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## Combating Street Children in Tanzania: Challenges and Prospects: A Case Study of Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania

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### **Abstract:**

*This paper is based on study that was conducted to explore challenges with eradicating the problem of street children in Tanzania. Street children is a sensitive and significant social and human rights problem growing in the world today. In Tanzania, street children are found in almost all urban centres and the situation is getting worse in Dar-es-Salaam, the biggest city in Tanzania. While a number of scholarly research studies have been done regarding the problem of street children, empirical data with regards to challenges with eradicating the problem of street children are limited in Tanzania. It is based on this gap of knowledge from the literatures that promoted this paper which also is also informed by Durkheim's structural functionalism theory. The study employed qualitative approach in combination with case study strategy where by data were purposively collected through in-depth interview. The primary sources of data included: street children, social welfare officers, community development officers and ward executive officers. The collected data were analysed using thematic analysis model to obtain themes. Overall the findings established that poverty, poor planning, weak legislations and weak enforcement of legislations, breakdown of traditional safety nets and HIV/AIDS have been cited as major challenges with eradicating street children in Tanzania. This paper recommends that the government should improve household income of poor households, review the existing laws and policies protecting the welfare of children, conducting awareness raising campaigns on the care and support of the most vulnerable children and combat HIV/AIDS.*

**Keywords:** Child, Street children, combat, HIV/AIDS, challenges, Kinondoni and Tanzania

### **1. Introduction**

Street children are a global socio-economic malady which is largely based in urban areas particularly in developing countries. Buske (2011) confirms that street children is a problem which is more pronounced in developing countries than developed countries. It has sometimes been difficult to define what constitute street children because the concept is socially constructed and due to differences in social, cultural, political and historical differences of different societies. Simply it can be argued that the term street children has many definitions in different settings. However, the United Nations defined the term 'street children' to include "any boy or girl for whom the street in the widest sense of the word has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults. It follows therefore that all children found in or on the street would fall into this category. Such children must have been observed to spend a substantial part of their time on the street. Street children are not classified based on the activities they are involved in on the street only but there are various ways of classifying street children (Owoaje et al, 2002). According to Liz (2000) one way of classifying street children is as children on the street. These are children who maintain good family ties and often return home in the evening. The second classification refers to children of the streets: These are children with close family contacts who spend some nights or days or part of the day on the streets and occasionally go back home. The third category is closely related to the second category, and refers to children who are completely detached from their families and live in gangs in temporary makeshift shelters. Lately, a new category of street children is emerging. These are children whose parents are also street children/adolescents that is children of street family. Street children depend less on their families. Instead they rely more on the meaningful ties. They have established within their groups or gangs. Statistical evidence suggests that the problem of street children is worldwide and ever increasing. For instance, UNICEF (2006) substantiated that the number of children moving to the street is increasing worldwide. Globally, it is approximated that 150 million children are street children (Hosny et al, 2007). It is also estimated that in 2020 there will be 100 million indigent children in Latin America alone, many of whom will predictably live on the streets (Fernandes and Vaughn, 2008). In Europe, the industrial revolution is directly linked to the history of street children. In the process of revolutionizing the British economy, the livelihood of many workers was impaired. This disrupted family life creating many street children. According to Ferguson (2003) the industrial revolution

appeared first in Britain and also the problem appeared first in Britain. Therefore, Britain was the first country to experience the problem of street children were by lots of destitute children by then who were either orphaned or abandoned and had no place to live. Additionally, there were also street boys in major cities like London, Liverpool and Manchester who were wandering through the London East always begging from strangers. If begging did not work then stealing food from market stallholders was their only alternative to find food.

In the African context, street children are considered to be a recent development whose roots originated from colonialism (UMP, 2000 and Cummings, 2006). Compared with Europe, Latin America and Asia the problem of street children in Africa was envisaged to be alien before 1990s. However, due to civil strife, the demobilization of soldiers and the effect of Structural Adjustment Policies on family unemployment street children became widespread in Africa (Consortium for Street Children, 2002). According to UNICEF (1994), in most countries there were civil wars and the number of street children was also high. For example, in 1990s there were an estimated 60,000 street children in Addis Ababa and 150,000 nationwide while in Khartoum Sudan, the street children were part of the urban landscape (Dodge and Raundalen 1991:40). Similarly, the same situation was experienced in Sierra Leone. The number of street children had increased geometrically, from 10,000 in 1990 to about 200,000 in 1998. However, in recent years, the situation is more critical in urban centres of many African countries. Ferguson (2003) estimated that Africa has about 10 million street children. In similar trends, in East African countries, there are similar situations like other African countries. For instance in Kenya and particularly in Nairobi during 2001 it was estimated that there were 10,000 to 30,000 street children and in 2007 the graph was growing and it was estimated that there were between 250,000 and 300,000 children living on the streets in the country with more than 60,000 living in Nairobi (Smeaton, 2011).

Tanzania as part of the global village, is not immune to the problem of street children. The magnitude of street children is found in all urban centres of Tanzania. Nationwide it is estimated that there are about 437,500 street children in Tanzania (Ngowi, 2012). Generally, there are a bigger number of street children than any other urban centre in Tanzania. The Dar-es-Salaam city for example receives children from different parts of the country. The day-to-day life of the street children is a continuous struggle to survive in Dar-Es-Salaam city than any other place in Tanzania. Niboye (2013) holds that although some children are merely four to five years old. These children are not only found in Dar-Es-Salam city, but also street children are also prevalent in other big regions and cities of Tanzania. For instance, a census conducted in northern Tanzania (2006) found that over 1,000 children live on the streets of Moshi and Arusha, with the largest concentration remaining in Arusha (Backford et al, 2008). The practice of street children involves the deprivation of their protection, survival and developmental rights including education rights. Thus this practice is against the international human rights declarations such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child which address children's rights to food, shelter, education, health, and freedom from torture, sexual violence, and exploitation.

In realization of the magnitude and consequences related to the problem of street children, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania adopted different intervention measures including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990. Other intervention measures include the formulation of Child Development Policy (2008) and The Law of the Child Act, No 21 of 2009 just to mention a few. However, it is interesting to note that, despite overwhelmingly intervention strategies being put forth by the government, non-state actors and other keen stakeholders to curb the problem, the number of street children is still high in Tanzania (Kopoka, 2000). According to the reviewed empirical literatures, Musoke (1996), Lugalla, & Mbwambo (1996), Ngowi (2012) and Chamwi (2014), it has been clearly seen that there are some attempts to investigate the problem of street children in Tanzania. However, these studies concentrated with causes, effects, extent and coping strategies. Even though it is a good start, there are still some issues that are not yet discovered by previous researches. For instance the challenges with eradicating street children have not been given much attention. This paper differs from the previous ones by exploring these challenges based in Kinondoni Municipality based in, Dar-es-Salaam.

### *1.1 Theoretical Framework*

This paper is based on Durkheim's Structural functionalist theory. Theory which states that a system consists of various components or sub-systems, which must function as a unit. Each structure is interrelated and interlinked and contributing in a different way to keeping the entire society healthy. A malfunctioning of one structure is bound to have a ripple effects on the whole unit (Haralambos and Holborn, 1995). The purpose of this paper was to explore challenges with eradicating street children in Tanzania. Based on the structural functionalist theory street children are viewed as a results of failure of different structures to function properly. The theory further explains that different structures have different functions to maintain the society at equilibrium. The family for instance has an important role in socializing the society, while the government is responsible for formulation of different policies and enacting different legislations that protect children against different risks. The local government on the other hand through the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) has a role to play in provision of health services. All these structures in general have complimentary roles which help maintain a balance in the way society functions. Therefore, a breakdown in any part of the system affects the overall function of the whole societal system. According to the functionalism theory if a society is to survive its various parts must have some certain degree of compatibility. If one part does not fit the overall function of the whole system is affected. The assumption is that if any part of the system i.e. the family, the community and the government fails to assume its roles, the problem is less likely to be well solved.

## 2. Methodology

The paper is based on a study carried out to explore challenges with eradicating the problem of street children in Tanzania. The study employed a qualitative approach and an exploratory case study strategy to the data collection based on the nature of the study in question. Creswell (2014), asserted that qualitative methods emphasis gathering of in-depth information in an attempt to understand the meaning people attach to a social phenomenon. The qualitative approach was chosen because of its ability to allow the exploration of people's experiences and perceptions (Bricki and Green 2007, 2-4). In line with this assertion, Key (1997) insisted that qualitative research study produces more in-depth, comprehensive information and seeks to understand people's interpretations, perceptions and lived experiences.

Within the qualitative approach the study adopted a case study research design. The value of exploratory case study design lies on its capability to enable researchers to closely examine the data within a specific context, and thus giving an in-depth information on the topic under exploration (Zainal, 2007). According to Punch (2000:15) a case study is a field of inquiry that investigate a specific area in order to gain access to the real life context where the problem is clearly visible. It is an intensive in-depth study of a specific individual, group or institution in a specific context. The case study design was used because the researchers wanted to have a clear understanding challenges with eradicating street children. The qualitative approach was therefore relevant as it created a point of departure for the formulation of open-ended questions, which were used in the interview sessions. The qualitative approach allowed researchers to gather information from a small sample of street children, social welfare officers, and community development officers and ward executive officers. According to Mark (2010) samples for qualitative studies are generally much smaller than those used in quantitative studies. Marshall (1996) affirms that an appropriate sample size for a qualitative study is one that adequately answers the research question.

The population of the study comprised of street children, social welfare officers, and community development officers and ward executive officers and purposive sampling was used to select them. Purposive sampling seeks individuals that can best supply relevant information needed to answer research questions raised (Cresswell, 2008:214). The sample size consisted of six (6) social welfare officers, two (2) ward executive officers, three (3) community development officers and 9 street children giving a total of 20 participants.

Data were collected using two major instruments namely the in-depth interview and documentary analysis. According to Bhattacharjee, (2012, p.107), among the major tools of data collection include in qualitative research include: interview and documentary analysis. In this paper both tools of data collection instruments were employed to gather information about challenges with eradicating street children at Kinondoni Municipality. Yin (2003) propounds that a combination of multiple sources of evidence within a study of the same phenomenon compensates the weaknesses in each single method by counter-balancing strengths of another, reducing the likelihood of misinterpretation of the research results. The use of in-depth was effective in that it collected in-depth information while the documentary analysis was used to complement and substantiate data collected from the interview.

The collected data were read for understanding several times. An inductive analysis and exploratory approach was applied during this process. Coding, sorting and organizing data are an integral part of thematic analysis. The data were searched systematically for re-occurring words, which later became code words. These code words were then grouped to form themes. Manual coding during the data analysis was used to help with the management of the data. Ethics approval for this research was granted by the Kinondoni Municipality. The rigor and trustworthiness were also achieved. Efforts were made to fix certain standards to check the trustworthiness as established by, Lincoln and Guba' (1985:289-31). Therefore, credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability were the qualitative aspects adopted to meet the criteria for rigor and trust worthness in this paper as criteria of quality assurance.

## 3. Results and Discussions

This section presents the findings on the challenges with eradicating street children in Tanzania particularly street children based in Kinondoni Municipality. The findings are the results of data collected using an in-depth interview method and documentary analysis. The major challenges identified by participants towards eradicating street include: poverty, poor planning, weak legislations and weak enforcement of legislations, breakdown of traditional safety nets and HIV/AIDS. More discussion is as follows:

### 3.1. Persistent Poverty

Poverty is one of the main push factors that continues to lead these children to the streets. Concerning poverty a challenge towards eradication of street children in Tanzania when one of the street children interrogated about their economic conditions at their household, had this to say:

Families have become extremely poor and unable to provide basic needs for their children and the children then run away.

"I was looking for a job, I came purposely to get income to earn a living. My mother is very poor and that she cannot meet our basic needs. My mother is a single parent and is just a peasant in Singidarural. So I had to come to Dar-Es-Salaam to seek for job so that I can support my mother who has also other four children younger than me ( Interview ,a 12 years female street child ,July,2013).

It can be deduced from the extract that it is poverty that pushes children into the streets. It can also be explained that most of families with single parents, especially single mothers find it hard to care for their children due to extreme poverty. Children in such families often times are forced by circumstances to turn into street begging as street children so as to support themselves and their families as well as their siblings.

Furthermore, a fourteen years old boy at Magomeni car junction in Kinondoni Municipality who is among the ten street children interviewed confessed that life at home was very hard. There was no food and other basic necessities of life. The quotation below is what the boy had to say:

We have no food to eat at home that is why I'm here begging to support myself and my family as well. I had to drop out from school so that I can get an ample time to roam on the street to get support from good Samaritans. Actually, hadn't it been for poverty may be I would be at school with my fellow pupils. (Interview, a 14 years boy, July, 2013).

In addition to that another interview was conducted with one of the Social Welfare officers based in Kinondoni Municipality. She had similar opinions that there is massive street children because of persistent poverty. For example during the interview sessions with her she claimed:

Its poverty, especially the food poverty that attracts so many children in urban areas. When they come to Dar-Es-Salaam, because of their ages and because of lack of employable skills they end up on the streets as beggars and some of them engage in criminal behaviors like stealing and prostitutions for girls while others are employed as houseboys or girls ....(Interview, Social Welfare Officer 3,July,2013 ).

From the first, second and third extracts above, it is clear that poverty remains one of the major challenges that vitiate against government efforts to combat street children. Poverty coupled with large family size inhibits the government efforts to eradicate street children. These results corroborate with the study by Musoke (1996) in a study titled *the structural causes of the problem of street children in Tanzania: implications for its study and efforts towards its alleviation*. In similar vein, the Household Budget Survey of 2000/01 confirms that in Tanzania the proportion of the population below the national food poverty line is 18.7 percent and that below the national basic needs poverty line 35.7 percent. There is also a big disparity between urban and rural poverty for both food and basic needs poverty. Poverty remains overwhelmingly in rural areas where 87 percent of the poor population live, and is the highest among households who depend on agriculture. The results give an impression that the prevalence of poverty in Tanzania is still high and therefore poverty remains the major challenge that significantly contributes to street children in most cases.

### 3.2. Poor Planning

The problem of street children is cross-cutting which needs multi-sectoral planning but the situation is different in Tanzania. For example, there is poor coordination among government departments, that is the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Community Development which is a result of poor planning. One of the Community development officer (CDO) during the interview sessions with him was quoted saying:

"...the problem of street children is a multi-sectoral and hence needs multi-sectoral approach, but recently we have been witnessing social welfare and community development departments are not coordinated. I wonder why the two departments are treated as separate entities while dealing with the same person (Interview, CDO, and July, 2013).

The extracts from this quotation prove that poor government planning in efforts to address the problem of street children. For instance, two departments are serving the same person, but they are working separately though their activities aim at supporting the same child. According to Guga, et al (2009), the two ministries are organized differently. Both ministries have children's departments the Child Development Department (MoCDGC) and the Social Welfare Department (MoHSW). Lefeh (2008) discovered that little coordination of activities exists between government institutions working with street children. This situation has led to duplication of projects and activities for street children and also leading to a waste of resources.

### 3.3. Weak Legislations

One of the major tools of addressing street children is through effective legislations. However, in Tanzania it seems most of the existing laws are not effective enough to combat the ever increasing problem of street children. For instance, one of the social welfare officers (SWO3) had this to say:

"...there is no any country in the world that successfully eliminated the problem of street children. However, in Tanzania laws and policies are in place though not specific to street children but laws and policies without the cost of implementation are likely to be less effective".

From the quotation it is clear that the current policies and legislations have not properly addressed the problem simply because of lack of specific sections that primarily focus on street children and if any do not target at preventive measures. Moreover, the existing laws and policies are difficult to implement due to lack of budget for facilitation of professional staff. Lefeh (2008) holds that, the enactment of various policies and legislation, are not adequate enough to have a positive impact in the lives of street children. In order to have an impact on the general situation of street children nationally, the government needs to double its commitment and efforts in funding and in social service provision by way of costing the implementation of policies and legislations. It can also be noted from the quotation above that the existing legislations have some weaknesses towards addressing the problem of street children. The weak legislations can be evidenced by the Persons with Disability Act No9/2010. This law recognizes the existence of people with disabilities in the society and the right to have children; however, it fails to provide for their children. This is especially pertinent now, that there are an increasing number of people with disabilities with children in the streets, something amounting to street families. It is from this evidence; it can be argued that one among the major challenges with eradicating street children in Tanzania is weak legislations.

Therefore, it is explicit that Tanzanian government has invested much on remedial or treatment measures and less on preventive measures and therefore the tap root of the problem is not yet cut and that is why the situation is continuing getting worse. The existing child law is ineffective as it does not address the root cause. For instance, the Law of the Child,

No.21/2009 which is in place failed to address the underlying causes. For example, under Section 94(4) of this law states "The local government authority shall have the duty to keep a register of most vulnerable children within its area of jurisdiction and give assistance to them whenever possible". This section paints a picture that, in addressing the problem of street children the government has been employing reactive approaches instead of proactive approaches. This means that if Tanzania is address the problem of street children then the focus should not be on treatment of the problem but rather prevention of the problem. Keeping register to identify street children is one of the indications of acceptance of the problem.

### 3.4. Weak Enforcement of Legislations

In Tanzania despite having various laws in place to protect the welfare of children in difficult circumstances including street children, yet these laws remain not adequately implemented. For example, in the interviews with one of the Social Welfare officers (SWO6) it was revealed that:

"I know that there are laws, policies and guidelines that are laid down by the government to ensure that children in difficult circumstances are protected including the street children but the existing laws are not implemented due to limited budget to facilitate different activities related to enforcement of these laws. Besides, there is shortage of social welfare officers in our department to cover the whole region of Kinondoni (Interview, SWO6, July 2013).

It is clear that from the excerpt that although Tanzania has developed a strong legal framework to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, remaining gaps need to be addressed. For instance, efforts have been made to domesticate and implement international provisions through the creation of policy documents and a spectrum of legislation. Although policies have been adopted, they have not been implemented, monitored or evaluated. The greatest challenge is the need for clearly defined systems of enforcement, including strengthened capacity of law enforcers and the judiciary in child protection issues. This lack of enforcement is coupled with a shortage of resources to implement and monitor laws and policies. According to Cumber and Tsoka (2015) African countries including Tanzania have many good national laws and some are specifically aimed at street children, but these laws are often not properly implemented or evaluated. It is clear that if no adequate budget allocated for enforcement of these laws, the welfare of children will be in jeopardy.

### 3.5. Breakdown of Traditional Safety Nets

Thus, families and communities, especially in urban areas no longer take the responsibility to take care of children of their relatives once their parents die. This leaves children alone without financial and social support. As a result of lack of family and government structures to deal with child labour and promote child welfare, children are left at the mercy of the community, more so to fend for themselves. In view of the above, one of the social workers remarked:

"The collapse of the welfare state in Tanzania, as well as the disintegration of extended family system due to modernization and poverty makes it difficult to address street children in Tanzania (Interview, Social Welfare Officer 1, 2013).

Another participant added: Most of children who are coming from families whose parents are either divorced/separated or not known of their whereabouts. As a result children resort to go to the streets to look for food and other supports from good Samaritans (Interview, Social Welfare Officer 6, and July, 2013).

Furthermore, a thirteen years old boy at Magomeni confessed that life at home was very difficult because of separation of his parents. There was no food and other basic amenities of life for all family members. The following extract is what the boy said:

Since the separation of parents our life has changed and we are not able to get meals as required. Our mother tries her best but still things get even worse. Sometimes we only get meals only once per day. We have no alternative means of survival and begging is our last resort (Interview, a 13 years old boy, July, 2013).

It is obvious from the evidence extracted from the quotation that the traditional safety nets including the extended family system is no longer effective (have disintegrated) because of liberalized economy, high poverty levels and HIV/AIDS which deprived children and their families of bread winners. Pre-colonial family structures also had a different system of fostering and child rearing. First, a new born child was the responsibility of the whole community. It was the responsibility of the community to ensure the safe delivery of the new born. Traditionally, taking of child and provision of child's services in Africa used to be the responsibility of each individual member of the society (Rwegoshora, 2002). It has been said that the family is the bedrock of society and can be proven by the fact that all over the world every society is structured by the same pattern. Shorter (1974) observed that in traditional East African societies, children had no need to fend for themselves. A child was educated by the community membership in that community. Children were loved and provided with all the needs by the society. In contrary, nowadays every parent has the responsibility of taking care of his/her children unlike before when the community used to take care of the children of the society as a whole. According to Nukunya (1969), however with the introduction of colonial rule and the rise of money economy, the importance of the family system started to steadily decline. Economic pressures changed the dynamics of relationships within the family, and reduced the family's ability to adequately cater for its members.

Kopoka (2000) coincided with the above argument that in Tanzania, like the rest of African countries the family institution in Africa is going through a lot of upheavals. Fewer and fewer children have stable and loving family environments. Many families have broken up with children left to fend for themselves. Many families are characterized by absent parents/lack of communication between parents and children, alcoholism and domestic violence. Many children run away to the streets to avoid violence and abuse in the family. Mufune (2000) observed that the problem of street children

cannot be complete without an examination into the current family situation in many developing nations. It is evident that the structure of the African family system has undergone tremendous changes. Mufune went much further by noting that these changes in the family structure have occurred mainly owing to modernization. The modernization process in Africa de-emphasized the important role of the extended family system. Therefore, it is clear that the breakdown of the traditional safety nets is one of the major challenges with eradicating street children in Tanzania.

### 3.6. HIV/AIDS

An important cause of street children in Africa is the ravaging effects of HIV/AIDS pandemic. Sub-Saharan African has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS infection and a major cause of death among people aged between 15-49 years (UNAIDS, 1998).

.... It's very challenging to address the problem of street children since number of orphans increases due high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Today HIV/AIDS is no longer an urban problem but even in rural areas many people die because of HIV/AIDS. Generally HIV/AIDS prevail everywhere in our country and one of its consequences is death of breadwinner which ultimately leads to widespread of street children in urban areas.... (Interview, Social Welfare Officer 2, July, 2013).

Another participant said: In my experience as community leader I know that it's true that our streets are full of children roaming around. These children come from different parts of our country including Dar-es-Salaam itself. Most of these children are orphans whose parents have passed away because of different factors but mainly HIV/AIDS. Because of persistence of the disease street children also persists (Interview, Ward Executive Officer, July, 2013).

From the extracts above it is clear that one of the biggest challenge towards eradicating street children in persistence of HIV/AIDS in developing countries including Tanzania. According to UNAIDS (1998) street children in Africa is the ravaging effects of HIV/AIDS pandemic. Evidence suggests that sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS infection and a major cause of death among people aged between 15-49 years (UNAIDS, 1998). With estimated deaths of 2 million annual in Africa as a result of HIV/AIDS, many children are left orphaned with the streets providing a ready avenue for survival. According to Evens (2002) children whose parent(s) died from AIDS, are vulnerable to rejection by the relative, due to the AIDS stigma and are susceptible to exploitation and harassment as domestic servants within the extended family or in wealthier households in urban areas. As a results children roam on the streets as street beggars. In general, street life poses grave problems to the children which in one way or another the conditions of life of street children are a violation of these human rights (Rose, 2002). Social workers as change agents, have a role to play through direct and indirect social work practices with the aim of bringing up social well-being of street children. The mission of social work is to work on behalf of vulnerable groups including street children in order to promote their social functioning and ensure their rights remain respected. Right to respect for human dignity and equal protection under the law is upheld for everyone including street children (Doek, 2006). This also is coinciding with the code of ethics of social work which stresses social workers to apply their professional ethical responsibilities to promote the general welfare of the societal members particularly the marginalized and oppressed groups including street children.

The ethical principle of social work emphasizes social workers to advocate for living condition of vulnerable groups and make them fulfil their basic needs through promoting social, economic, political and cultural values and institutions that are compatible with the realization of social justice (National Association of Social Workers, 1996). Although there are divergent views regarding the purpose of social work, there would probably be consensus that it is "fundamentally concerned with intervening into the lives of people who are vulnerable, in need, at risk or traumatized as well as those who constitutes a risk to others" (Alcock&Ferguson,2012,cited in Becker, Bryman and Ferguson,2012). Furthermore, the historical analysis show that the pioneers of social work including Mary Richmond and Jane Addams developed innovative activities, with vulnerable groups including street children in the Settlements and Hull Houses (Carvalho, 2012 ). Social work is practiced by with the aim of improving conditions for people suffering from social deprivation. The principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental in order to perform social work (Hare, 2000).

### 4. Limitations of the Study

This study has a limitation inherent that might hinder the effectiveness of the research process. The main limitations of this study is that it was conducted in Kinondoni Municipality only and the small sample size of respondents drawn from within a limited geographic area due to limited time and financial constraints. The population and resulting sample resides in Kinondoni Municipality and does not present the population impacted by imprisonment in other Municipalities of Dar-es-Salaam city. Therefore, any generalizations of the results obtained for this study made should be limited to the population from which the sample was selected and remain specific to the study areas. However, despite this limitation, it is expected that the results could benefit the organizations concerned with child protection and human rights activists in other areas. The findings are also beneficial to the Department of Social Welfare officer since it is the custodian of all children in Tanzania on behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

### 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is also discovered from this study that the biggest challenge with eradicating street children in Tanzania include: poverty, poor planning, weak legislations and weak enforcement of legislations. Other challenges include; the breakdown of traditional safety nets and HIV/AIDS epidemic. In light of these findings it can be argued that in order to effectively eradicate the problem of street children, first and foremost the strategies designed should be able to reflect the realities

and be able to adequately address the aforementioned challenges. If this does not happen, the ambition to combat street children is likely to be a far-reaching dream.

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