THE ROLE OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING IN ADDRESSING ISSUES OF

STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA IN KAMPALA

CENTRAL DIVISION

BY

BOSIBANA BARBARA WINFRED

BED/13966/62/DU

A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF OPEN

AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE

REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION WITH GUIDANCE AND

COUNSELLING OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL

UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2009

DECLARATION

I, Bosibana Barbara, declare that this is my original work and it has not been submitted anywhere before in any university or an institute for any academic award.

Signature.......................................

Bosibana Barbara

Date..

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted with my approval as the allocated supervisor.

Signature.................................,

Derick Ssekajugo

Date......................................

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my family members and some of these need special consideration, my mother Mrs. Blandina Odwori, Peter Odwori Josephine, Patricica and Rose for the great support, love and care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Ssekajugo Derrick my supervisor for the constant encouragement, his patience and the support he provided towards this peace of work.

I would like to thank my family member ,Mr. Masiga Micheal,Sudi Paul,Ssenoga,Nicholas and Bonita Nansamba for the support financially and morally.

Last but least, thanks to all people who helped me in making my research a success. The typist of this work Ms. Namugenyi and Mr. Balala.

May God bless you all abundantly.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

IOs	-	International Organizations
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's' Emergency Fund
UBOS	-	Uganda Bureau of Standards
SAPS	-	Structural Adjustment Program
HIV	-	Human Immune Virus
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
WHO	-	World Health Organization
UNAIDS	-	United Nations Agency for International Development

ABSTRACT

The major objective of the study was to identify the role of guidance and counselling and the trends of children on the streets in Kampala. Then study used both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, in which questionnaires and interview guide were used to collect data from the respondents.

Research question one sought to find out the factors responsible for the high number of street children in Kampala. The study findings revealed that; lack of school fees, divorce, parent illness, hunger, sexual abuse, insecurity, lack of scholastic materials and behavioural issues of parents were the factors identified.

Research question two sought to find out why street children are in streets and the study found that; war, search for money, born on the streets, family conflicts, peer pressure, looking for support, no reason, sexual abuse, loss of guardian, and mistreatment at home were factors given.

Research question three sought to find out the types of advices given to the children by their parents. The study findings revealed that; respects, how to be good children, survival, no stealing, working hard, appreciation, and approaching people were the answers given.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the problem

The problem of street children began in Uganda during the 1970s and continues to be a problem today. Currently, the number of street children is estimated to be 10,000 and this number is increasing day to day written by C.Munene and Janet Nambi (2004)

Street children are becoming a problem worldwide especially in African urban centers and Uganda cited among the countries that have had this problem. Most of these children are below eighteen years some as young as three years according to J.C. Munene and Janet Nambi (2004). The problem requires urgent attention as it threatens the very fabric of society. A starting point would be to get an understanding of who these children are and the factors that turn them into street children.

The problem of street children has been growing steadily in the last two decades. An estimated 10 million children in Africa live without families, mostly in towns as 'street children' (UNICEF, 1984:39). One main characteristic of the "children of the street" is that they live alone in streets, without proper or reliable shelter; they have lost contact with their parents and, as such, they do not enjoy parental protection, love and care (Lugalla J & Mbwambo, J, 1995).

Therefore, in this study the researcher needs to identify reasons for the existence of street children in finding one of solution to the problems through Guidance and Counseling. Most studies have ignored the role of guidance and counseling that can play on street children before they go on streets and after. For instance in January 2001, the Ugandan Government announced that it would soon carry out an intensive study on Street Children in Uganda to see how they can be rehabilitated.

Some researchers have even gone further recommending that street children can not be prevented without using public institutions, **Sérgio (2002) in his** article, reports on social environments for the implementation of interventions aimed at preventing street life among young people in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The findings suggest the prospect of prevention of street life, which focuses on families and

1

communities in this context, is hardly feasible. Public institutions were identified as the most suitable localities for preventive interventions.

Therefore, a need to conduct further research such as this one is of utmost importance in order to find out other ways for addressing this problem and tries to prevent its growth, which is enormous. When children are not guided and counseled by parents, teachers or other caregivers, they can easily go juvenile delinquency with the consequence of being street children.

In this study, the hypothesis was the number of street children who have drifted away from their homes or families of origin have at one or several occasions in their youth lacked fundamental guidance and counseling. These children have either attended schools for sometime nor dropped out or been not at school at all. They are separated from their homes for the most part of the day with the resulting in their deprivation of parental and teachers' guidance that would provide basic care.

If study was successfully conducted, it would provide basic guidelines and recommendations to awake families, community and government to emphasize the responsibilities towards the reduction of street children by employing methods of Guidance and counseling at homes and schools.

1.2 The research problem

This study was intended to determine the role of guidance and counselling on the trends of street children in Uganda- that was, establishing whether there has been any role, played the progress, and the outstanding challenges of guidance and counselling implementers in trying to curb down level of children in the streets. The majority of research work and literature regarding street children tends to concentrate on experiences of children in the streets, how they live, the dangers they face in their struggle for survival, the economic activities like employment children engage. This prompted the researcher to focus on guidance and counselling to determine its effects on street children.

1.3 General objective

The general objective of this study was to identify the role of guidance and counselling and the trends of children on the streets in Kampala.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The chapter gives a review of existing related literature on the study variables as put forward by earlier scholars regarding guidance and counselling and the trends on street children.

In this study, the definition of street children concede with that of J.C.Munene and Janet Nambi, (2004) street children refer to children below 18 years of age for whom the street more than their families have become their real home. In addition, it includes children who might not necessarily be homeless or without families, but who live in situations where there is no protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adult thus living in streets, this street life include; bizarre behaviour such as begging, stealing, using drugs or being involved in prostitution as a means of survival.

According to the report, which was written, by J.C.Munene and Janet Nambi (2004) they describe the Street children to be the people of 18 years and below who spend most of their time on the street and for whom the street is the major socializing agent.

The definition of street children according to "children of the street" (Lugalla, 1995), is under the age of eighteen who spend most of their life on the streets. There are those who life permanently on the streets. These live and earn their 'living' on the streets. There are also those who earn their living on the street but do not necessarily live on the streets. These spend most of their time on the street but usually return to some form of a 'family' unit where there is some kind of supervision or control. This group includes an increasing number of school children that spend most of the day on the streets. All these were considered as street children.

Guidance has been defined variously, According to S.K. Kochhar (1984), it is an assistance given to the individual for his optimum development; choice and problem points are its distinctive concerns; it is both a generalized and a specialized service and is a service meant for all. Whereas Counselling

4

is a process and a relationship in which one person volunteers to help another understand and solve her/his problem.

2.1 Background and magnitude of the street child phenomenon.

There can be no certainty as to the exact number of children living in the streets on the world today. Estimates range from several million to over 100 millions, (Lugalla & Kibassa 2003:15) but are inevitably imprecise due to definition problems, the mobility of the population, the lack of reliable data, widespread use of purposive sampling techniques, and the fact that many street children elude detection or give inaccurate information when interviewed (Montgomery et al 2004:192), also Lugalla and Kibassa 2003, Mvungi 2002) It is estimated that around 40 million children live or work on the streets of Latin America (including 500,000 in Sao Paul alone), some 25-30million in Asia and ten millions in Africa(Montgomery et al 2004:192 , Lugalla & Kibassa 2002).

What is accepted, however, and of increasing concern is that, the phenomenon of children living, working and surviving on the streets is a global problem, affecting the developed and developing alike. Although the magnitude of the problem varies with less developed countries facing more acute problems (Kilbride et al 2000, Lugalla and Kibassa 2003) similarly it is generally acknowledged that such children represent some of the most vulnerable social groups in the world today (Lugalla and Kibassa 2002). They are disadvantaged group who suffer ´ double jeopardy, first as children and secondary as street children (Mbunda 2000:162).

While street children marginalized children who require enormous assistance (Lugalla& Kibassa 3003:129), they are often the least assisted in the society.

Almost all street children begin their life on the streets by a gradual and predictable process. They leave home in a measured manner, at first staying away for a night or two and then gradually spending more time away from home (Aptekar, 1988). As time goes by, the amount of time spent with other children increases-yet they rarely break family ties. Studies in Colombia (Aptekar, 1993; have shown that 90% or more of street children maintain contact with their families.

The number of children arriving in the streets because their families have abandoned them is far less than is commonly assumed. In Feldman's (1989) sample of 300 Colombian street children, less than 3% were abandoned. Boydon (1986) found that, of the 200,000 children on Lima's streets, only 6,000 (or 3%) had been abandoned. Tacon (1982), speaking of all Latin American street children, estimated that less than 10% were abandoned by their families.

Once on the streets, the children contributed half or more of what they earned to their Families-hardly a sign of family discord. In a study of 55 Nigerian street children under age 15 who were begging for a living, it was found that the children were on the streets because their families were poor and needed the money they earned Ojanuga (1990). Indeed, 80% of children still lived with their families, and many of the children begged with them.

The modern poor urban families are composed of single female parents living in isolation from community. In the case of most East African societies, modernization resulted in reducing the legitimacy of polygamy. In a polygamous society, men were expected to take care of all their children. If the man was not able to do so, the man's extended family fostered his children and took care of his wives. In the modern system, women having an "affair" have no legal rights and get little help from extended families. Kilbride (1990) directly related these changes to child abuse, which they claimed did not exist before modernization occurred. However, with total population of 24.7 million (UBOS, 2002) and a rapid population growth rate of 3.4 % per annum, the absolute numbers of poor people and thus street children in Uganda may have risen.

2.2 Causes of street children.

There are many factors that can lead to child being in the streets. There is rarely a single cause, rather combination of factors that make life impossible at home for child (Ruvero and Bourdillon 2003, Kopoka 2002). These can be voluntary or involuntary decisions, stemming from major and minor causes. Such processes, known as "push factors" are complex with some being experienced globally whilst others are more culturally specific.

Major factors that push children into the streets are increasing poverty in the families as result of urbanization, population growth, economic deterioration, the impact of structural adjustment

6

programs (SAPS), war, political instigate, organized violence and HIV/AIDS (Lugalla and Kibassa 2002). Whatever the causes, many writers note that family breakdown at the micro level is the immediate precipitating push factor that prompts child to leave home directly for the streets or eventually to arrive there as street children (Kilbride et al.2000: 5)

The WHO Program on Substance Abuse investigated substance abuse among street children in 10 Cities around the World: Rio de Janeiro, Alexandria, Cairo, Tegucigalpa, Montreal, Toronto, Manila, Bombay, Mexico City and Lusaka. The use of alcohol and other drugs was found to be an immense problem among the estimated 100 million street children worldwide. The findings found that the street children around the World –from 71% to98%- girls often experience much greater difficulties. They seem to be even more marginalized and exploited. Often the lives of street children are intimately entwined with the illicit drug industry. Terrorist and criminal organizations are exploiting certain groups of street children. They are further preyed upon by the commercial sex industries, often from very young age.

Most street children encounter daily stresses of day-to-day living. Many have attempted or contemplated suicide. In Rio de Janeiro, 55% of those interviewed claimed that they had attempted suicide. Many children say that physical and sexual abuses were the reasons for their leaving home. The use of drugs is often portrayed as ' means of coping with this stress, pain and suffering. These children have dreams, just as other children do. They long for the opportunity just to be children. (GCH 1993)

Africa today has 10.7 million orphans just as a result of AIDS and the numbers are growing (UNAIDS). With fewer and fewer family members left to care for them, many - if not most - of these children join the street children of Africa who are already there because of poverty, wars and ethnic conflicts. In Africa, there are probably some 32 million street children; according to the local authorities, in Angola some 100,000 children - abandoned by their families - live rough in the southwest of the country. UNICEF estimates that in Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d'Ivoire, there are 10,000 street children, 7.000 in Rwanda, over 30,000 in Ghana, in Kenya 250,000 estimated, 30,000 are in Nairobi alone; the population of street children in Ethiopia is massive and apparently growing, although no one has exact statistics on their numbers. They could be over

150,000, according to UNICEF's figures; of this 66.7% is living in Addis Ababa; in Uganda, and the problem of street children began in the 1970s and continues to be a problem because of civil war, poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. According to Caritas (2001), currently there are over 10,000 street children in Uganda, and 85% of these are homeless.

In Uganda majority of street children who drift to the streets have a variety of reasons. Some go away from home after the parents have split, physical or emotional disability, death, financial constraints, homelessness, and problems associated with parental alcohol or drug dependency. Child/family conflict, behavioral issues, or foster home or adoption breakdown are among the long list of reasons that make children to choose street life. Children also become victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or physical neglect or abandonment, others opt to move out from their homes due to the severity of abuse or neglect

Most children get spoiled when they get out of school due to lack of school fees and other requirements and as a result, they wonder about helplessly without any support even for daily survival. The trend of child poverty is aggravated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic which brings with it increasing numbers of orphans; child-headed households and street children as well as by children traumatized as a result of armed conflict. Several staggering data about the children demonstrate the need to deepen the understanding of child poverty critical and urgent. Information on the proportion of children living in abject poverty is scanty though it can be inferred from available statistics (UBOS, 2000).

2.3 Characteristics of street children.
Most street children 'reflect an image of deprivation, suffering, misery, neglect and even torture' (Gakuru et al.2002:37). They are viewed by society as being 'dirty, dangerous, violent, unhealthy, thieves and pickpockets' and are consequently treated with apathy and disgust.

CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction
In this chapter included the methodology of the study. It entails research design, geographical location/area and population, sampling design, data collection methods and instruments, data analysis and processing and the limitations of the study.

3.1 Research Design
This research intended to use descriptive and analytical research design. These were selected because they are effective ways of research presentation. It was survey-based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

3.2 Area and Population of Study
The research was conducted in one area that is Kampala District which is the capital city of Uganda in Central Uganda. Kampala District has an approximate population of 3 million people. The most spoken languages are: Luganda, English and Kiswahili. The respondents consisted of local population especially street children, government officials, community members, and opinion leaders. The area has been basically chosen because the researcher is familiar with the area and is able to speak Luganda, English and Kiswahili which are the most dominant languages.

3.3 Sample Design
The researcher used purposive sampling technique since it ensured that the only predetermined and chosen respondents are approached, hence getting relevant, correct and adequate information. However, through this sampling technique was chosen, it has a weakness that inadequate information can sometimes be given because the selected respondents may be less informed on the topic of research.

The sample size of 120 respondents will be chosen and this will be arrived at as:-

Category	Number of Respondents
Political leaders	25
Government officials	25
Street children	40
Community members	30
Total	**120**

3.4   Data Collection Methods and Instruments

3.4.1   Method
The researcher collected/got data from both primary and secondary sources.

(a) Primary Data

This was sourced by physical and visiting of the files and collecting data through variable tools.

(b) Secondary data

This was sourced by reviewing of documented resources as newspapers, journalists, reports, presentations, magazines and online publications.

3.4.2 INSTRUMENTS
The following data collection instruments were used:-

(a) Questionnaire

This was designed in line with the topic, objectives and hypothesis. They included both open and closed-ended questions. This instrument has been selected because it is efficient and convenient in a way that the respondent is given time to consult the documents before answering the questions. It was also because the respondent can give unbiased answers since she/he is given to write whatever she/he would like to write which would otherwise be hard for the respondent to write if the researcher is present.

(b) Focus Group Discussions

The instrument was chosen because the respondents give instant answers and the data collected can easily be edited since the researcher will have heard when the respondent is communicating (answering) the question. The researcher is saved from misinterpretation of questions since he can rephrase the question if not fully heard or answered so that he can get the relevant information wanted.

(c) Documentary Review

This included detailed review of already existing literature. The tool is selected because it gives accurate, correct and historical data, which may be used for future aspects.

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

3.5.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

Editing of the information from the respondents was done. This was before leaving the respondent purposely to avoid the loss of material, misinformation and also to check for uniformity, consistency, accuracy and comprehensibility.

3.5.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

Data was be analyzed before, during and after collection. Before data collection, tentative themes were identified. The tentative themes are social, economic and political factors associated with high population. After data collection, information of the same code was assembled together and a report was written.

3.6 Ethical procedure

Before going to the field, I begun with getting authorization letter from the Dean of Social Sciences then I took it to the respondents and this enabled me (the researcher) attain adequate information from the respondents. During the process of data collection, confirmation were given to the

respondents in that the researcher assured the respondents that the reason for the research was for only academic purpose and that no information would be given out outside.

3.7 Limitations of the study
The study was hindered by the following factors;
Refusal of the respondents to effectively respond to the questions was one of the most notable problems that the researcher had to face while conducting the research.

Financial constraints were also seen as another factor that had to limit the study. Transport costs were so high to be met by the researcher and this fully contributed to the delay of the research because it was hard for the researcher to continue with the tight budget.

Rudeness and hostility among some respondents were also seen as other limitations of the study in the sense that the researcher found that there were rude and hostile respondents who in the long run turned down the request of the researcher to answer the questions.

Shyness of the respondents was sensed as another limitation of the study.

The researcher was affected by the prevailing weather conditions for example the rain. It is true that the research was conducted during rainy season and it became so hard for the researcher to find the respondents since they were in doors.

However, these problems were overcome by the researcher in the following ways;
Strict adherence to the tight budget was the solution to the problem of lack of finance.
Humble talk and convincing of respondents was the ways employed by the researcher to overcome the problem of unwilling and shy respondents to answer the questions.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

The data was collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods, which was then analyzed and processed to make it useful and understandable. Data was collected, tabulated and then analyzed.

4.1 Social Demographic issues

4.1.1 Sex of the respondents

The concept of sex is very important in the study. So sex was also another factor which was considered during the study.

Table 4.1.1: Sex of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	65	54
Male	55	45
Total	**120**	**100**

Source: primary data

The findings here reveal that 54% of the respondents were females and the other 45% were males.

4.1.2: Age of respondent

Table 4.1.2: Age of respondent

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
Below 24	50	41.6
25 - 29	55	45
30 – 39	25	20.8
40 – 49	23	19.2
50 – above	15	12.5
TOTAL	**120**	**100**

Source: Primary data

The findings revealed that 41.6% of the respondents were below 24 year; meaning that many of them were orphans, 45% were between 25-29 years of age, 20.8% were between 30-39 years of age, 19.2% were between 40-49, and 12.5% were above 50 years of age.

4.1.3 Marital Status
Table 2: Marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	34	28.3
Single	40	33.3
Widows	25	20.8
Widower	21	17.5
TOTAL	**120**	**100**

Source: primary data

The findings above reveal that 28.3% of the respondents were married, 33.3% were single, 20.8% were widows, and 17.5% were widowers.

4.1.4: Religion of the respondents
Table 4.1.4: Religion of the respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Catholics	39	32.5
Protestants	31	25.8
Muslims	30	25
Others	10	8.3
Total	**120**	**100**

Source: primary data

The findings reveal that 32.5% of the respondents were Catholics, 25.8% were Protestants, 25% Muslims and 8.3% fell under the category of other religions like born again, orthodox, pagans among others.

14

4.1.5 Educational status

This is one of the factors that were considered during the study to find out the plight of orphans in Makindye division.

Table 4: Educational level of the respondents

Education levels	Frequency	Percentage
Uneducated	20	19.6
primary	18	17.6
Secondary	12	11.7
University	12	11.7
Tertiary	28	27.4
Others	12	11.7
Total	**102**	**100**

Source: primary data

The findings reveal that 19.6 were uneducated, 17.6% were of primary level, 11.7% had attained secondary education, 11.7% had university education, 27.4 reached tertiary institutions, and the other 11.7% fell among others.

4.1.6 Factors responsible for the large number of children on the streets

Table 5: Reasons as to why the respondents who went to school dropped out of school

Answer	Number	Percentage
Death of guardians	16	13.3
Lack of school fees	12	10
Behavioural issues of parents	9	7.5
Divorcing	10	8.3
Parent/guardian illness	14	11.6
Hunger	18	15
Lack of scholastic materials	10	8.3
Sexual abuse	8	6.6
Insecurity	23	19.2
Total	**120**	**100**

Source: primary data

The table above shows the response of the respondents who went to school and dropped out of school. They said: insecurity with 19.2%, hunger 15%, death of parents or guardians with 13.3%, parent/guardian illness 11.6%, lack of school fees 10%, divorcing and lack of scholastic materials 8.3%, behavioural issues of parents 7.5%.

From the above we can notice that most of the children who dropped out of school was due to insecurity, followed by hunger, death of parent or guardian, and lastly due to sexual abuse.

16

4.1.7: Reasons why children leave home and go to the streets

Table 6: Reasons why children leave home and go to the streets

Response	Number	Percentage
War/insecurity	18	15
To look for money	17	14.1
Born on the street	16	13.3
Family conflicts	13	10.8
Peer influence	13	10.3
To look for support	17	14.1
No reason	10	8.3
Sexual abuse	9	7.5
Mistreatment at home	10	8.3
Loss of parent/guardian	8	6.6
Total	**120**	**100**

Source: primary data

The table above shows that of the respondents interviewed far the reasons that made them to leave home and go to the street; 15% of them stated that it was war/insecurity, 8.3% said mistreatment, 6.6% stated loss of parent/guardian, 14.1%said to look for money and to look for money, 13.3% said born on the street, family conflicts and sexual abuse, 10.3 said peer influence, 7.5% said that it was sexual abuse and 8.3% said no reason. Basing on the above one can see that the greatest reason as to why the children are in the streets was due to war/insecurity at their homes, followed by looking for support, looking for money and being born on the streets.

4.1.8 Advices given to the children by their parents

Table 7: Advices given to the children by their parents

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Respect	12	10
How to be good children	12	10
How to survive	16	13.3
No stealing	20	16.6
Working hard	25	20.8
Appreciation	20	16.6
Approaching people	15	12.5
Total	120	100

Source: primary data

The above table shows the response of the respondents when asked the type of advices given to them by their parents. 20.8%% said working hard, 16.6% said appreciation, 10% said respect, 13.3% how to survive and approaching people, 16.6% no stealing, and 10% how to be good children. From the above we can see that mast of the respondents had no discussion with their family relating to life style, followed by those who were taught that they should work hard, they were taught how to appreciate, have respect for others, how to survive and approach people and lastly how to be good children.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATION, AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction
This chapter was concerned with the summary of the major findings, recommendation and conclusion.

5.1 Summary of the major findings
The major objective was to examine the role of guidance and counselling in addressing issues of street children in Kampala Central division-Uganda. The study was conducted in Kampala central division-Uganda. Street children, community members, government officials, and political leaders were involved in the study. A total of 120 (one hundred twenty) participants, 40 street children, 25 political leaders, 25 government officials, and 30 community leaders were involved in the study. The study used both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

Factors responsible for the high number of street children in Kampala was the first research question. The study findings revealed that; lack of school fees, divorce, parent illness, hunger, sexual abuse, insecurity, lack of scholastic materials and behavioural issues of parents were the factors identified.

Reasons why street children are in streets was the second research and the study found that; war, search for money, born on the streets, family conflicts, peer pressure, looking for support, no reason, sexual abuse, loss of guardian, and mistreatment at home were factors given.

Types of advices given to the children by their parents was the third research question. The study findings revealed that; respects, how to be good children, survival, no stealing, working hard, appreciation, and approaching people were the answers given

Conclusions and recommendations were then made after presenting and interpreting the data.

5.2 Conclusions

The conclusion was made in line with the various themes of the study and was based on the findings of the study. Given the research questions of the study, many factors were responsible for the question of why there are many street children in Kampala streets. It was really found out that; hunger topped up the reasons why children drop out of school with 15%, death of parents/guardians having 13.3% and these were the major causes of children's school drop outs.

Reasons why street children are in streets was the second research and the study found that; war, search for money, born on the streets, family conflicts, peer pressure, looking for support, no reason, sexual abuse, loss of guardian, and mistreatment at home were factors given, with the desire to look for money and looking for support having 14.1% respectively and these were the major reasons why children leave their homes.

Types of advices given to the children by their parents was the third research question. The study findings revealed that; respects, how to be good children, survival, no stealing, working hard, appreciation, and approaching people were the answers given, ., with working hard having 25% and appreciation having 20% of the total percentage of answers given by the respondents.

Further conclusions are made that the street children still live in one of the worst humanitarian conditions in the world because they are subject to diseases, poor health, poverty, rejection, starvation and even illiteracy coupled with insecurity, child labour and mistreatment among others.

The street children in the central division of Kampala are not well attended to by the community members and the government who are the fore front stakeholders in plight of orphans in the division. This is because the government expects a lot form the community and the community likewise expects a lot form the government and the end of every thing is that little on nothing is done to help the orphans who are wallowing in poverty and many other problems as the government and the community look on.

5.3   RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations were made in relation to the findings and conclusions. The researcher therefore came up with the following recommendations in an attempt to address the problems of street children in the streets of Kampala today.

Enact street laws

It is very paramount for the government to enact strong street laws in order to guard disorder which would in many cases arise due to the presence of street children in the streets of Kampala today. The government of Uganda does not have clear street laws as in defining the settlement terms, street order and even street movement. The researcher recommends that there should really be a clear way of handling this situation of street children because they are loosing public sympathy just as they also have no sympathy on the public as they ruthlessly attack the people even innocently who really have no hand in their stay in the streets. The government has the right to enact laws and implement so that the rest of the people follow what the government has come up with. So the government should openly come and interpret to the public its laws and stand on the street laws and street children because many of the people's lives are in the risk and their properties are threatened.

Build shelters to street children

There should be shelters built for the street children where they would be kept and not go to the streets as they do now. The government is fully responsible for this in the way that it should construct shelters which would accommodate street children who run away from their homes due to varying factors. It is not true that all the children in the streets all vacated their homes because of a single factor but rather due to different factors. The government should build structures for the accommodation of all street children so that we shall completely have no children in the streets because constitutionally the government exists to guard the rights of all the people in the country but not just a handful or section of the population. Even these street children have the right to access of shelter among other basic needs that every Ugandan is entitled to get. So there should be shelters for these street children instead of hem sleeping in streets and in cold along the streets.

Free education

There should absolutely be free education to the children offered by the government because it is the government which has the capacity to provide or offer free education to its people/citizens. Many of the children are in the streets because of failure to access free education though it exists in words that there is free education especially in primary level and lower secondary level. This is a misconception because many of the children especially in the city and other towns of Uganda have no access to this said free education and this is because many of the schools in Kampala for example are privately owned and the proprietors are profit oriented. The city has a very large population with many unable parents to meet their children's school fees due to the high cost of living in the city. So the government should come up to help such children who trapped by such a situation rather than ending up in the streets.

Provision of free medical care

There is need for the free basic care like medical to the children by the responsible body –which is the government. It is true that there are many of the children who are in the streets because of mental illness or any other complications that resulted from sickness simply because their parents failed to treat such diseases because of poverty. The government should establish a source of finance and later easy access to medical care so as to avoid risks that would arise due to complications of sicknesses and resultant physical damage on the children. The government in this case should come up and help in the provision of medical facilities to the street children. The government there fore has the constitutional right to ensure that children access free medical care. This kind of help is so essential for the children because it helps parents who would not meet he cost of medical due financial constraint and yet it is vital for the health of he children.

Call for International community support

It is noted for a lot of concern from the principle researcher that the government should look for an alternative to the increase of street children. The government has the right to welcome International Organizations (IOs) to the country so that they can give an upper hand to the help of street children in the country and especially Kampala city. There is no organization which can at any time operate in any country unless it gets prior permission from the government which got the right to guarantee operation to any organization basing on their mission and the interest of operation. There is indeed

22

no country that is self sufficient and this therefore does not make Ugandan government ashamed of inviting other organizations to help in controlling the increase of street children in the streets of Kampala for example which is the centre of the research. International Organizations need to be invited to come and help in controlling the increase of street children.

Lift the marriage age

In has also been noted that the increase of street children in Kampala Street is due to early marriages. So the researcher therefore recommends that the marriage age has to be lifted so as to march the needs of street. This is because many of the girls today get married at early age and hence end up giving birth at an early age still yet they are not in position to cater or generally take care of the offspring they get. The recommendation of uplifting the marriage age in this case will help a great deal in that those who will then enter marriage will get in when they are mature enough and when they are economically independent and no further problem will arise as it is today when some parents can't look at their own children. Many children of such characters are there and they end up in streets as products of circumstances and not will of the children to be in the streets.

Generation of employment to the young people

It is important for government to create employment to the youths in the so that there can be jobs for the youths of different levels because many of these children are mainly youths who are trapped in poverty and who end up in the streets of Kampala city. These youths are the ones who are jobless and are strained by a lot of factors surrounding them. The so called street children are not small children as such but they are grown up children who know what to do and they are youths who can even work and earn income to support their lives. It is there fore important for the government to put it into consideration and create more jobs in the increasing number of children in the streets. Many of these children are really grown up to the extent that they do not qualify to be called children as such; yet even up to that age they are still called children because they stay in the streets. If jobs are being created, then we can have many of these children working and hence their number would reduce in the streets.

Child registration

Child registration should be done by the government which has the constitutional right of the citizens of Uganda. the government in this place should ensure that every child born per woman be register red so that it becomes easy to follow up the children and it is easy as well to know whose child is missing and why. This point will give the parents the responsibility of seriously looking after their children in order to avoid missing of the children from their parents. Every parent here will make sure that he/she caters for the children and through giving priority to this point, there will be no children loitering around in the streets of Kampala which is usually due parental irresponsibility among the parents of Kampala and its surroundings.

General Recommendations

Basing on the findings and conclusions of this study, intervention and counselling both the parents and the children should be done right from home through to school in order to reduce external influence. This would in turn create awareness in society at large of the capabilities of children, their potential abilities and even promote them to better status in life. Parents with children for example should be encouraged to discuss freely and more often with them, especially at adolescent stage, about their occupational choices and their future other than dictating as is the case in some families. In this way, there is hope that they may be able to fit comfortably in society without feeling they have limits.

Since the behaviour, skills and interests of a child are mainly influenced by the exposure they had at an earlier stage of development, sensitization and counselling towards self-esteem should be done right from home throughout a young age in order to reduce on strong beliefs in peers.

Regular seminars and workshops organised about the awareness of street children at large and during these sessions, efforts be made to strongly emphasize and highlight the influences of peers, parents and possible consequences when no interventions are made. In this children will be made to understand the problems they and also their friends are facing and those other problems they are due to face in the future, and the possible solution to some of them.

It has been noticed that part of the street children are disabled. The fact that one is disabled creates a feeling of self rejection and helplessness physically and psychologically. Already street children are ignored by society. Society therefore, needs to watch out for the disadvantaged children at all levels in Uganda, to facilitate them. They need constant encouragement towards internality thinking and belief in ability to compete equally and effectively with the normal members of society.

Related literature has revealed that some of the street children are victims of large families whose parents unfortunately are low income earners. Such families have portrayed a belief in tradition whereby one should produce without bother who will take care of the children. There is need to emphasis on the importance and relative advantages of small family size desires so that it is possible to provide the needs of all children, especially education without discrimination.

REFERENCES

Abu K. Mvungi.(2001)The State and Status of Street Children in Tanzania Today: A Theoretical Framework.

Aptekar, L. (1988). The street children of Colombia: How families define the nature of childhood.

Boydon, J. (1986). Children in development: Policy and programming for especially disadvantaged children in Lima, Peru. Oxford: United Nations Children's Fund.

Felsman, K (1989). Risk and resiliency in childhood: The lives of street children.Joe L.p. Lugalla & Colleta G. Kibassa the Experience of Kenya.

Kochhar S. K (1984), Guidance and Counseling in Colleges and Universities.

Kilbride, R, & Kilbride, 3. (1990). Changing family life in East African: Women and children at risk.

Peter A. Kopoka: The Prob'em of Street Children in Africa: An Ignored Tragedy.

Journals

A Civil Society Forum for East and Southern Africa on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Street Children", ii 13 February 2002, Nairobi, Kenya.

Global child Health News and Review, 1993, No.2 pp3l).Lutfried Mbunda: An Appraisal of the Legal Regime Governing Street Children.

J.C Munene, J Nambi. Understanding and helping streets children in Uganda Community Development Journal, 2004Oxford University Press.

OJanuga, D. (1990). Kaduma beggar children: A study of child abuse and neglect in northern Nigeria.

Save the Children UK, Report 2003

Sérgio Luiz de Moura: The social Construction of street Children: Configuration and Implications, community Development Journal 2002 — Oxford University Press 2004 pp 151 —158.

Taçon, P. A UNiCEF response to the needs of abandoned and street children, unpublished Geneva, UNICEF, 1985:3, 4pp.

UNICEF UK Committee, information sheet on street Children, January 1998

Internet

www.enteruganda.com

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I
WORK PLAN

S/n	Activities	November	December	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Research proposal	XX				
2	Collecting data		XX			
3	Writing a research report			XX	XX	XX

APPENDIX II
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR STREET CHILDREN

Dear respondent,

You are kindly requested to assist the researcher Bosibana Barbara to conduct her study on guidance and counselling and the trends of street children in Kampala Central Division All the information given will be treated with a high degree of confidentiality. There is no need to disclose your name(s) and the information obtained will only be used for the purpose of this study.

1. Sex: Write F for Female and M for male in the box.

2. Age:

3. Which level of school did you stop (if applicable):

4. What were the reasons for dropping out from school?

5. What were the reasons that made you to leave home?

6. How did your family/guardian or service provider care about you?

7. Did you have enough time to stay with your family to discuss matters related to life style?

g Do you have any contact with your family now?

9. If given the chance would you like to have any body who could give some advice on how to return to your formal life style?

10. Would you like to go back to your formal life?

11. In your own opinion (s), what do you think your family would have done to you to stay with them?

APPENDIX III
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Dear respondent,

You are kindly requested to assist the researcher Bosibana Barbara to conduct her study on guidance and counselling and the trends of street children in Kampala Central Division. All the information given will be treated with a high degree of confidentiality. There is no need to disclose your name(s) and the information obtained will only be used for the purpose of this study.

1. Is the government aware of the problem of street children in the country especially in the streets of Kampala?

2. What do you think are the factors responsible for the increased numbers of street children in Kampala City?

3. What do you think can be done in order to reduce the children at the streets?

4. What is the attitude of the government towards streets children?

APPENDIX IV
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE RESEARCH

S/n	Item	Quantity	Unit price (UG shs)	Total price (UG shs)
1	Stationeries	• 3 reams • 10Pens	8,000 200	24,000 2,000
2	Transport expenses	30 days	5,000	150,000
3	Subsistence	30 days	10,000	300,000
4	Typing and printing charges	-	-	100,000
	Sub Total			**576,000**
5	Miscellaneous			50,000
	Grand Total			**626,000**