

The Catholic University of Eastern Africa,

TANGAZA COLLEGE

Institute of Social Ministry

PROJECT

STREET CHILDREN IN KAWANGWARE..

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**STREET CHILDREN IN KAWANGWRE
(RIRUTA/SATELITE)**

STREET CHILDREN IN KAWANGWARE.

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INTRODUCTION.

The child: a child is recognized as a person under 18 unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier. All actions concerning the child should take a full account of his interests. Thus the child has the inherent right of life, and the state has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF STREET CHILDREN

The causes of these phenomenon are rooted in economic, social and environmental conditions. For example only 10% of the street children leave school because of lack of money for fees or due to family or teacher-related problems. The street child phenomenon which was first noticed in Nairobi in 1969, has grown by leaps and bounds to a level where there are currently some 40,000 street children in the city.

The number is rapidly increasing.

Let us not, however, forget the many children in exceptionally difficult circumstances, especially in the rural areas as we address street children mainly in the towns.

A country which is concerned about its future, about the welfare of its people, about the realisation of the potentialities of each of its inhabitants, must give top priority to the proper upbringing of its children. In this process, every person has a role to play. If we are to arrest the situation, then it is a high time we asked ourselves the question; what are we as parents, guardians, leaders, politicians, members of the NGO community, professionals (such as lawyers, sociologists and psychologist), and as members of the society doing to contribute to the alleviation of the problem?

We need to have strategies, policies, measures and programmes, both short and long term, if we are to deal effectively with these problems.

The aim should always be to give effect to the principle that the interests of children are paramount, and their well-being must be addressed as a matter of priority.

In this whole process, let us not forget the children themselves. It is extremely important for us to hear the children. We should disabuse our mind of the notion that they are simply delinquents, psychotics or objects of pity.

They have intrinsic worth in themselves. The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Also the state has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration. In many cases, because of the harsh experiences they have had because of the practical learning they have obtained and because their survival instincts have been exceptionally developed, all they require is the right environment, education and health,

and their energies channelled in the right direction for them to be productive assets to the nation, positive contributors to the economic and social development of the society. In fact, their potential to serve as leaders of tomorrow is considerable.

We should be aware that street children are not all of the same category.

The majority of these children have parents, who in fact have been responsible for putting their children out to the streets to secure additional financial support for the family. Then there is the category of children whose parents are too poor to keep them in school, and so these children, of their own violation, wander in the streets all day long. There is also a growing population of orphans and abandoned children, whose only homes are the streets. Children who live on the streets are the streets. Children who live on the streets survive by begging, scavenging, prostitution and other disreputable activities. Some of these children do honest casual work for hawkers, traders and others, for this they are paid small amount of money.

Of the rehabilitation programmes there have been those that have had some measure of success. Notwithstanding the restricted availability of such programmes, they have the advantage of taking the child away from the allurements of the street environment and providing time and space for social re-orientation.

Street children are severely malnourished and they invariably suffer ill-health. While on the streets, children are exposed to a number of hazards. They frequently fall victim to maltreatment and abuse. This affects their mental well-being and sets them on the wrong path towards socialisation. These children have become generally suspicious, lacking in self-confidence and rather aggressive. Such characteristics have warded against rehabilitation measure as it is difficult to win their trust.

SITUATION IN RIRUTA.

Riruta Satellite is a fast growing suburb of Nairobi City neighbouring sprawling slums of Kawangware, Kabiria Ngando and Riruta East. There are over 300 children sleeping out in these areas every night. Their ages range from 6-20.

The causes of street children in Riruta/ Satellite are many and varied, Some children regardless of family conditions prefer to take to the streets on their own and endeavour to be independent. Others flee their homes because of crisis there e.g domestic violence where they are involved by the parents who may come back home late and drunk.

KOINONIA COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANISATION (KCYO)

INTRODUCTION.

Koinonia community is a group of african lay christians founded in 1988 with the aim of promoting community sharing in material and spiritual aspects of life and working towards the improving of the society at large. It is in this light that the community has identified the community has identified the problem of street children in Riruta/Satellite where the community is located. Koinonia community has therefore, comitted itself towards improving the conditions of children within Riruta/Satellite.

They carried out a survey in 1996 which revealed that the families of these boys are characterised by extreme poverty, poor housing in the slums, alcoholism and drug abuse, family violence, lack of a father figure, unemployment or employment in illicit business peddling drugs, commercial sex or doing odd jobs which can hardly meet the family's basic needs.

Due to the above reasons, children do not go to school because their parents have no money to provide them with clothing, food, books, school fees, etc.

The health of these slum dwellers and street children is poor because of inadequate shelter. The children do not find much difference sleeping on the streets or inside a plastic shelter which can hardly accommodate a family of eight. Hygienic conditions are poor there are no toilet facilities and an epidemic could spread any time.

The survey further indicates that none of the children is skilled as to be able to get money and buy food. For their survival, they collect bottle tops, scrap metal, waste paper, plastic bags and sell them. They go all over the place and search through dustbins. The collections are sold to the local artisans for recycling.

OBJECTIVES.

The broad objectives for Kivuli Community Youth Organisation (KCYO) are rehabilitation, accomodation, training and educational outreaches. The project aims to get the children out of the streets through a rehabilitation centre which will provide the children's basic needs.

Accommodation provided for the most desperate children who for whatever reason cannot stay at home. The project aims at providing counseling services to the boys and their parents especially in decision making while career counseling, self employment, training oppotunities for the boys are offered in collaboration with other organisations, training centres and volunnteers. The project pursues to sensitise the general public on the plight of street children so as to facilitate their integration into society.

Provide shelter, as a basic need for rehabilitation where children can be trained and provide with skills which will enable them to be self-reliant and responsible members in the society. This is an effort to get them off the street.

They should to learn skills for employment and to acquire the basic knowledge that youth of their age group are expected to have.

(1) Co-operating with other established organizations which share a common goal of assisting needy youth.

(2) Mobilizing and stimulating the local community to understand the importance of their involvement in caring for their children.

8 ✓ (3) Encouraging the local authority, church leaders and political leaders to play their important roles as policy makers to eliminate the underlying causes for unemployment, poor housing misery and consequently, abandoned children.

KIVULI CENTRE

FINANCIAL SYSTEM MANUAL

PREPARED BY

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

(CEDCON)

KIWAMBOGO HOUSE
NEW PUMWANI ROAD
NAIROBI.

The purpose of this manual is to lay out the financial systems that shall be used by Kivuli Centre. It will serve as an important tool for reference and for enhancing the accounting function of the Centre.

They have tried to make this manual easy and simple to follow. It is designed to adopt to the changes in future in order to accommodate an expanding accounting function. For it to be a useful guide, it has been strictly adhered to:-

The following accounting systems are incorporated:-

- The analysis cash book
- Cheque payment system
- Receipts system
- Petty cash/ Imprest
- Inventory system
- Payroll system
- Management reports.

Additions may be made in future as the Centre grows.

2.

THE ANALYSIS CASH BOOK

An analysis cash book with at least 16 columns is maintained for the centre. All receipts are recorded on the left hand side of the cash book. All payments are recorded on the right side of the cash book. Each column represent a general ledger account. At the top of each column, the account name is indicated.

The columns on the receipts side are as illustrated in the following example:

Table A: Receipts Side of the cash book

Date	Details	Receipt No	Cash	Bank	Grants	Batik Sales	Gardening Sales	Impres t	Other Receipts	Amo
2-1-98	Mr.x	001	0	5000	5000					
3-1-98	Mrs.Y	002	500			300	200			
4-1-98	Cash Banked	-	(500)	500						
	TOTALS		-	5,500	5,500	300	200			

Receipt book is maintained and any income either cash or cheque is received. All the receipts are then posted to the receipts side of the cash book. It is good accounting practice to bank all the cash receipts intact without using part of it to pay for the expenses.

All cash expenses are paid either by petty cash or imprest.

The payments side of the cash book are illustrated in the table below;

Table B: Payments side of the cash book

Date	Details	Cheque No	Cash	bank	Salaries & Wages	School Fees	Text Bks & uniform	Other payments Details	Amount
2-1-98	Mr.X	101	-	8000	8000				
3-1-98	Y tailars	102	-	3000		-	3000		
4-1-98	School	003		7500		7500			
	TOTAL		-	18500	8,000	7500	3000		

Each column represents a general ledger account. Totals are used to prepare a trial balance when preparing the accounts for audit.

Note that the last two or three columns are reserved for payments that are not very regular. The first and second of the three columns should be used to write the details of either payment or receipt. The third column is used to record the amount.

The cash book balance is gotten by subtracting the total payment from the total receipts and is carried forward to the following month.

3. The Receipts System.

All receipts by the Centre are receipted and banked in the Centres account. The serialised receipts are posted by the receipt number and date in the cash book. Only one receipt book is used at a particular time. This they do not ensures that control of the receipted money and banking is smooth. Any receipts through bank transfers are also receipted and posted in the cash book.

4. The Cheque Payment System.

As much as possible, payments are made by cheque book and other accounting documents are properly kept in a lockable place and are only used by authorised officers.

Before writing of a cheque, a payment voucher is raised. The payment voucher gives the details of each payment. The signatories sign the cheques after perusing through the payment voucher.

They also sign the payment voucher as a sign that they agree with the payment. The officer approving or authorising the payment also signs the payment voucher.

Supporting documents such as receipts and invoices are attached to the payment vouchers. A payment vouchers file is maintained where all the payment vouchers and the support documents are filled in a sequence using the cheque number.

5. Imprest/ Petty Cash System

Where payments cannot be made by cheque an imprest is withdrawn from the bank which is equal to the expense. Where some balance is unused, then it is receipted and rebanked. Accounting of imprest is done promptly after the money has been spent. Where this is not done promptly, it is recovered from the staff members salary.

At the right time registration of employees with the various government departments such as PAYEIS NSSF, NHIF done.

8. Management Reports.

Currently accounts reports are prepared for the committee. These are:

a. Receipts and payment accounts, monthly and cumulatively, The showing the date . This report is a summary of all the receipts and payments within a particular month. It also shows the bank and cash balances.

b. Bank reconciliation statement on a basis.

This statement ensures that all bank transactions have been recorded into the cash book. It also ensures that all bank charges and transfers are properly recorded in the cash book.

6. Inventory System

An inventory system is essential for the centre. An inventory of all the assets is done and register opened indicating what assets the Centre has. Even the assets that have been donated are recorded showing who the donor and the date of acquisition.

Another inventory book for consumable supplies is opened. This is especially crucial for it controls the usage of the kitchen supplies. This also makes it possible to monitor how the supplies are procured and used.

7. Payroll System

All the permanent staff of the Centre have a letter of appointment duly signed by the chairman of the Centre It is kept in their personal files. A copy of job description is also filled in the personal files.

A payroll is be prepared monthly accurately showing all chageables as statutory deductions and advances. A payroll book is purchased and maintained every month.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

While it is necessary to identify ways of removing children from the street such approach would be based on short- term and long term goals. Short-term goals a involve providing these children with immediate attention to shelter, food and recreational facilities. Long- term goals may address environmental conditions where the children live, for example sanitation, streets, street lights, runing warer, toilet facilities. It is worth roting that a large number of these children drop out schools.

I think the school environment should also be addressed with a view to reducing the rate of school drop outs among children coming from slum communities. Counselling, small bussiness activities in the schools are among approaches that could addres this problem.

For those children already on the streets, rehabilitation progammes would be important both as short- term and long- term measures provided such programmes address the problem of the family as a unit.

Kenya Human Rights Commission Report should present to Kenyans the opportunity to share information on the nature and extent of the problem of street children with the ultimate goal of providing materials for policy guidelines.

They should provide a forum of developing strategies to combat or deal with the problem of street children and to the Kenya Nation engaged into problem.

We should provide an opportunity for collecting views and statements to be presented at a public forum for policy makers and implementation on children especially in difficult circumstances.

The following crucial areas need to be addressed.

1. Organise family life courses for those planning to marry and educate the married.

2. The rights of the child would be enforced by the Director of children's department through the national body, The National Children Council which will hopefully implement effect laws affecting the children.
3. The unemployment issue to be tackled.
4. The mushrooming slums in urban areas should be addressed urgently.
5. Our leaders must address themselves to land /policy arable land lying fallow- taxed.
6. Leaders should address themselves to the education policy in order to keep abreast with the rapid changing society in social-economic elementary particularly towards free education for the poor if at all we can't afford free education for all.
7. Street children should be seen as a disease that may become chronic hence identify the source and treat it effectively.

In the Christian communities of faith are called to bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6: 2)

Responsibility is entrusted to all faithful to contribute to one another's growth and journey towards wholeness. If one member suffers, all members suffer if one member is honoured all members share this joy. We are all the body of Christ (Corinthians) 12:25- 27

Our scriptural tradition offers many images instances and metaphors to describe the ways God heals, restores and reconciles people to wholeness and relationship of love and justice. God's work of redemption and liberation is fully realised in Jesus. It is in and through Jesus that we learn to be a welcoming, forgiving and reconciling people.

In responding to this proclamation, we as Christians are reminded that the justice of which Jesus and the prophets speak is not limited by or found primarily in the principle of fairness. Nor in equality of access goods and services of the community. Rather justice grounded in Christian faith is found in the experience of Brotherhood and Sisterhood in a loving community that promotes our common humanity and that shares life, compassion and selfless love in the service of one another.

In responding to this, we should take care of street children.

Pastoral care is achieved or forfeited in the quality of relationship in the children school. In the school's daily and routine life, the ways in which people interact with one another is a significant determinant of each person's sense of selfworth, belonging and wellbeing.

The fostering of high quality interpersonal relationships among teachers, students, parents and auxillary staff is a responsibility shared by everyone. Teachers in particular set the tone and priority of pastoral care by their witness and example. They need to be known as caring, compassionate adults who take a real interest in the lives of their students. Similarly, street children students need to recognise their peers. Such recognition brings with it a responsibility to uphold and nurture these life giving values and qualities.

CONCLUSION

What is being done about the horrific plight of children in Koinonia today? Hundreds upon hundreds of children throughout Kenya are suffering from malnutrition and dying of starvation. Mothers can hardly feed their children. Health care is beyond their reach, they that know their children are at risk yet there is very little they can do to avert the situation.

Hunger and thirst are not the only horror that children in Koinonia are facing. Thousands of them are physically and sexually abused, especially those in difficult circumstances.

They are orphans, abandoned and neglected. Even the law has turned a blind eye to these vulnerable children. Majority of them have dropped out of school at very tender ages. They have sought refuge in the streets of Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru and other many towns of Kenya. Thus they have become street children.

In the streets some have been destroyed perhaps by drugs, glue, petrol which they inhale, by crime or by some other form of exploitation.

The problem is worldwide. But in Koinonia, cupled with the housing crisis, education system which has highly been politicised, the health crisis and a high rate of unemployment, the plight of children has become a national concern.