

Living on the Street and the Challenges and Prospects to secure their daily Subsistence in Urban Life

(The Case of Street Children in Kezira Dire Dawa, Ethiopia)

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Abstract: The appropriate emphasis of this paper is to examine “Living on the Street and the Challenges and prospect to secure their daily Subsistence in Urban Life of the Street Children in Kezira Dire Dawa”. The overall situation of street children living in Dire Dawa City Kezira Quarter would be evaluated to tackle their socio-economic and subsistence livelihood challenges and prospects. The researcher used both primary and secondary method of data collection, in which to collect primary sources interview, Focus Group Discussion and Observation were used. Interview was the most important tool to collect primary data in which collection was schedule with street children in the main street of Kezira, Dire Dawa. The interview was made with Key interview informants who were elders and other residents of the city in general and Kezira in particular. The other important tool of data collection was FGD in which about thirty participants in six groups. The children’s were advised to talk freely about their daily life in group. The observation was also important to view children’s life from the outsider view (etic view). Thus then, researcher made important observation in their daily life interaction in their natural setting. There were also secondary data sources in which the data obtained from written sources in which finally triangulated wit primary sources. The researcher used qualitative method of data analysis to investigate their daily subsistence life, and their socio-economic interaction. Therefore, this paper has exposed that the greater part of street children in the study area where to see fundamental factors such as pull factor and push factors have contributed for their streetism, but poverty which caused by environmental degradation, drought and famine was found to be the main push factors for children to move to the street who especially came from the rural surrounding adjacent areas of East Oromia, East Hararghe Zone Woredas. This study also further describe that street children livelihood in Kezira who were vulnerable to wide range of violations of their rights, and the children also made plenty of crimes in the city. The children’s were abused physically and sexually in which they develop the unconstructive outlook towards the society, in order to alleviate this social troubles of the children. Thus, so many children are still on the street of Kezira Quarter Street seemed to look for help. In this study the researcher tried to show valid efforts have to be made to evaluate the widespread problem of street children vulnerable life on the street of Kezira.

Keywords: Living on the Street, Challenges, daily Subsistence, Urban Life, Street Children.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Perception of Street Children:

The concept of Street Children according to Benitez (2003:107) “there is no universal definition of ‘Street Children’ and several interpretations are in common use”. This is because the phenomenon arises as a result of these children being

'abandoned' by or themselves 'abandoning' their families and homesteads. The concept can thus be further divided into street-working children, those who have homes to which they return at night but stay on the street as a means of sustenance, begging or engaging in petty trading and sometimes other vices.

Street living Children would refer to "those who for the majority of the time sleep on the street and remain in limited or no contact with their family of origin" (Consortium for Street Children, 2001:3). Street Children are those children under the age of eighteen who spend most of their lives on the street. There are those who live permanently on the Street – "Children of the Street". This group of children subsists by living and earning their "living". There are also those who earn their living on the street but usually return to some form of a 'family' unit with some level of supervision or control (Lugalla, 1995).

Street Children are characterized by loneliness on the street, shelter less, loss of parental contacts, loss of parental protection, love and care, and most often exponentially squalid (Lugalla & Mbwambo 1995). Another interesting reality is that Street Children share the streets with millions of adults, many of whom regard them as irritation, if not as dangerous mini-criminals. Street children are viewed as a major impediment to socio-economic progress and a significant threat to national security. These apparent and real threats accentuated the current rush of global interest in street children (Basu and Tzannantos 2003)

The problem of children living on the street is a global phenomenon. It has created countless problems to millions of children in all parts of the world (UNICEF, 2007). They live a temporary life style and lack basic necessities like food, health care, and a safe place to stay. In the world, street children exist on the margins of society, living in inhumane conditions, suffering from hunger, harassment and physical abuse, deprived of basic services such as education and health care the society also threatens them as outsiders rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. Thus, they are both spatially and socially oppressed, through multiple forms of social control, marginalization, and powerlessness. As a result everyday life for a street child can be like living in an enemy territory (Hutchison, 2010).

Poverty has greatly contributed to the breakdown of the family structure as parents have practically resigned before their responsibility towards their children or have had to move out into the wider world to fend for this very family, thus leaving the children either with family relatives or a single parent. These children often living under conditions of virtual starvation and unable to attend school because of the high cost of education have little or no option but to fend for themselves on the streets. In line with the general concern for the rights and welfare of children, the Government of Mauritius and her local partners like MFPWA, with the assistance of International donors like the Global Fund for Health, are making some efforts to ensure that the children of the land are taken care of timely and correctly.

Most importantly they suffer from physical, sexual and psychological abuses and become victims of child trafficking for the purpose of labor and sexual exploitation. Their vulnerability to this wide range of problems and hazards represents a major feature of their everyday life. This is also a determining factor in developing their abilities to be able to cope with street life (UNICEF, 2007). Although the phenomenon of street children is a global one, Latin American, Asian, and African countries are specially affected by the problem more than any other part of the world. A report issued by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT 2002), a research organization in the Netherlands, states that out of the estimated 100 million children living and working on the streets of the cities of the world, the majority are in developing countries: 40 million in Latin America, 25-30 million in Asia, and 10 million in Africa (FSCE, 2003).

In Ethiopia is a developing country, its urban areas are challenged by the growing intensity of street children (MoLSA, 1993). But, there is no comprehensive statistical information on street children in Ethiopia. According to some estimate, street children in Ethiopia have become a countrywide epidemic, with over 100,000 of them living and/or working on the streets of Ethiopia's cities. In (2007) MoLSA in a study supported by UNICEF has also estimated the overall numbers of children on the streets of Ethiopian cities are around 150,000 and about 60,000 of them living in the capital city (UNICEF, 2012). So in order to find a solution for the problem it is crucial to identify the factors that push and pull children into the streets. It is becoming clear that there is no single cause for children to become street children, rather, it is a combination of economic, social, political and cultural factors which force children into the streets (Vanessa, 2007). Kevin Lalor (1999) stated that children come to street life due to Economic reasons/poverty, family reasons, orphaned,

join friends/peer pressure, pressurized by parents. Migration is also another factor which can essentially force a child into the street (Vanessa, 2007).

1.2 What Do We Mean by Street Children?

The most common definition of a street children or youth 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 residence and/or sources of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults.” According to UNICEF (200), Street children are those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, i.e. unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) more than their family has become their real home, a situation in which there is no protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adults. The operational categories of street children given by UNICEF

1. **Children on the Street:** Forming the largest category, these are children who have homes, and most return to their families at the end of the day.
2. **Children of the Street:** These children choose the street as their home and it is there that they seek shelter, livelihood, and companionship. They have occasional contacts with their families.
3. **Abandoned Children:** These children have severed all ties with their families. They are entirely on their own, not only for material survival but also psychologically. A Street child is a minor for whom the street (in the wide sense of the word, including un-occupied dwelling, waste land etc.,) has become his habitual abode and who is without adequate protection.

According to the definition by Amnesty International categorizes street children as follows:

Children on the street: Children on the street are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging to vend on the street of manufactured commodities of food. Most go home at the end of the day and contribute part of their earnings for the economic survival of the family unit. They may be attending school and retain a sense of belonging to a family or household. Because of the economic fragility of their families, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the streets.

Children of the street: Children of the street actually live on the street. Family ties may exist but are tenuous and maintained only casually or occasionally. Most of these children have no permanent residence and move from place to place and from town to town. Children on the street are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging to vend of manufactured commodities or food.

Like the “street working children” by UNICEF definition or the “Children on the street” by Amnesty International definition, who found out that most of the “Children on the street” go home at the end of the day and contribute part of their earning for economic survival of the family unit. They may be attending school and retain a sense of belonging to a family or household.

The currently prevalent definition that is used widely by UNICEF defines street children “as anyone under the age of 18 who either lives or works on the street” are street children.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Design:

This study focuses on the daily subsistence livelihood of street children in Dire Dawa in general and Kezira Quarter in particular, and who strive for daily food and with no shelter.

The rationale for the selection of the area was that there are more importantly plenty of children who are living in Dire Dawa city in the Quarter of Kezira. Children on the street of Kezira engaged in many evil activities such as stealing, Robbering, shoplifting and theft during the midnight time.

Therefore, this research was based on the street children daily subsistence life in Dire Dawa city in the of Quarter of Kezira. It was used to supplement the information gathered it includes books, bulletins, and different articles written on divorced mothers and children.

2.2 Research Design:

This study had been working on only qualitative method of data analysis in order to study to be comprehensive enough, to look into the lives of these street children that enables the researcher to show magnitude and heavy link between streetism and living on it, and children's livelihood challenges and prospects which are exceptionally helpful in identifying contradictory behaviors, beliefs, attitudes, emotions and relationships of individual children on street.

2.3 Data of Source:

Primary and secondary source of data were used by the researcher. The primary sources were obtained from the field through interview, focus group discussion and field observation by the researcher. Secondary sources of data were data obtained from published and unpublished sources. These secondary sources of data were used to relate and triangulate the research problem of their past with situations on real ground which was obtained from primary sources of data, that were obtained from the field.

2.4 Type of Data:

Both primary and secondary types of data were used to understand this paper. The primary data's were the data's collected from field through different techniques of data collection such as interview, focus group discussion and field observation. The data obtained from interview, focus group discussion and from field observation were triangulated in line with the importance of the sources as discussed in review literature earlier. Interview question was generated by the researcher and interviewed some selected informants who were willing to respond by children's who are living in Dire Dawa City and quarter Kezira. Thus, primary data's were collected through interview method, focus group discussion and field observations were directly collected from the field while secondary data types were also used from different written sources.

2.5 Instrument of Data Collection:

Three types of primary data collections apparatus were used to collect the relevant, appropriate and reliable primary data from the field. These include interview, focus group discussion and field observation, and which are very important to explore the issue under study. Interview, field observation and focus group discussion were used to get the first hand information from the field to fulfill the gap identified by the researcher. Secondary sources were also used to strengthen the validity of paper.

Therefore, the researcher employed different tools or instruments to collect the most reliable data that are necessary to strengthen the reliability of the outcome of the study.

2.6 Method of Data Analysis:

Qualitative method data analysis was used to make the research influential and significant for the sake understanding the issue under discussion. The researcher tried to look into the view of informants and discussants to investigate the issue of street children and their livelihood and challenges they meet in nowadays and future. One occasion important for the researcher is that data collected from the field were qualitative which were collected from the field through personal observation, interview and focus discussion. The researcher also used secondary data sources to strengthen the ideas obtained from qualitative data. The researcher used various information to complete and triangulate the collected data to increase and strengthen the validity and reliability of the outcome the research.

3. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

A key question for the Anthropologist to investigate the problems of societies under study, they have to have permission, and they must have to consider the consent of the host community about the research whether the research had a risks to these community. The researcher has the responsibility to avoid the risks that these societies will face due to this study; the society have to continue their everyday activities of lives without the interference of the researcher work in to their social and economic affairs to investigate the issue under examination. That is why every Anthropologists need to have permission to study societies at their original setting in search of solution for problems that the societies have faced or bring negative impact to the communities under study. Everything about the society under study would be kept in secret or not exposed without the consent of the host societies.

Therefore, the researcher had confirmed these children about this study in which the investigation did not affect any body negatively either communities in focus or the others who were in methods for realization of this paper. The researcher gave much attention for dignity, respect, privacy life and democratic thinking, for people under study and for the informants and discussants in data collection

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Causes for the Streetism in my Study Area:

4.1.1 The Push Factor:

A. Geographical Challenges and Environmental Degradation:

Global warming and Climatic Change are the most important agenda of this planate nowadays, which leads to the Environmental degradation that has become a global phenomenon today. In East Oromia; East Hararghe Zone, due to geographical challenges drought and famine caused by absence of rain, made the children has to leave their original home separated from their families and some of them with families come to Dire Dawa.

According to this study, the toughness of life at their home made children's to move out of their family home adopting a new mode subsistence survival in urban area. The geographical setting of Eastern Hararghe made the nearby range of migration due these strong recurrent happening of geographical challenges and environmental degradation which was one of the strong push factor of the children to the city of Dire Dawa, which could enable them to continue their life on the street. It is therefore, a turning point for child laborers, street vending, and stealing, physical and sexual abuse in the city particularly in quarter of Kezira.

Environmental degradation occurred due climatic changes, which includes a comprehensive the dryness of the region due to absence of rain in the area brought hard socio-economic situation in their original homeland. Therefore, one strong push factor to street caused by geographical challenges as well by environmental degradation.

B. The Prevalence of Poverty:

Poverty is another push factors the children's to leave their original home, which caused for an increasing number of street children on the streets of Kezira. East Haraghe Zone of Oromia is of the region frequently strike by absence of rain which causes drought and famine in the area. Therefore, the absence rain caused the absence of food security, which leads to sever poverty that made the children's to leave their family and home, then move to city in search of food for survival. On the others hand, these children were forced to leave their home land because of poverty at home as the researcher understands, and on the reverse made the children to live on the streets to find food and shelter which is not forthcoming from their families.

A UNICEF report also states that children who work on the streets often come from slums and squatter settlements, where poverty and precarious family situations are common, where schools are overcrowded and poor, and where safe places to play simply do not exist (UNICEF, 1997). Few researches done in Addis Ababa and some other major cities also indicate that family poverty is the major cause for children to join the street (FSCE, 2003).

The presence of street children in Kezira quarter of Dire Dawa to a larger extent caused disorder in the city shouting on the street every night, crying, singing and dancing, and sometimes blaming each other for crimes happened. Therefore, the researcher understands that street children come to the city due to the prevalence of serious poverty in their original homeland which was one push factor for the children's to leave their homes.

C. Family Disintegration:

In some occasions, family break up also was considered as one of the push factors for the children's to leave their homelands or place of birth, particularly East Hararghe Zone of Oromia. Family institution is sometimes in disorder due to many important factors such as poverty, and sometimes human social factors, for instance having a number of children's leads to poverty. Many families are also increasingly characterized by absentee parents, lack of communication between parents and children, *khat* addiction and domestic violence. Many children run away to the city's streets to avoid violence and abuse in the family which it leads to family disintegration that is a significant push factor that force children to the street life.

Generally, these children come from broken families due to parental divorce, an increase number of children, separation or imprisonment of the parents move to cities in search of food and better life. The lack of economic and emotional support, attached with a loss of communication between parents and children, often forces them to escape or leave home in search for better life in urban centers. Families' rural areas of East Hararghe have more than seven children in average which leads them to poverty and move to street to seek solution for impoverishments.

D. Violence at home:

Rather than coping with worst problems in their family homes, many children feel that living on the streets is better in order to feel free of family absence of peace. These problems can include conflicts with parents, physical or sexual abuse or neglects by their family (e.g. an abandoned disabled child). Some children are forced to leave home by their families because; the family does not approve child's behavior or its consequences, e.g. pregnancy, homo sexuality or substance use may cause children's rush to the street.

According to UN report on violence against children also indicates that children who have been sexually abused, or extremely neglected, or who have experienced violence at home, may scamper away or drift into a street life which exposes them to the risk of sexual abuse or exploitation on the street (UN, 2006).

4.1.2 The Pull Factor:

A. Easily Availability of Food:

Street children interviewed in the city of Dire Dawa particularly in the Quarter of Kezira got food easily which they call it "bulle". There is no hunger as far as they are in the main quarter of the city in Kezira.

Children are from the surrounding adjacent East Hararghe Oromia region that flew into the city in search for their daily subsistence to the streets of Kezira who were exposed to violence on the streets. Group of Street Children, they were taking intoxicants, the majority of them being "children of the street", and this was happened because of the availability of food easily in the city of Dire Dawa.

B. The Imaginary Easy Access to Work as Coolies:

Children's assumed that there was easy access to work to support their daily livelihood on the street of Kezira and perceived that there is more easy works in Kezira. The assumption made by the children's from rural area was that as compared to their original homeland they work on the street, labour work, shoe shining, begging and sometimes making mini-street vending. Street.

Children's from rural surrounding adjacent areas of East Hararghe imagined that there is full of jobs for better life in Dire Dawa, which made them to rush to the city with false information they got from their earlier peers.

C. The Perceived Freedom on the Street:

Children are on the street perceiving better life on the street have some pull factors that exposes children to street life. These perceptions are taken as an additional pull factor to attract children to come to and stay on the streets. Living better life in urban centers, peer influence, hope for employment, and false information about everything in the city brought children's to Street which indicate that etc. are some of pull factors that attract children to street life.

Moreover on the study conducted in (2011) by Mekonnen Mangesha, children's perceive charitable donations given by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private individuals also act in the same vein on policy frame work for street children in Addis Ababa revealed that the service provided to street children by different NGOs attract children to street life.

This is therefore, the perceived freedom of the street were full of evils in which it lacks in providing basic services for the children while they are living on the street. Such services make life easier for the children on the street and force them to remain on the street or more seriously it might serve as a pull factor for attracting other children to street life.

Beside this one can identify complimentary freedom, financial independence, city livelihood and street-based friendships or gangs as other pull factors. These can develop over time into strong street connections that combined with social stigma and prejudices that make it difficult for children to find desirable options off the street.

4.2 Means of Survival:

A. Easy Access to Food (Bulle):

Daily bread is the major means of survival for most of the children's along the street of Kezira of and which they call it "bulle" or in English "Leftover Foods" as happened in many developing nations of the world. The problems were getting worse when viewed from outsider point of view to look at vulnerable groups like street children. Thus, sources demonstrate that food for street children has been acquired easily on the street as thought by them to how get their daily meals, on the street children get.

According to my informants and discussants (majority of respondents), they consume available food from cafes "bulle" or in English the leftover (foods eaten in hotels finally left behind). Street children's also buy cheap food from small cafes and these remaining foods, because they have to have their daily subsistence's for survival. Sometimes they were in engaged in mini jobs like shoe shining and working on the street as coolies. Getting waste and free food from cafes and restaurants and hotels was easy access to food by the street children's.

Furthermore, according to the finding of study that shows that over a half of these children depends on leftovers or waste foods, which was free of charge or bought. According to FGD discussants who confirmed that leftover food is more accessible and free cost less affordable even when it is bought from cafes or restaurants. Discussant of FGD have also felt that leftover food or waste foods are far better than that of food bought from small cafes because leftover food contains ingredient like meat, vegetables, pasta, rice, etc. However, the freshness and sanitation of waste foods was not worry by the children of the street, because the thought daily survival only..

B. Alcohol Use as technique of Survival for Children:

Living on the street, with no control, protection or guidance often makes street children vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards such as alcoholics' usage and intoxication of their body. According to informants and discussant street children the type of abuses they face on the street of Dire Dawa varied from quarter to quarter. Almost majority of informants and discussants experienced both sexual and physical abuse due to that of the use of alcoholic use and sometimes intoxication brought unconsciousness to them throughout the night on Kezira Street.

After taking alcohol the children's on the street are considered as trouble makers by vast majority of the society of Kezira residents. Most of the street children work and live alone on street without parents or legal guardians. These children have illustrates that they suffer in their sleeping places much due to cold, verbal abuse and physical abuse by gang groups.

One of my informants mentioned that the use of alcohol and intoxication benzene during the midnight time was common among street children and he added that;

Living on the street was very painful and tough. Many of us used take alcohol and intoxicate our body by benzene to adapt the changing weather of Dire Dawa. In which in Dire Dawa days are too hot and nights are to cold, so that we have to have means of escape to this trouble situation of the area. That is why we use Alcohols and intoxicated ourselves by benzene.

From the above explanation the researcher easily understands that how much street children suffered from hunger, and also has use alcohol and intoxicated themselves from the changing weather of Dire Dawa.

C. Daily Child labour (Work as Coolies):

The street based occupations also are a pull factors that bring children to streets or form the surrounding adjacent rural areas of East Hararghe Zone of Oromia, they thought that children spend so much time on streets waiting for daily labour works. Daily child labour is one of the common "street based occupations" that children were involved which include; working as coolies, shoe shining, and begging in search for leftover foods; and in addition selling items like newspapers, balloons.

According to one of my informant who exposed that sometimes conflict arises on street during midnight times, while we have sharing what we got, in which our elders beat us as if were hiding the money that we got, from them. All informants and discussants have described that they have been injured from wounding and hack from sharp edge on the normal basis. One of my informants explains the issue that he suffers on the street as follows:

One day I have got garage garbage to be damped, and the owners paid me about 50 Ethiopian birr, which was a big money according to our earnings on the street. Then, I told our elders that I had got 30birr by damping garbage by hiding some amount of money. Our elders are our leaders, so he said to me tell us the truth, I said that is true. But he did not believe me, beat me for no reasons to snatch money.

From the above clarification the researcher understands that children's were beaten for the reason that they were snatched what they earn during the midnight.

D. Begging as practice for Survival:

Street children used to beg to meet their daily needs that are usually one of the way in which little children's who are both males and females participated in this means of survival. Street children with little age engage in begging either full-time or part-time as a way of livelihood or supplementing their income from begging with that from other activities. These children left their family and migrated in greater number in search of livelihood for daily subsistence of food in cities. Few of them migrated with their parent's, and in most cases with their mothers in which the collected money was given to their mothers. Mothers manage their life on the street and manage everything as far as possible. These migrated children's were adapted to harsh and hard life of street. The cause of migration was a search for a better living in the city, in which they are again deprived from it due to their ignorance of different sections of society.

The main explanation for many boys and girls who are little in age to be involved in begging is to meet the daily livelihood and subsistence life. They share what they got to their fellow brothers and sisters in order to cope up with the existing need of survival. Begging makes sure their basic needs daily subsistence and it also enhances their capacity to be significant contributors in terms of their fellow children's. Child beggars bring about a socially needs of foods for the whole street children's who live along the roads of Kezira in Dire Dawa.

Therefore, begging was the most important type of daily subsistence in supporting their livelihood, which in turn they can't continue relying on other practice for survival which is meaningful and valuable in everyday life along the roads of Kezira in Dire Dawa. These street children were mostly begging for money, but they may be given another kind of help including clothing and items of cooking. Kezira residents gave these children utensils like shoe shining box, boxes to save money and to work with in order to give confidence to them to engage in a small-scale business rather than begging on the street. In hard conditions, when they were hungry the children mostly rely on leftovers of food which were not fresh, which they collect from hotels, restaurants and cafeterias and bars

Begging on the street by the street children, they uses different come close to someone as if they were irritated by the life on the street saying please help us to survive. One of informant a little kid age 8 years old told me how he begs on the street as follows;

We come closer and closer, then said please baba or mama you have kids like us but different from us by living better life at their home, but we have no home, no food to eat please buy us one piece of breads. We would never give up following them until they gave us or saying a word.

Thus, the researcher understands that the most important means of acquiring daily subsistence for these children's at street of Kezira was begging using different type's methods for their daily survival. They will ask for money again and again politely by using heartfelt words that is the way how they influence people to give money to them.

E. Stealing and Robbering as means of Survival:

Another least significant means of survival for the children's on the street was stealing and robbing on the street of Kezira. Street children have made stealing and robbing in the midnight, when everything on the street or road becomes silent except for alcohol drunker, who move sometimes alone or by pair. These personalities were stolen and robbed by these children's in Kezira Dire Dawa because some children's move in group for this means of actions. They stole mobiles, moneys and other important materials found in the pocket of drunker. The most important evil thing they do after Stealing and Robbering occasion in that place, they were changing their place of residence until everything become calm down.

They were more active in involving in such crimes as means of subsistence on the street life and boys were more energetic in stealing and Robbering of Quarter. These children involved in stealing and robbing reveal that the majorities of them participated in devastating crimes as activity of survival, when they did not get their daily subsistence

for survival. Therefore, stealing and robbing were not their usual activities like that of begging and working as daily labour and shoe shining.

F. Shoplifting or Breaking into Shops for survival:

Shoplifting or breaking into shops for stealing was not common actions of these street children's in the Quarter of Kezira, but sometimes involved when they know everything about the shop they would break into which may be becoming as cleaners early in the morning or by being a guard during the night time. This was the possible way to break into somebody shop. They did dual activities serving as servant for owners and spying agents for their peer groups.

Therefore, these children's break into someone's shops after studying (spying) for many times may be more than five-six months to look into what was there and where it was placed. These spying actions were done secretly and discussed every night, what to do. Then, finally decided to break in to the shop and took every valuable thing in the shop.

Shoplifting was not the usual activities of these children's on the street but they wait for occasions to do such horrible things especially when they were out of everything to eat for daily subsistence, even sometimes they break into banks to steal

G. Shoe Shining as Simple Means of Livelihood:

Street children's on the street of Kezira sometimes involved in shoe shining activities which was not as usual activities like begging and daily labour work. Sometimes they shine shoes as funny earnings, because someone shoe may be shine by two-three children's. They were not mobile shoe shiners who were moved from place to place in order to get customers, but waiting for customers over their original residents on the street.

Thus, shoe shining was the funny job for these street children because many of them thought that shoe shining have no equal earning with begging and working as coolies (daily labour). Thus, street children's make shoe shining as extra workload not as formal livelihood earning, that is why sometimes they stopped it, when they earn daily subsistence from begging.

Street children were not supposed to support their family because they thought themselves as if they were family less to support their future life. They think only about today, no more thinking about tomorrow, how to acquire their daily subsistence for only today. So, there was no prospect for their future, no plan for tomorrow how to solve issues of today. Lack of permanent work and plan for tomorrow make worse their future life.

H. Street Vending (Selling Small Items):

Street children involved on income generating activities like selling chewing gums, selling cooked potatoes, cooked eggs moving along the street of Kezira. Street vending (selling small items) was easy works to them, and sometimes while they were selling items along the street.

According to some of my informants street children sell items to cope up with daily subsistence livelihood, children who were involved in small business or income generating activities. Street vending was also not common activities to them because they only for daily consumption. Almost majority of them were from Muslim family background, but they do not bother about religion. They eat what they got on the street for survival and cope up with the condition on the street. One of my informants told me about their street vending activity as follows;

We collect items to sell especially after we earn a lot of money through different activities, but that was not the real job. So we made vending to have small amount of money to buy daily bread, no plan rather than this attempt of getting daily bread. We have said only God knows tomorrow what happen.

According to the informants and discussants these children's life was hopefulness, carelessness, no thinking about tomorrow but to win only a daily subsistence. So, they live hopeless life.

4.3 Challenges that the Children's counter on the Street:

A. No Legal Protection to these children's:

Almost undoubtedly to meet their need for food and to prevent hunger these children are forced to take part in unusual acts to win daily food such as stealing shoplifting or break into private shops and robbing. Further, the problem of hunger may also be associated with criminal acts of the children, which forced them to involve in such crimes for the

matter of survival. They were conflicting day and nights; caused violence's on the street, somebody from outside can beat them easily when they are refusing unwilling to carry garbage's out of their homes, and even they were beaten by simply being called thief or being immature criminal on the street.

This may make clear as that these children's on the street of Kezira Quarter of Dire Dawa have no legal protection. The laws of the country said everybody have equal human right being threaded as human. In general the absence of legal protection of these children indicates that street children are unprotected for peaceful working children who are highly vulnerable to exploitation by the work itself and by others.

According to my informants who further disclose that the most common problems among the street children included harassment by among themselves by the others. The problem of irritation may consequently give rise to other psychosocial problems such as conflicts, fear of society, mistrust, disorder and theft.

These children's have been beaten because they are out of permanent shelter and (that) the number of street children is not recorded in any national survey, street children are often called the 'hidden children'. Sometimes they become out of sight, they are at a higher risk to being abused, exploited and neglected". Street children often lack the support of their societies because they were considered as if they were thief and trouble makers. Consequently their life on the street was too harsh and too hard.

Street children are often more vulnerable to sexual and reproductive health problems. They are often prone to, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. It has been seen that sexual and reproductive health problems affect both girls and boys.

B. Violence and Physical Abuse:

The permanent experience of these children's have in this too harsh environments and the nature of their lifestyle make them vulnerable to substance use such as drugs, cigarettes, and sometimes intoxicate ate themselves by using Benzene.

The absence of street children mental, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing would lead violence's which lead to legal and physical abuse. Some children's on the street often were mentioned that there were many types of abuses made against them such as verbal abuse, sexually abused and physical abuse. Verbal, sexual abuse and physical abuses are very common among street children in the City of Dire Dawa particularly in Kezira Quarter which finally leads to violence.

Moreover, these children's point out that there is some sort of sexuality abuse was done to them some people and among street children. There was a clue that the researcher was understands that homosexuality is practiced among them. The street children also raveled that some of the street children of the City had involved in violence's in Kezira Quarter. And hence boys are also sexually abused. These children use alcohol and other psychoactive substances such as drugs Khat and may other informal activities.

In addition, these children are confronted with discrimination and view health and social services with mistrust, they also faced different kinds of violence on the street but, the most obvious forms of violence associated with street children – extra-judicial killing, tortures, beating by police, security forces and private security firms employed by local businesses to keep the streets clean" are an ongoing problem of the utmost urgency.

According to my informants and discussants that further expose that the most common problems among the street children included harassment by police and hunger. It has often been seen that "because of a lack of permanent shelter and the number of street children was increase from time to time in which they attract each other because of push and pull factors. Street children are often called children's of a higher risk to being abused, exploited and neglected.

C. Psychological Problems:

There were numerals of psychological problems which include nervousness, disobedience, unstableness of behavior, shouting on the street due to the insecurity to their life. This was because there was no legal protection to these children's on the street of Kezira Dire Dawa city. Street children were psychologically abused due to insecurity and continued throughout their lives in search of their livelihood.

The origin of these psychological problems was the experience of violence on the hands of other peoples they meet while living on the streets. Street children living on street of Kezira were out of patience to talk to other peoples because they believe that every people according to them were tortures. According to my informants and discussants and my

observation on the field, it is true that these children's never trust anyone even the police forces. This was because in my understanding they come across many immorality doings of the people.

Therefore, the researchers come to conclude that the prevalence of any drug and other intoxications used among these children's leads them to psychological problems on the street of Kezira. Many children who come to live on the streets are usually from areas where the quality of housing is poor who were driven by the presence of poverty and geographical and environmental challenges who has been seen adapt to the life on the streets.

Living on the street in the unprotected environment, where these street children were always in rush of searching daily substances for their living conditions. They live in poor conditions, physical and mental abused and at larger extent physically injured and exploited frequently, that leads to violence by other peoples

5. CONCLUSION

Children's migration to the city of Dire Dawa from the surrounding area was due to geographical and environmental challenges; the prevalence of poverty in surrounding and adjacent areas of East Hararghe Zone which was a common phenomenon nowadays. Migration of children to city was to live better life due to peer pressure; they come to Kezira Quarter of Dire Dawa which is/was from East Hararghe Zone of Oromia which was frequently strike by drought and famine. Thus, the children's were suffering unexpected tortured of climatic condition of the environment and the residents of the city, but not thought at their original homeland. As mentioned above the principal causes for migration of these children was poverty, disintegration of their family, attraction to city life due to peer pressure and environmental and geographical degradation, which in turn caused more sufferings on the street in Kezira.

These children left their family and migrated in greater number in search of livelihood for daily subsistence of food in cities. Few of them migrated with their parent's, and in most cases with their mothers in which the collected money was given to their mothers. Mothers manage their life on the street and manage everything as far as possible. These migrated children's were adapted to harsh and hard life of street.

The cause of migration was a search for a better living in the city, in which they are again deprived from it due to their ignorance of different sections of society. These street children have taken in to account some survival strategy for livelihood after migrated to the streets of city like Dire Dawa. Survival means obtaining food, a little bit clothing and temporary shelter, and protecting themselves against violence and other forms of abuse which depends on situation.

These children's were strong in searching of means of survival such as daily labour, stealing Robbering, shoe shining and sometimes break into someone's shop, in order to cope up with the sever harsh life on the street. Street children may have to do many unhealthy or dangerous things to survive. Most of the street children were engaged in economic activities through various types of jobs for mere survival. It is very difficult to disconnect street children from working, on the street such as begging, Shoe shining, serve as Coolies, as Car washing, Selling cigarettes', working as street Vendors and carrying garbage's.

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