street children in this country are poverty and HIV/AIDS is the

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Pangaea, Street children-community children, retrieved 2 April 2010.

¹⁵ Global Action For Children, retrieved 6 April 2010.

¹⁶ Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS, 2004, retrieved 2 April 2010.

¹⁷ The problem of street children in Africa: An ignored tragedy, 2000, p. 4, retrieved 2 April 2010.

main cause of orphanage. There are around 5 million orphans in Tanzania today and due to HIV/AIDS around 1.1 million children have lost their one or both parents.¹⁸ The increasing number of street children and the vulnerable children are related to other issues like poverty and urbanization along with domestic violence, abuse or abandonment.¹⁹ Unfortunately these children and their situation are many times ignored by the society as well as by the governments.²⁰

In Tanzania the healthcare system in general is in a very poor condition, in fact it has the lowest rating compared to other African countries with similar economic situation.²¹ In 2005 this situation was getting worse.²² The healthcare is free for children under five and also for the elderly and the vulnerable children yet there are many children who do not get any treatment due to lack of resources in the healthcare system. The government of Tanzania is presently cooperating with international organizations and also with private sector to improve the situation and provide an adequate health service for the people.²³

The attendance in primary school in Tanzania is 71%, but among orphans the number is as low as 52%,²⁴ even though the primary education is free in the country. In the education sector the government is creating a good environment for the private sector to invest money and enrich this system.²⁵ Street children are an excluded group of the society and that is why they are also not often included in national policies.²⁶ Even though street children are increasing in Tanzania, the government is doing very little to tackle this issue.²⁷

In Tanzania many international and national NGOs are actively working with street children for supporting with education and health. These NGOs are mainly working with orphans, who

¹⁸ Children and AIDS: Fourth Stocking Report, 2009, p. 52, retrieved 18 April 2010.

¹⁹ The problem of street children in Africa: An ignored tragedy, 2000, p. 2, retrieved 2 April 2010.

²⁰ Ibid, p. 6

²¹ WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, 2002-2005

²² Judith G. Hazlewood & Srividya Prakash, *Tanzania's health care crisis The shortfall in qualified health care workers could be offset by higher productivity and better recruitment and training*. McKinsey Quarterly, 2005, retrieved 21 April 2010.

²³ Tanzania National Website, retrieved 21 April 2010.

²⁴ Global Action For Children, retrieved 2 April 2010.

²⁵ Tanzania National Website, retrieved 21 April 2010.

²⁶ The problem of street children in Africa: An ignored tragedy, 2000, p. 4, retrieved 2 April 2010.

²⁷ Ibid.

are victims of HIV/AIDS, a major cause for child orphanage. However this is only the 20% of the total number of orphanage. The majority 80% of the orphanage are relatively neglected.²⁸

1.2 Problem Formulation

Education and health is very significant for development. Education gives knowledge, stipulate options and opportunities. Health is important because without being healthy it is not possible to contribute to either national or personal development. In developing countries both education and healthcare are not available or accessible, especially for the poor. Street children are one of the most vulnerable groups of the society because they often lack the social security. Underlying causes for children not attending school are many but one of the main reasons is poverty. Street children are the poorest group of the poor and they often work hard for their survival with little payment. This makes it more difficult for these children to attend school. In order to come out of the poverty, education is vital because without any education their possibility to be eligible for a proper job is marginal.²⁹

Health is another aspect which is very important especially for the poor. Street children are a vulnerable group, often suffering from physical and mental illness of many kinds and their situation gets worse due to unavailability and inaccessibility of health care. Lack of safe water, sanitation and consequently poor hygiene has effects on these children's health. Common diseases among these children are infectious diseases, skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, herpes, hepatitis, and also cholera, TB, rheumatic fever to mention a few. As the authors of the article *Street children: Causes, consequences, and innovative treatment approaches* say:

“In addition to inadequate health services, the street child is without the recreational, educational, and vocational opportunities that most children enjoy and are by right entitled to. Without these, the child's developmental, social-emotional and mental health is at risk.”³⁰

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this research is to study the possibilities for the street children in Babati district, Tanzania, to access education and healthcare. This study will include what the government (authority) has offered these children and also if there are other actors as national

²⁸ Unite for Children, Children and AIDS, Fourth Stocktaking Report, 2009, retrieved 18 April 2010.

²⁹ The problem of street children in Africa: An ignored tragedy, 2000, p. 15, retrieved 2 April 2010.

³⁰ Densley, M. K. and Joss, D. M. 2000, p. 221

or international organizations and NGOs acting to improve street children's possibilities to attain primary education and accessing healthcare.

Research questions:

- What does Tanzania authorities and other actors do for the street children to have access to education and health care?
- Do the street children have access to education and health care?

1.4 Delimitation

This study is focused on street children and their possibility to a better future. There are many factors that are important to improve the lives of street children, but this study is limited to education and the healthcare. Out of UNICEF's three categories of street children only one category is the subject of this study which is the first category of street children. Delimitation for this study is also the age and gender of these children. Children under 18 and boys who have lived on the street for more than one year are the subject for this study.

2. Method

This chapter will contain the methodology used in the study. It will discuss the choice and use of method and different aspect of the method as advantage and disadvantage of this method and also how this study has been accomplished.

2.1 Disposition

This paper contains the following chapters: 1) Introduction, 2) Method, 3) Theoretical Framework, 4) Empirical Study, 5) Analysis, 6) Discussion, 7) Conclusion and 8) Recommendation. The general picture of street children situation is introduced in chapter one. Chapter two contains the methodology used in this study. In chapter three different theories are discussed. Chapter four presents the findings of this study. Chapter five contains analysis of the findings of the case study together with the theories. Chapter six discusses information which is important regarding this topic but has not been a part of the case study and not been discussed earlier in this paper. Chapter seven reveals answer of research questions and summarize totality of this paper. Finally, chapter eight suggests for further study in this area.

2.2 Qualitative Method

The methods used for this thesis are qualitative. Qualitative study is useful for a case study because it gives an opportunity to get a deeper understanding of a complex situation.³¹ Study in social science involves many uncontrolled variables depending on different backgrounds, perspectives, personal knowledge, preconceptions etc. quantitative study like statistical data which is often one-sided study is not being used for this study.³² The study is based on interviews with different group of actors who are the primary source of information for this study. This method also gives the researcher a chance to come closer to the subject area to study it from the perspective of the research subject group.³³ With qualitative study a question can be answered deeply but only from some individuals perspective which does not have to be

³¹ Trost, J. 2002: *Att skriva uppsats med akribi*. Studentlitteratur, Lund, p. 21

³² Bonnie Kaplan & Dennis Duchon,, 'Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Information systems Research: A Case Study', *Management Information Systems Quarterly*, December 1988, pp. 571-586.

³³ Holme, I. M. and Solvang, B. K. 1995: *Forskningsmetodik. Om kvalitativa och kvantitativa metoder*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, p. 92

the common view. This study includes a few children of many and excludes the rest of it and that is why this study does not conclude the result as a general picture of the total situation.

2.3 Interviews

The case study is based on semi-structured interviews. This semi-structured technique is useful in case study like this. A semi-structured interview is a form of informal interview and the questions are not entirely structured, only the key question are prepared, during the interview session depending on gathered information there is scope for follow-up questions.³⁴ Selective interviews with different group of actors were made. Two types of interview have been done here, informant and the respondent interview. Informants are the government officials and NGO activists and the street children are the respondents.³⁵

Twelve street children were interviewed; all of them were in between 12-15 years old and have been leaving on street for more then three years. The sampling of the children was made after the availability. Due to the fact that, these children have to work for there survivable, children who participated in this study had to refrain from work just then. All the interviews were semi-structured. The key questions were four and there after some additional question were asked to obtain a better understanding of the study area. These interviews were made to obtain the children's own view of the situation.

The relevant informants for this study are government officers and NGOs. Three government officers were interviewed; The District Health and Social Welfare Officer, Special education Officer and Audio-Visual Education officer, a Project Manager of a NGO were also interviewed. All these informants are chosen because they have key responsibility in study areas, with is Education and Health. The project manager of the NGO was chosen after knowing about the cooperating NGOs with the authority in Babati from the District Health and Social Welfare Officer. These interviews with the informants were also made individually and semi-structured, but mostly in narrative form. The primary questions were four but follow-up questions were asked to find unexpected but important information. These

³⁴ International Institute for Environment and Development. 1988: *An Introduction Rapid Rural Appraisal for Agricultural Developmen*, Sustainable Agriculture Programe. London, p. 20

³⁵ Holme, I. M. and Solvang, B. K. 1995: *Forskningsmetodik. Om kvalitativa och kvantitativa metoder*, Studentlitteratur, Lund, p. 105.

interviews were made to get a better knowledge about how the government works, to simplicity, who are responsible for these children and what the activities are to improve the situation for these children.

2.4 Challenges and Opportunities with the Chosen Method

The interviews with the children were made on Kiswahili and interpreted to English by a field assistant. Data that might be meaningful to this study may not have been forwarded by the field assistant because of her personal perception of importance of the matter. The children might give answer to the question according to what they think the researcher wants them to say and not giving the accurate picture of their situation. Objective research without any personal value added is entirely impossible.³⁶ Since researchers have own preconception on the subject due to their background, knowledge, opinions etc., this can affect objectivity to a study.

The interviews with the government officers and the NGO officer were more direct because it was on English, a language both parties are used to with. These persons were mostly referring their information to policies, but some times these persons also have given their personal view due to the subject contrast to what the official activities are which they personally would like to add to the policy or planning. To maintain a high validity of this study, these personal opinions of these informants are used carefully in this study.

2.5 Secondary Sources

There are other sources of information used to complete this study. Secondary data as earlier studies about street children are used in this study. Lots of scientific articles are collected from internet but also many organizations websites who are actively working on this issue are used for this study. These organizations could be subjective about their information yet some of the information is used in this paper because of these organizations knowledge about the street children situation.

The entitlement approach and Development as freedom by Amartya Sen are the two theories, used in this thesis to analyse the collected information during this research. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization (WHO), statement on education respective health importance are also used in the analysis of this study. Even though the reports or the articles are not always scientific and not peer

³⁶ Ibid., p. 30.

reviewed yet their statements are well know and well established. That is why their texts regarding the study area is used.

2.6 Validity and Reliability

A qualitative study method is used to get a deeper knowledge about the study group since it gives the group a large freedom to participate in the research as they wish.³⁷ This method is not always problem free because the researcher still does not know for sure if the data is correct and also sometimes the information, the gesture or signals from the study group can be missed and misinterpreted. The study group can also act as they think that the researcher wants them to which can mislead the findings.³⁸ In this type of method, the topic is often chosen by the researcher and the area that is being examined relates to the study group and therefore it is not possible to get a total picture of a society. The result of this type of study concerns the study group only.³⁹ To have a high validity and reliability of this study most the information are cross checked with other sources. Primary information from the informants regarding the governmental policies and activities are examined more then ones by different officers and NGO activist. The interviews with street children are made on their living and working places, there by observation of the situation becomes a part of this study. The secondary sources validity and reliability are examining by comparing the data with other sources.

³⁷ Ibid., p: 94-95

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

3. Theoretical Framework

Street children are deprived from the basic human needs and this thesis is trying to find out the consequence of deprivation of right to education and healthcare. The first theory is “Development as Freedom” and the second theory is “The Entitlement Approach”. Both of these theories are by Amartya Sen. These theories are explaining poverty, the reason behind poverty and also how to get out of poverty. These two theories complete each other and explain the relation between poverty and development. To understand the present situation of these children, facts and approaches of UNESCO on education and what WHO reflects on the impact of health in development are used for analysis.

3.1 Development as Freedom

“Development can be seen, it is argued here, as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy. Focusing on human freedoms contrasts with narrower views of development, such as identifying development with the growth of gross national product, or with the rise in personal incomes, or with industrialization, or with technological advance, or with social modernization.”⁴⁰

According to Amartya Sen development is not only the economic freedom it is much more such as accessibility to education and health care, political and civil rights. Along with social modernisation these factors contribute to human freedom.⁴¹

“Development as freedom” explains why people are poor because of the lack of different kind of freedoms, and also tries to answer the possible ways to get out of this problem by explaining the process behind poverty. This approach explains different kind of poverty and freedom. Sen has divided instrument of freedom in to five different categories: 1) political freedom, 2) economic facilities, 3) social opportunities, 4) transparency guarantees and 5) protective security.⁴²

Political freedom is about people’s right to participate in politics, to choose the government, the right to vote, possibilities to scrutinize their options, free press etc. These rights are important for a democratic development.⁴³

⁴⁰ Sen, A., 1999: *Development as Freedom*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 3

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 3

⁴² Ibid., p. 38

⁴³ Ibid.

Economic facilities are very important for individual development because economic entitlement is the key to a person's possibility to consume, produce or exchange goods and services.⁴⁴ This is important for a countries development because it leads to increased earning and wealth of a country.⁴⁵ These aspects of economic facility are interrelated, but fair distribution of the countries wealth is also very important for development of national and individual level.⁴⁶

Social opportunities include the entitlement to education, healthcare, welfare system etc. This instrument influence individuals to a have better life, as education is the key to a life of many options and healthy living is a possibility towards a long life.⁴⁷ There are many examples that show that education generates economic growth.⁴⁸ Education creates possibilities to be active in politics for example and good health leads to more effective participation in economic activities.⁴⁹

Transparency guarantees are about the society gives people a guarantee to interact with each other with openness. This is about trustworthiness, that people has faith on each other. Many people get affected negatively when trust is violated. This instrument is important for preventing corruption, underhand dealings, financial irresponsibility etc.⁵⁰

Protective security is important to provide safety net. There are always some people in a society who are deprived or vulnerable no matter how strong the economic system is in a country and safety net is important to protect this group. Strong institutions as who gives unemployment benefits or secondary income supplement are examples of instrument of freedom.

All these instruments are very important for development of a country as well as its inhabitants. For this thesis the third instrument of freedom the *social opportunities* is most suitable because the study is focused on education and healthcare opportunities and possibilities for street children.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p: 38-39

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 41

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 39-40

3.2 The Entitlement Approach

The entitlement approach theory is taken from the book *Poverty and Famine. An Essay on Entitlement and Development* by Amartya Sen. Understand the entitlement approach, an example of Sen is cited here:

”An entitlement relation applied to ownership connects one set of ownerships to another through certain rules of legitimacy. It is a recursive relation and the process of connecting can be repeated. Consider a private ownership market economy. I own this loaf of bread. Why is this ownership accepted? Because I got it by exchange through paying some money I owned. Why is my ownership of that money accepted? Because I got it by selling a bamboo umbrella owned by me. Why is my ownership of the bamboo umbrella accepted? Because I made it with my own labour using some bamboo from my land. Why is my ownership of the land accepted? Because I inherited it from my father. Why is his ownership of that land accepted? And so on. Each link in this chain of entitlement relations ‘legitimizes’ one set of ownership by reference to another, or to some basic entitlement in the form of enjoying the fruits of one’s own labour.”⁵¹

Entitlement is about legal right to own. This right can be small as buy food to have education or skill and right to exchange this qualification to have other things like earn money. Right to own money gives possibility to buy food, cloths and property are few as example which becomes legal right. As Sen has explained a person won a loaf of bread because he sold a bamboo umbrella and won money from that, his right to sell that umbrella is legal because the bamboo is from his land. All the rights are connected to each other. When one legal right is missing in this process, it becomes difficult to achieve the next legal right.

Sen has used entitlement approach to explain famines but this approach can be used in other area where social inequality and deprivation is involved. Sen has discussed in his book about the importance of policies, and how policies can favour or disfavour a group in the society. Shortcoming of policy making is one of the reasons behind poverty and deprivation, according to Sen.⁵² In other words ownership and poverty is an issue of inequality.⁵³ Amartya Sen has used entitlement approach to explain different kinds of starvation and why people starve. One of the most important arguments of this book is that the reasons behind people starve is not shortage of food, it is because people lack entitlement to food, lack of proper

⁵¹ Sen, A., 1981: *Poverty and famines, An Essay on Entitlement and Development*, Oxford University Press, New York, p. 1

⁵² Sen, A., 1981, p. 20.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

distribution of resources is the reason for poverty.⁵⁴ “Poverty is, of course, a matter of deprivation.”⁵⁵

3.3 UNESCO

Education is important for individual development. Education is basic for a person to make decision for his future, it gives skills, knowledge which generates to a future with options.⁵⁶ Education creates opportunity for a person to participate in social act, different social perspective, long term economic benefits and much more. The World Declaration on Education for All (EFA) is an important document regarding eradication of poverty. UNESCO is working to fulfil the goal of making education, especially basic education, accessible and available for all the children, youth and adult. They have five objectives in their strategy to achieve the goal. The five objectives are the followings:

“Capacity-building: to provide a platform for intellectual and thoughtful leadership for educational innovation and reform.

Laboratory of ideas: to anticipate and respond to emerging trends and needs in education and develop education policy recommendations based on research evidence.

International catalyst: to initiate and promote dialogue and exchange of information among educational leaders and stakeholders.

Clearing house: to promote the development and implementation of successful educational practices and document and disseminate successful practices.

Standard-setting: to develop Standards, Norms and Guidelines for action in key education areas.”⁵⁷

UNESCO along with governments and other NGOs and organisation are actively working to achieve the goal. Education is a vital key, to emerge from poverty. Through education it is possible to change people attitude, give them knowledge which create opportunity to employment.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Sen, A., 198, p. 7, 57-80.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 22.

⁵⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Education, Educational dimensions, retrieved 10 May 2010.

⁵⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Education, Strategy, retrieved 21 May 2010.

⁵⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Education, Educational dimensions, The Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments, 2000, retrieved 10 May 2010.

3.4 WHO

WHO has a special programme called Health and Development. In this programme it is stated why health is so important for eliminating extreme poverty because good health contributes to economic growth.⁵⁹ Good health is extremely important for poor people because their earning is often dependent on their health. When a poor person becomes ill, the income gets lower and this makes a poor family even poorer.⁶⁰

“Better health is central to human happiness and well-being. It also makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and save more.”⁶¹

Health is related to poverty. Without having a good healthcare system it is not possible to stay healthy by only advancing the healthcare system is not enough to improve health situation. There are lots of other facts that need to be improved, like education level, empowerment, access to food and safe water, sanitation etc. These factors have a direct impact on health.⁶² To generate a good healthcare system in a country, the Ministry of Health is an important stakeholder but other actors as other government departments, the donors, civil society etc often necessary are important to improve the healthcare system. It is also equally important to make this service available and accessible for all. Improvement of infrastructure is one example which can make the health service accessible for many.⁶³

⁵⁹ World Health Organization, Health and Development, 2010, retrieved 21 April 2010.

⁶⁰ R. Dodd & A. Casseles, ‘Health, development and the Millennium Development Goals’, *Annals of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology*, January 2006, Vol. 100, pp. 379–387.

⁶¹ World Health Organization, Health and Development, 2010, retrieved 21 April 2010.

⁶² R. Dodd & A. Casseles, ‘Health, development and the Millennium Development Goals’, *Annals of Tropical Medicine & Parasitology*, January 2006, Vol. 100, pp. 379–387.

⁶³ World Health Organization, Health and Development, 2010, retrieved 21 April 2010.

4. Empirical Study

The case study for this thesis has been made in Babati town in Tanzania. Babati is one of 89 district of Tanzania and located in Manyara region. The total population of Babati in 2003 was around 303,013 according to Tanzania National Census.⁶⁴ Babati town is growing fast both economically and also demographically. As any other city in the world the urbanization is also increasing. Due to urbanization street children are also growing phenomena in Babati. According to the District Health and Welfare officer in Babati there are 656 Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) identified in this district including street children and the amount of street are increasing day by day.⁶⁵ Street children who are interviewed for this study are not in the identified group of MVC. The Ministry of Health and Welfare of Tanzania is responsible for the MVC in the country and the Ministry of Education is responsible for education. These two departments are therefore relevant for this thesis. The empirical study is divided in two categories; firstly the Governmental, and other organisations role and secondly the children perspective.

4.1 The Government and NGOs

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare- The Policy

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) department of Tanzania is responsible for the MVC and has developed a guideline “The National Costed Plan of Action (NCPA) for Most Vulnerable Children” to improve quality of care, support and protection for the most vulnerable children on state level, the same guideline is also used in Babati to assist the MVC. To identify the MVC the government has developed an identification tool to address the children and their needs. “HIV/AIDS pandemic is the major cause of increased number of

⁶⁴ Wikipedia, retrieved 25 April 2010.

⁶⁵ District Health and Welfare officer, Babati, Tanzania.

orphans and other vulnerable children in Tanzania.”⁶⁶ Before these children were taken care of by the elderly family members in the family, but due to the socio-economic change, poverty and HIV/AIDS the situation has changed which resulting more MVC in the country. The number of MVC is now beyond the capacity of the community to handle. This guideline is to protect, support and provide care for these children on many levels in the community. There are eight types of support and care are included and under every support area four types of services are incorporated, which are; *For the children, For the caregiver, Community level and Systems level.*

The eight types of support area for the MVC and the content of those are the followings:

1. Food and nutrition
2. Shelter
3. Family-based care and support
4. Social protection and security
5. Primary healthcare
6. Psychosocial care and support
7. Education and vocational training
8. Household economic strengthening

1. The community should provided food to the children and the family in a sustainable way, should be provide education on nutrition, counselling on supplementary food etc. Should offer services for the caregiver are various types of training in topic related to food; diet, nutrition, preparation and continuing access to food. The community should have services like, school feeding programs, training for the families on how to produce food and storage of it. Last but not the least, policy development, regional and national coordination, technical assistance to the food industry and advocacy are the services that should be provided on the system level.

2. Should ensure that the children and the caregiver have shelter, bedding and cloths and in case of child-headed house hold provide support. To the caregiver, important services should be assistance with repair and maintenance of shelter and move children out of street and assistance with reunification those children with family and siblings. At the community level services should be; home visits, support for family based care and developing alternative strategies when family-based care is absent. Work with policy development, regional and

⁶⁶ The National Costed Plan of Action for Most Vulnerable Children, 2007, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania Government, p. iii.

national coordination, education, anti-stigma, strengthening institutions should be done at the system level.

3. Should make sure that the caregiver family has at least one adult to take care of the children and provide them with the basic needs. Other services might be home visits, training on parenting skills to caregiver, and also in absence of the possibilities of family-based care system, should place these children in foster home or children placement.

4. Should give children knowledge about their rights and self protection, assisting them with birth registration and inheritance claims, replacing them from abusive situation, preventing sibling separation and also should find them a trustful adult as caregiver. To caregiver this support should be introducing to the available services, teach them to respect children and the significance of child abuse. At the community level the services should be supporting child protection committees, children's rights committees, training members of the community to identify children with needs, advocating in various level in the community to act for child protection. At the system level this should be about referring abused children to legal entitlements and follow up, advocate for increase laws of child protection.

5. Primary healthcare includes health education on hygiene, sanitation and prevention of HIV transmission. For the children the service includes checking on immunization status and growth monitoring card. To the caregiver the service is to teach them to monitor health of the children and also involve them in HIV prevention education. At the community level the service offer training on HIV/AIDS care, increase volunteers who will help the household to seek appropriate health and social services. Policy development for meeting the children's needs is the responsibility on the service level.

6. MVC often suffers from anxiety, grief, and trauma associated with parental illness or death, stigma, discrimination even exclusion from the community because of HIV/AIDS. This is why the children should have home visit for counselling, guidance on sexual relationships, life skills and self-esteem also introduce them to various activities to strengthen links between the children and the community. For the caregivers the services should be also counsel and support during illness. In the community level the work should be about increasing the understanding of psychosocial needs of the vulnerable children. Provide trained counsellors with in different institute to identify at risk children who need psychosocial support should be done at the system level.

7. This service should help children to register in the school, assist them to subsidized school cost, create early childhood developing programme, and make the vocational training and employment accessible. For the caregiver this service should offers them knowledge about the importance of education and also trains them to identify children who are not in the education system. At the community level this service should orient to the Most Vulnerable Children Committee, to involve them to identify community based solution, mobilize educational institutes, and educate different group of the community to increase access for the children. In the system level the focus should be on make education free for these children.

8. Services for children, household and the caregiver should provide them with vocational training, involve them in income generating activities and ensure access to credit for them. To the community the service should support the community to asset building and at the system level the support should be for establish microfinance institutions to guarantee credits and create more income generating activities.

The District Health and Social Welfare Officer (DHSWO)

The District Health and Social Welfare Officer (DHSWO) in Babati, has knowledge about the street children in Babati and are actively working with this agenda. They are fully aware of the growing number of street children and try to manage this issue, but the authority does not have enough money to take care of all the children in the district. The authority is doing its best but is very much dependent on funding from foreign countries which makes long term plans difficult.

By using the identification tool 656 children has been identified so far in Babati district. Unfortunately this tool is only used to identify children affected by HIV/AIDS. The authority has a plan to establish care centres for these children in 18 different wards in Babati district and one of these centres has already started. Due to the shortage of funding this has minimized to 9 wards prioritising HIV transmitted areas. The idea is to provide the identified Babati's MVC with education, food and shelter. The centre will provide the children with school fees, uniforms and other necessities. This programme also tries to find the relatives to the children and send them to their home and support them to get education. One problem of sending children back home is that children who have run away from home might have a

serious reason for doing so, by forcing him/her to go back home may not be a sustainable solution because the chance is high that this child will run away again and return to the street.

An alternative to this programme is orphan homes, but the problems in orphan homes are that the authority can not support enough for these children economically and provide them with education or vocational training. When children become 18 they are counted as adults, then the orphan have to leave orphan home, which caused problems because that “child” can not take care of himself since that he lacks education and skills. The authority has no economic resources to support orphan homes in Babati district, but collaborate with different international organizations like USAID, FHI, Africare and also some local NGOs. These organizations help the government with identifying the street children and their needs and also by funding this new project in Babati district. There are also some local NGOs who are working with these international organizations. According to DHSWO not all of the NGOs are doing the right thing regarding this matter.

Healthcare for the MVC is free. Children under 5 year always gets the free treatment, but children without money like street children, has right to get the free treatment also. These children need to show some documents at the healthcare centre to get the free treatment. The DHSWO must sign and verify the identity of that document. The problem is that the street children in Babati are unaware of this even though there have been some campaign to spread the information in the form of posters that has been haltered in bus station, market place and other places in Babati where these children might linger. Most of these children can not read and the officer is fully aware of that. The officer had planned for a festival with loud speakers and some music and dances to attract the children and get their attention, but because of the limited budget this plan was rejected. Another way of spreading the information about healthcare could be the healthcare centre itself, it is not sure if the stuffs in healthcare centres in Babati are aware of this service for the MVC since informing healthcare centre and doctors is not DHSWO duty, he can not do this.

In Babati town there is already a care centre for Most Vulnerable Child which started last year. The welfare commission has collaborated with organizations named Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and Africare who were responsible for identifying the MVC in Babati town and these organizations have not informed about those street children who have been interviewed for this study and that is why the welfare commission did not have the knowledge about these children. In order to give these children a possibility to get care and support that

the government is offering, these children need identification thereafter welfare officer can take immediate action by registering these children.

Education Officers

According to the education policy the street children has the right to free primary education. The Education Officer (EO) has some knowledge about the street children, in Babati. The policy does not work because to find these children, lots of volunteer assistance is needed. The government has not stated that in the policy. There is no campaign about this subject, and that is why most of these children do not know about their right to free education. Presently there are no plans for these children. According to the EO, the government is not taking enough responsibility because there are many NGOs involved with this issue however the government provides teachers and classrooms for children who are delayed to start schooling and lag behind. The Government had a program which ended last year called Memkwa Program for those children. That program was started because of collecting data of how many children do not attend school in time. The government acknowledges that every year the amount of these children are increasing. That is a problem the EO is experiencing now.

The EO knows about these children in Babati but can not assist these children to attend school due to lack of teachers and class room and it is not in her area of responsibility. She refers this issue to the DHSWO of Babati, if the DHSWO has any plans for these children regarding education he will have discuss the matter with the EO. Another problem is the school uniform, since all school children must wear school uniform.

NGOs

CRS cooperates in Babati district together with the authority. The CRS responsibility is to identify the MVC and assist these children based on their basic needs according to the guideline that MOHSW has developed. CRS use the identification tool developed by the MOHSW, since their focus group is also the HIV/AIDS affected orphans. The organization has been working with this project less then one year in this district and the effect is not visible yet. CRS do not receive any kind of help from the authority in Babati except the

guidelines and identification tools but they do report to the responsible authority for Babati district about the result.

4.2 The Street Children

The children are sleeping in a backyard under some banana plants close to a garbage dump in Babati town, without any roof over their head, with no water and sanitation and under no protection. All of the children work in the Babati market as carriers. These children earn around 500 Tanzanian shillings which is about 0.36 dollar on a daily basis. They eat one proper meal a day which consist of cooked banana or potato, which they collect everyday from the local food markets dump after the market has closed and the leftover is dumped.

None of the children, except, one has any contact with their family and they are not sure if their family lives at the same place where they used to live earlier. All of the boys want to go back home some day except one who was abused by his parents and he fears that if he returns home that will happen again.

None of the children attend school presently. Two out of twelve children attended school when they were at home. None of them knew that primary education is free in Tanzania. Every child was asked, "*Now when you know that primary education is free will you try to get an admission in a school?*" All of them answered NO. The reason was that they cannot afford a school uniform and school materials. School uniform in a school in Babati costs around 5-10 thousands Tanzanian shillings.

Their possibilities to healthcare are limited. Three boys out of twelve have been in hospital while living on street in Babati. These boys were assisted by some adult who was just passing by and was kind enough to take them to hospital. The children do not go to healthcare centres if they feel sick. Most of them have suffered from headache, stomach pain and cuts of various reasons due to their unsafe standard of living. If they feel sick they buy medicines like painkiller and paracetamol and they stay at the garbage dump until they feel better.

4.3 Summary of the Findings

- The government of Tanzania has guidelines to assist the most vulnerable children which being followed also in Babati.
- The guideline is directed to children who sufferers from HIV/AIDS related causes.
- The assistance is limited in Babati due to lack of funding.
- In Babati town, 656 children are getting assistance from the government.
- The Ministry of Health and Welfare department in Babati is responsible for street children.
- There is 1 centre for assisting MVC in Babati district and 9 more centres are waiting to be established.
- The Ministry of Health and Welfare department in Babati is aware of all the MVC are not identified.
- The authority in Babati district is cooperating with NGOs and organisations, working with most vulnerable children.
- Most of the NGOs and organisations in Babati district focus on the MVC who suffers from HIV/AIDS related issues.
- The target group street children in Babati do not go to school and have very little knowledge about free primary education system.
- These street children in Babati do not know that they are eligible to receive free primary healthcare.

5. Analysis

This chapter contains discussion on street children's possibilities to education and health individually. The situation will be analysed with UNESCO and WHO's statement on these subjects and Amartya Sen's theories together with the empirical study result of this paper.

5.1 Education

Education is the key to dispose of poverty, one of the biggest arguments of UNESCO why everyone should get education. Education gives opportunity, perspective, opens possibilities to participate in social activities according to UNESCO. These arguments are not unlike Sen's theories and both support each other. Poverty makes education unreachable and without education breaking the cycle of poverty is almost impossible. Thus breaking the vicious cycle of poverty is not easy for street children in Babati when they lack possibilities to get educated. Primary education is free in Tanzania yet these children do not have access to education. Most of the interviewed children do not know that education is free, but they know that they need uniform and school material while attending school. They feel it is very difficult for them to start school since they can afford neither the school materials nor the uniform. The schools have limited mandate in Babati to solve the problem, they also lack recourses to assist these children.

Freedom, according to Amartya Sen, is having different options to choose in life what street children have no option to do so. Without having opportunity to educate them selves, their option for life is very limited. With no education, they miss out lots of information and can not participate in politics and in decision making process. They become outsiders in the society. Without being able to read they are not fully aware of their rights in society. Even if a country has lots of good services, policies or well functioning welfare system people will not be able to use or take advantage of these services if they do not know about it. It seems like lack of knowledge cause poverty. Sen uses five instruments of freedom to categorise different "freedom" which leads to development. All five instruments are incorporated with each other and equally important for development. Having economic freedom is very significant; it is one of the most important freedoms of all. Without this nether a country can develop nor a person. Economic freedom have more options, most importantly it gives a person opportunity

to exchange their asset as knowledge, property, services etc. Money provides better services, like healthcare, drinking water, good education etc. Without economic freedom life becomes very hard to live. This is the fact of these children's life. As Sen said, economic freedom is not the only limit for freedom, there are much more. Political freedom is important, but without education it is difficult to participate in political activities.

Entitlement is insurance of having a good life. Lack of entitlement is a sign of inequality and deprivation according to Sen, which is the situation for these street children in Babati. As Sen explained that shortcoming of policymaking is one of the reasons behind deprivation. The government of Tanzania has policies and guidelines for these children. Strong policy making which includes the poorest group of the society is very important. As it is for Babati, the authority is dependant on funds from donors and have problem to comply with implemented plans. Lack of resources leads to the children's deprivation. There are some useful assistance but street children in Babati are unaware of this. The reasons for lack of the knowledge about these facilities are many. The authorities have failed to spread the information among these children. The policy making is focused on HIV/AIDS but children become orphans or street children because of many other reason. The government has chosen to focus on this issue and has ignored other reason behind why children become street children. The authorities are cooperating with many other NGOs and organisations in Babati to reach the MVC but these partners are also focusing on the HIV/AIDS issues. The different departments in Babati district must collaborate with each other to achieve a transformation. Solely one freedom does not contribute to development and change in all the areas is necessary to achieve a notable improvement.

5.2 Health

According to WHO health is very important to eliminate poverty and for development. As it has been discussed earlier in this paper, good health is a basic for a healthy living and generates economic growth. WHO's statement supports Sen's both theories that entitlement to healthcare is important and also the national governments role is very important to improve situation. An improving healthcare system is not enough to make it accessible, other things parallel to that like spreading information, education needs to be improved. All government sector need to work together and exchange information with each other. The Tanzanian government offers primary healthcare to the MVC and the street children in Babati do not

know about it. Since they do not have money, in severe health situation they will not get any medical care, in addition to that, these children are not anyone's responsibility that is why these children will have difficulties to receive any healthcare.

It is important to be healthy because with poor health people might not have enough desire or energy to participate in those actions. Street children lack in education and healthcare have no chance to take part in any political activities thus very little chance to participate or to take part in decision making in order to change in their life situation. Social opportunities like entitlement to education and healthcare is very important for the personal development and this contributes to a country's development too. Good health contributes to a long healthy living.

Health is important, especially for the poor. Street children are the poorest group in the society. They lack access to education and healthcare and all the elements that contribute to a healthy life like save and clean water, sanitation or a place to live. These street children in Babati are deprived from all the freedoms that Sen has described to have a good life. They are trapped in the poverty without having access to these freedoms and improvement of their life situation is next to impossible.

Entitlement is like a domino effect system, education gives knowledge, knowledge gives opportunity to different options, options gives freedom to choose etc. Thereby education gives option to a higher standard of life, qualified jobs gives economic stability, which generates a better livelihood. Improved economy gives access to advanced healthcare which in turn leads to more time to actively participate in activities which is essential for improve livelihood. Street children in Babati who are not entitled to receive assistance are deprived from entitlement to education and healthcare. This positive spiral is thereby not completely excluded for these children at least who are registered. Protective security is very important for vulnerable group like street children. These children are not having access to this freedom either. Even when a thin safety net exists, the children do not know about it. The authority has a big role to play here, they need to spread the information so it reaches primarily to the children but also the rest of the society, so people know that the government has supporting system to take care of these children. More close cooperation with NGOs and organisations will give government a holistic insight of these children situation and their need.

6. Discussion

Street children in Babati do not have access to education and have very limited access to healthcare. The government has included these children in their policies, but the policies have failed to assist these children and their needs. After examining the street children situation in Babati, both from the authority's perspective and the children perspective, it is clear that the assistance that government is not offering enough. The help is not reaching these children. These children in Babati are out of the public system. The government needs to include these children in policy making and also spread out the information about their operative services for the MVC to every level of the society. Limited economic resources is one of the major barrier for the government to invest more in this topic but they also have to take responsibility for these children.

In this study it has been revealed that children who live on the street are there for various reasons and they are not aware of their rights. Also important to mention that the government is not offering much to these street children. Some questions are needed to answer like:

- Is it enough to make primary education free?
- What are the obstacles to children's access to education?

It is consequently not enough to make primary education free since many children do not attend school anyway. Also in case of healthcare since the government has a policy to provide free healthcare to vulnerable groups of the society why do this group do not know about this service? The street children examined in this study live close to each other which put them at high risk of transmitting diseases between each other. These children do not seek healthcare when they are sick. If they are suffering from any chronic disease they will be unaware of it and will not get any treatment.

There are millions of children living on the street all over the world. They do not have access to education or healthcare, two basic rights of a human being. These children have very little chance to change their fate by themselves. With support from government and other organizations they can have a better opportunity. The government and other organizations and NGOs need to be more attentive regarding this issue and take action, not only assist the children but also find a solution to prevent these children from ending up on the street. Strengthening various institutions might be a good start.

7. Conclusion

Studying street children situation in Babati from different view it is seen that these children are deprived from all the basic needs that is required to live a normal healthy life. These deprivations are the obstacle for these children to have any opportunity to a better future. These children lack education because of their impossibility to attend school. Their present life situation is the reason behind the obstacles. They live on street without any shelter, they do not have any adult supervision, they lack money and no one is responsible for their lives. All these factors are contributing for these children are in danger of having a bad healthy life. On top of that they do not have access to healthcare either. The government of Tanzania has guidelines to assist MVC but not operative because the government is lacking financial resources.

What does the authority and other actors do for the street children to have access to education and health care?

The Government of Tanzania has a good policy for the MVC who are affected by HIV/AIDS related problems. This guideline do not include other MVC however the policy includes the street children's right both in education and in health sector. MVC including street children in Babati district are the responsibility of The District Health and Social Welfare officer. Primary education and vocational trainings are free for the MVC according to the plan of action by Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and also the primary healthcare is also free for these children. This plan of action is focused on community based support and care for MVC.

The Department of Health and Social Welfare has developed a program for street children, which will provide the children with shelter, food and education. This programme in Babati district is dependent on funding from international organisations but because of insufficient funding this project is not being fully completed in Babati. The government also has orphanage homes, but the service for the MVC in those homes in Babati are not enough on account of the lack of finance. The authority is cooperating with the national and international NGOs for identifying these children in Babati and provides them with support and care.

The Government focus on identifying MVC is on the HIV/AIDS related orphanage and thus other MVC who are not victim of HIV/AIDS are excluded from government's various programs and are not getting any support from the Government.

Other sectors such as NGOs and international organisations are cooperating with The Tanzanian Government to support and the MVC. International organizations are mostly funding the programs that are designed for the care, support and protect these children.

The NGOs are also collaborating with the authorities regarding street children in many ways. NGOs are identifying the MVC in communities and providing them services according to The National NCPA for Most Vulnerable Children in Babati. The NGOs in Babati, who are working directly with the authority are also following the Governments' guideline to identify and support the MVC and that is why missing out other MVC who are not affected by HIV/AIDS are missed out and not receiving any help.

Do the street children have access to education and health care?

The children who have been interviewed are lacking all the rights a child should have. They are lacking shelter, food, water, sanitation, protection, education, healthcare etc. These children do not know about their rights. They are totally ignored by the authority and also by other actors. Children lacking rights to education and health care leads to more poverty for them. Their future have limited chance to be improved, because they are not entitled to many options.

Presently these children do not have access to education and very little access to healthcare. In their situation, starting school is difficult for them. They do not have money to buy school materials and school uniforms. They do not have any place to live or any one to take care of them. They do not have time for school since they have to work for their survivable. They earn very little that is why they can not spend money on healthcare. They have right to primary healthcare according to the national health policy, but these children are unaware about this service and that is why they do not think that they have access to healthcare.

The government has made plans for MVC but the focus group of the MVC is HIV/AIDS related causes. The plan or the guideline is very detailed and cover many areas. NGOs and organization working with street children in Babati, follows this guideline since they only focusing on the specific children, others are just being ignored.

8. Recommendation

A recommended study in this area is to further examine the street children's situation in Babati again and try to notify if there have been any changes made to their situation. Another study can be find out if these children have been seeking any help by themselves because now when they know about their rights regarding education and healthcare.

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