Factors Forcing Children to Street: Hargeissa, Somaliland

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Abstract:- The main aim of this paper was to investigate and analyze the factors leading to children on the Street, Hargeisa Somaliland as a case study. To get reliable, dependable and trustable information in both primary and secondary sources. The researchers were made organized and regular observation, personal in-depth interview, extended case studies and lastly document analysis.

Keywords:- Street Children, Poverty, Peer Pressure, Parental Death, Child Abuse.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last five decades, the plight of street children has been more visible and prominent around the world, posing major threats to their survival and well-being. The presence of street children in major cities and metropolitan regions around the world has progressed from being regarded as a rare occurrence to a worrying and unsettlingly worldwide issue. The number of street children worldwide is estimated to be between 10 and 100 million, and it has been steadily increasing since 2002. (UNFPA, 2003).The state and phenomenon has not only charmed and attracted public interest but has become a matter of precedency to governments as well as national and international organizations (Panter-Brick, 2002).

Different variables and factors have added, bestowed and influenced for children going away and leaving homes to live on the walls and streets. There are several, frequently imbrication reasons why children are led to the street; they can be sloppy classified or grouped into various push elements within the family and other pull causes on the street. Push factors are defined as all external and outer elements that influence a child's decision to abandon the home and family setting and seek refuge on the streets and walls. These component variables could be linked to the child's home, neighborhood, and society relationships. Pull factors (all those variables that drive a youngster to the street) for street life are, by definition, the most important factors that influence a child's decision to pursue street life (Miguel, 2010). These elements, however, change depending on the situation, and therefore should not be viewed in general terms (Miguel, 2010).

According to a study conducted and done in Botswana's metropolitan areas by Mogome-Ntatsi (1993), many youngsters have strayed away from their homes or families of orientation all over the world.

They're often referred to as "runaway" or "uncontrollable" kids. Because they live on the street. These children do not attend school and are away from home for the majority of the day, putting them at a disadvantage and robbing them of parental attention and better direction throughout their formative years. The child's social and physical development is harmed as a result of the implications and outcomes. He stated that both the public and authorities are concerned about their presence. Some of the instances are conflicts within the family, physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children. In Somaliland Single parenthood, poor parenting, poverty, termination of education, homeless migrated Ethiopians and southern Somalis and peer influence are the main factors that force children to streets.

Objectives of the Study

General Objective
The main objective of this paper was to investigate factors leading to children on the street: in Mohamed Moge rehabilitation center, as a case study.

Specific Objectives
- To investigate reasons or factors leading to children on the street.
- To search the socioeconomic factors of children on the street in Hargeisa, Somaliland

II. LITERATURE

Street children issues.
The majority of street children move in groups; some work and live on the streets; nevertheless, a small number of them maintain tight links with their original families and return home for meals (Wainaina, 1981). There are also those who form relationships with business owners in town and are able to obtain food by providing services such as cleaning the stores, collecting water, or shining shoes, or by relying on the charity of these individuals (Undugu society

1999). According to studies, street children encounter a variety of obstacles and insecurity while on the streets; for example, all street children cite a lack of food, housing, clean water, clothing, and harassment as important challenges. As accepted experiences of street life, fights and police arrests have been documented. These circumstances may jeopardize street children's ability to develop and become contributing members of society. According to Ayako (1991), research conducted in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya, street children do drugs, inhale petrol, glue, and alcohol, and finally chew Kat, all of which endangers their mental and physical development. All of the money that the street children make is spent on food, recreation, and hazardous substances like narcotics. They rarely save because they have no safe place to deposit their money and because sleeping on the streets with money in their pockets is too risky. A study done by Hussein (1998) in Cairo about children at the streets unveiled that those children are visaged with violence almost every day of their life. Violence comes from three main channels: i.e. violence and the disturbances with small children groups, either by peers or by older similar street children especially when they get drowsy and under the impact of the substances they consume and eat; violence from the surrounding community through other people on the streets who tend to exploit them or by the community itself as a reaction to their existence in particular settings and areas where their presence is not understood; violence and disturbances while working by their employers or through other peers working in the same place such as; selling items in the streets in areas where other people or children exercise control. Violence normally ends in cuts and contusion to the children, since it often implies fights. Children normally carry razor blades and knives to defend themselves incase others attack them.

Public views towards Children on the Street

A child was traditionally considered a fellow member of a society in several African societies and could not be excluded from that community. This declared that even a child's right to merit and virtue was a collective issue (Kopoka, 2000). He also discovers that, according to East African tradition, the kid was civilized and informed by the community in preparation for membership in the community.

Society admired, adored, and cared for them. Today's children are the responsibility and obligation of individual parents, and the rest of society ignores them. Children on the street are unloved, spurned and jilted by virtually all neighbor of the urban community and are banished, that necessarily, to the position of social turn down (Campbell and Williams, 2007).

III. METHODOLOGY

The research employed descriptive research methods. The design was intended to collect systematic factual information for descriptive reasons, as well as to improve the researchers' understanding of the phenomenon under investigation through observation. The target population is any group to whom the researcher extrapolates the sample's findings. The target population for this study was 80 children from the Mohamed Moge rehabilitation center in Hargeisa.

The street youngsters in this study were divided into groups using a stratified sampling procedure. Children on the streets, street children in rehabilitation centers, and center administrators made up the categories. The Mohamed Moge rehabilitation facility was purposefully picked because of their experience and quantity of information on dealing with street children. A simple random sampling approach was employed to select respondents from all streets in the town.

The researcher used an interview to gather data. Each group of respondents was given their own instrument to fill out in order to react to the study's aims.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Cultural Factors Leading to Children on the Street

- **Children Rejected by their Family because of Delinquent Behavior and Crime:**
According to Aptekar (1994), youngsters or kids generally begin their street life in stages, first staying away for some or a few hours or a night, and then step by step or gradually staying away for longer periods of time. At first, some of the research participants attributed their decision to leave the family home to a single circumstance. However, when they reviewed their instances in greater depth, the situation became more complicated and intertwined. The process of becoming a child on the street began long before they were abandoned by their families, according to the study's respondents. They cheat, stole money from their family, gambled, and stayed away from their home for long periods of time. They also prefer to stay out on the street whenever their family's doors were closed because of the fear from their parents. There are also some other intervening variables such as death of their parents either one or both, family poverty and incoherent relatives were found to be factors that contributed the process of becoming a street child. This research argument is aided with this below mentioned story of a child on the street. His name was Mohamed and he said:

I stole money from my father's pocket to buy some candies and other sweet materials, I did this action frequently until I adopted it and can't stay home unless I steal money from my parents pocket. I did this repeatedly and I started to go to the traditional TV cinemas and come home late but unfortunately the gates of the door were closed and go back to the down town. When I went back home in the next morning, I was punished by my father, I became useless and have started to use drug, then after that my father fired me.

Child neglect was cited by the majority of respondents as the most important cause contributing to the rise in children on the streets. This was followed by parental emotional abuse of children. The third most important factor

leading and contributing to the rise of children on the streets was child labor. Other reasons leading to the rise in children on the streets included physical and sexual abuse. Child abandonment was not mentioned by any of the respondents as a factor in their being on the streets. The majority of kids and youngsters in rehabilitation facilities stated that child maltreatment was the primary cause of the rise and lift in the number of children on the streets. As a researchers we noticed that the second most important component is child emotional abuse. Child labor was the third most common and crucial cause, followed by physical abuse, with a minority claiming that sexual abuse had a role in the rise in children on the streets. According to this study physically assaulted individuals had scars on their bodies. Petty offences such as larceny or stealing food, not returning balance when sent to the shop, ingesting sugar, and disobedience of any kind resulted in several of the respondents being punished by their parents. Two individuals who had scars from burns and said they were burned by their parents were observed by the researchers with great pain.

- **Disagreements and Violence at Home**

If children are growing up in a home where there are family arguments, contentions and violence, they will confront challenges or unfavorable conditions. In a violent circumstance, parents get into a fight, for example, if one of the family members (husband or wife) is an alcoholic. On the other hand, some parents mistreat their children physically, mentally, and sexually, and they may send them to the market to labor in jobs such as car washing, shoe cleaning, and begging. Children that grow up in such circumstances develop wrath, hostility, and violent conduct over time (Kaleab, 2016). It is because he/she would learn such behavior from their parents, or because children runaway to the street to escape such a violent household situation. The following case exemplifies this: he articulated his reasoning as follows:

I was born in Berbera and I have just four siblings, all of whom live with my parents at home. My father was a disgruntled and discontented laborer who smoked and chewed Kat. He was always came home late, yet he often work over us. He always uses violence to handle any problem that arises at home, even with my mother. Because of this bad behavior, I left home and came to Hargeisa.

Family Related Factors and Death of Parents

Many children turned and connected to the streets to get away from their abusive home lives. The children's family system adds to streetism. Streetism is exacerbated by the size of one's family at home. This means that some parents have more children than they can feed and provide for their basic needs. Many parents cannot afford to take their children to school, and if the youngsters are bored at home, they will go out on the street to find a way to survive (Ojelabi, 2012).

- **Peer Influence and Spatial Freedom**

The survey also discovered that children leave their home environments or families for a variety of reasons, including issues in the family home life as well as peer companionship among youngsters on the street. This could have a direct relationship with the views of street life freedom that children on the street have in all of their everyday activities, which could impact or attract those youngsters who already have a strong street connection with them. Participants said peer pressure pushed them to live on the streets, and that their peers who had done so before encouraged them to do so. As previously said, rather than a single issue, being a street child is the outcome of a combination of immediate, underlying, and fundamental circumstances. As a result, information gained from peers might easily encourage children struggling with various household troubles to leave their family home. The following case exemplifies this: he articulated his reasoning as follows:

Hargeisa is where I was born. My parents are also day laborers, our household is secure and financial stable. In our house, we have everything. However, whenever I see youngsters on the street, they appear joyful, having more freedom then I have and do anything they want. Then I made them my best friends and went out to the house with them.

Family Poverty and Hope for Better Life

Human advancement and societal development are dependent on the economy. As a result, family poverty is a factor that contributes to children ending up on the streets. Food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education, child care, and child welfare are just a few examples of economic resources that every individual or family member requires to survive or to make their life comfortable. Poverty-stricken families are unable to provide adequate care for their children. Children will be subjected to neglect, which will cause them to flee their homes and form their own street gang (Loknath, 2014).

V. CONCLUSION

The amount of streetism among urban youth was also influenced by socioeconomic factors such as familial poverty and the yearning for a better life. Some society conventions were detrimental to children's wellbeing; for example, in some traditions, children were obliged to support their families as teenagers, which is a violation of the children's fundamental right. Pregnancy before marriage was also frowned upon in society, as it was deemed against traditional custom and a source of shame for the woman's family. Furthermore, children whose parents were beggars are at risk of following in their parents' footsteps and becoming beggars themselves. As a result, family poverty is a major cause or plays a key part in youngsters being persuaded or compelled to work on the streets and stay there.

Other reasons, such as the allure of city life and inaccurate information about city life, contribute to dangerous migration. The urbanization of today's world draws many children from rural areas to cities in search of work. Furthermore, incorrect information about city life attracts children to join the streets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government should address with this problem
2. Masjids and other religious agents should not remain silent but should address the high rate of separation and divorce and find solutions to reduce.
3. The government through ministry of education should implement the free primary education.
4. According to the study, family poverty, the breakdown of family institutions, and parental mortality are the leading causes. As a result, income resources might be improved by providing job chances to their families. Due to the absence of guardians or family support, family breakdown and parental death may lead children to seek alternative solutions to the challenges they confront within the home. As a result, family collectives are critical for ensuring the well-being of children before and after the death of their parents.

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