

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**THE PHENOMENON OF STREETISM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN THE
HO MUNICIPALITY**



**A Thesis in the Department of Social Studies Education,
Faculty of Social Science, submitted to the School of
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of the requirements for the award of the degree of
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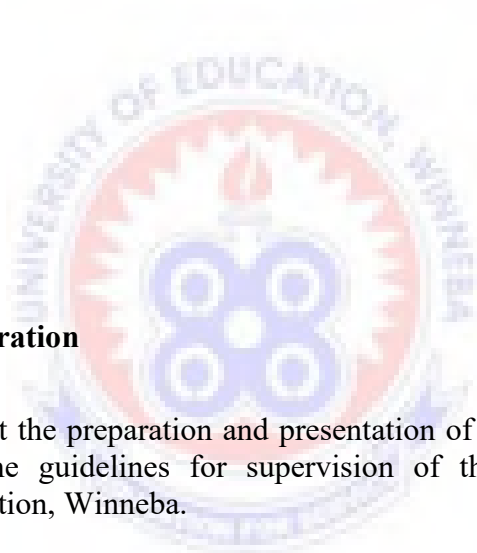
DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Evanam Hamenu, declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

Signature.....

Date.....



Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Vincent Azahlie-Mensah

Signature.....

Date.....

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to all street children in the Ho Municipality



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First, I would like to thank the Almighty God who granted me grace and wisdom to complete this work. In the same vein, I wish to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Vincent Azahli-Mensah for his mentorship, guidance, supervision, objective criticisms, suggestions, and corrections which contributed immensely to the completion of this thesis.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

NGO	Non - Governmental Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
UNESCO	United Nations Education Social and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children Emergency Fund
CAS	Catholic Action for Street Children
UN	United Nations
S C	Street Children
CSC	Consortium for Street Children
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
PROTOA	Progressive Transport Owner's Association
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour

ABSTRACT

Child streetism is a deviation from normal social life in society and proper child growth and development. It is a serious challenge which has been on the ascendancy regardless of uncountable barrier and interventions put forward by past and present governments and development partners like non-governmental agencies. This project sought out to explore the phenomenon of Streetism in the Ho municipality. The study employed a qualitative approach and phenomenological design were employed. The objectives used for the study were to analyse the nature of streetism in the Ho municipality, assess the push and pull factors underling streetism in the Ho municipality and assess the consequences of streetism in the Ho municipality. Interviews and focus group discussions were the main instruments used for the data collection. The study also looked at the risk and the features of street children, their activities, and sleeping places. The study took a purposive sample of street children, the staff of the Department of Social Welfare, The Municipal Chief Executive the Regional Coordinator of DOVVSU. The sample size for the study was thirteen, comprising of eight (8) street children, six (6) stakeholders. The study discovered that divorce, poverty, large family size, and urbanization contribute to streetism while the children on the street come from neighbouring rural areas. The implications are that a lot of human resources go down the drain, an increase in illiteracy and a threat to societal peace as some streetists grow to become armed robbers, prostitutes, and associated crime will be on the increase. The prescribed recomendations were; extension of social amenities to the rural settings will not only provide entertainment to sustain the youth interest in the rural areas but as a push factor to investors to open up businesses. when implemented will assist in lessening the Phenomenon if not totally rooting it out. ` The study also got the following findings; Street children exist and it`s a global phenomenon but predominant in large proportions in cities and towns with daily increases. Children in the street are classified as criminals as a result of the kind of work they do on the street. The Social Welfare Department of Ho Municipal should periodically embark on villages „tours“ to give a talk on the consequences of broken homes, migration, peer group influence, and death of a parent on the child. This will at least make an impact to reduce the dissolution of marriages which is a major cause of streetism in the Municipality.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Across the world, children are regarded and presented as the hope of society and humanity. Through children, societies reproduce themselves, establish nexus with successive generations and thereby keep the wheel rolling. However, children are not people of tomorrow alone. They are still individuals in themselves with needs to be attended to right at the present (Belay, 2007).

The circumstances and experiences of street children, including abuse, sexual and physical from other children, sleeping on pavements and engaging in survival activities, which in most cases bothers on criminality. Children as young as nine years old, fending for themselves on the street by engaging in odd jobs under the watchful eyes of the whole society is a travesty of human responsibility. Their complex way of survival is indeed difficult to comprehend. In most cases, their lives were reduced to the lowest ebb of human dignity, and society allowed it to continue. A common stand was to blame the children for their circumstances. Many of the children did not experience a childhood where they were assured of protection, safety, and care from adults. Rather, the day to day survival thrust these children into a kind of instant adulthood, even though many children were under ten years old.

Society's obligation in protecting one of its most vulnerable people was neglected, with the vacuum filled by ill-equipped non-governmental organizations, who lack the basic understanding of the circumstances of the children. These children have become part of the urban landscape, yet they remain invisible in the larger scheme of things.

The State of the World's Children report 2006 posits that;

“Street children are among the most physically visible of all children, living and working on the roads and public squares of cities all over the world. Yet, paradoxically, they are also among the most invisible and, therefore, hardest children to reach with vital services, such as education and health care, and the most difficult to protect (p.40)”.

Their existence on the streets evokes a lot of passions not because of the circumstances that necessitated their existence, but because of the competition of street children with other users of the public space. These include the general public, business owners, and city officials particularly the police, due to the perception that street children are prone to criminal activities. The phenomenon where children have become "adults" and are to fend for themselves is a failure on the part of society to protect its most vulnerable members.

The problem of street children is a worldwide phenomenon. Many capitals and urban centers of the world have become a haven of survival for many children in distress.

For instance, LeRoux and Sylvia (1998) indicate that;

“The street children phenomenon is an alarming and escalating worldwide problem. Street children are maltreated, imprisoned, and in some countries killed. The phenomenon of street children, and offspring of the modern urban environment, represents one of humanity’s most complex and serious challenges”.

LeRoux and Sylvia's findings point to a problematic phenomenon that is emerging and threatening the very fabric of our societal advancement. The problems facing the 21st-century child is further embodied in the report of The State of the World's Children 2005, from the United Nations, “Childhood Under Threat”, that more than 1 billion children are denied a healthy and protected upbringing as promised by 1989's Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 2005). This coupled with the growing disparity in incomes between the rural and the urban, and unequal development between the industrialized north and the developing south further exacerbates the already difficult circumstances of deprived children. The situation of

children in Africa in the 21st century presents a challenge to all stakeholders in society. Mwansa, Mufune -Hwedie (1994) maintain that the street children phenomenon has become one of the biggest problems of social welfare in most African countries. The condition of children living and working on the streets of most urban areas in Africa has assumed problematic dimensions because many people are beginning to identify with the situation as needing urgent and pragmatic attention. Unfortunately, the realization of the problematic nature of the street children phenomenon did not correspond with an aggressive response from governments to deal with the problem.

Epstein (1996) asserts that the inaction of governments of developing states is a result of many factors. Among other things, he posits that;

“subject to influences of several external economic dependency and or internal civil strife, most of the institutional apparatuses that have been created in support of the state are immature or incomplete and are unable to fulfill the mandates that would offer the promise of broad social and political inclusivity (p. 296)”.

The social and political accountability of most African societies to these children is non-existent and to a large extent not challenged either by internal or external elements. The plight of these children is thus left in their own hands or on some few NGOs who are limited by their function and resources to deal effectively with the situation.

The escalating proportions of children surviving on the urban streets in Africa (Mwansa, Mufune & Osei-Hwedie, 1994), and other developing states including Ghana should prompt an engagement among the various stakeholders in the society to begin to open up a dialogue on the concept of the child in Africa. The African child

does not only have limited access to basic resources but in many instances has been denied the right to childhood.

Stephens (1995) contends that the dominion of childhood has been threatened, invaded, and polluted by adults. Stephens further asserts that children in many instances are perceived as miniature adults and not as biologically immature human beings. Children are thus entrapped in a quagmire of social, political, and cultural misunderstandings. Scheper-Hughes and Sargent (1998) assert that children "exist in a social liminal realm, vilified as dangerous and antisocial dwarves-enemies of families and civilized society" (p.26).

In Ghana, it is a common feature to see children ranging between the ages of 10 -15 years roaming the street and engaging in menial jobs for their survival. For some time now, street children and youth have been the focus of attention from government agencies, NGOs, academics, and the general society around the world. The phenomenon of street children is a problem with a worldwide strand and numerous capital cities and urban centres across the globe are now a haven of survival for many of these children, more so in Africa (Boakye-Boaten, 2006, p. 3).

The Ghana Government, since 1997, has put several important measures in place to curb, if not eliminate, this problem and to bring Ghana into conformity with the international human rights standards on children. These measures include The Child Rights Legislative Reforms (the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 1998, (Act 554), The Children's Act 1998, (Act 560), and Child Rights Regulations 2002 (LI1705).

Despite all these measures put in place to curb Streetism, the phenomenon is growing fast in the Ho municipality. As such, this research explores the nature of streetism in the Ho township, examining the push and the pull factors, and the perspective of the street children.

1.2 Problem Statement

Childhood is a period when one is cherished and the expectation is that children will grow up and become responsible adults based on the training and education they acquire when growing up. Children naturally need care which is usually provided by parents, guardians, adults, as well as the institution of state for good health, education, physical growth, personality development as well as progress.

Globally, childhood presents a period in one's life where the child may be regarded or seen as incapable of looking after him/herself thus needing the care and support of family to survive (Mintz, 2004). Others also explained that childhood is synonymous with innocence; this is because it is a time when children are spared the rigours of adult's life; a time of freedom, of joy, and play (Ansel, 2005; Freeman, 1992). Childhood is considered as a period of socialization in which children grow toward autonomy as self-providing and responsible individuals who can and participate in society (Moran-Ellis, 2008).

A child is expected to be located within a home or family setting. Within this setting, family members, especially parents, take care of the health, nutritional and educational needs of the child. Children are therefore not in a position to provide these things for themselves. Besides the parental warmth children receive at home, they are also given guidance and counselling which prepares them to face difficulties they might encounter outside the home.

Although childhood is believed to be, at best, located within the sanctity of a home, large numbers of the population of children in the world are not receiving adequate care from those this is expected of. As a result, the majority of these children are compelled to explore and experience life on the street without parental or adult supervision. children are supervised by parents to ensure adherence to the norms, etiquette, morals, and societal values concerning what they say, do, and where they go. In this regard, Salm and Falola (2004) assert that elders in society give moral and ethical instructions to children so that they can fully grasp what is required of them and to satisfy the needs of the community and understand its traditions.

The phenomenon of children living, working, and on the street is a global problem, affecting developed and developing countries alike, although the magnitude of the problem varies with less developed countries facing more acute problems (Kilbride, et al., 2000), Lugalla and Kibassa 2003). Similarly, it is generally acknowledged that such children represent some of the most vulnerable social groups in the world today (Lugalla et al., 2002). They are a disadvantaged group who suffer double jeopardy, first as children, and secondly as street children“ (Mbunda 2000). While street children are „marginalized children who require enormous assistance“ (Lugalla et al., 2003), they are often the least assisted in a society. Based on the situations reflected above, this study is aimed at exploring the phenomenon of Streetism in the Ho municipality since we only think about it as a phenomenon in the cities.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to study the phenomenon of Streetism and its consequences in the Ho municipality.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study seeks to:

- i Assess the nature of streetism in the Ho municipality.
- ii Assess the push and pull factors underlining streetism in the Ho Municipality
- iii Examine the consequences of Streetism in the Ho municipality.

1.5 Research Questions

- i What is the nature of streetism in the Ho Municipality?
- ii What are the push and pull factors underlining streetism in the Ho Municipality?
- iii What are the consequences of streetism in the Ho Municipality?

1.6 Significance of the Study

It has been argued that research work should be sufficiently significant to both academicians and policymakers. The results of the study will add to the body of academic knowledge that already exists in the field of streetism. That is, it will help fill the gap created as a result of little attention being given to the problem of Streetism in Ghana.

The study will also be beneficial to people and institutes who work closely with street children or are interested in their wellbeing. They include care homes and politicians.

Furthermore, the results of the study will equip stakeholders such as the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare and other NGOs. These stakeholders would be better informed about what the street children go through to initiate appropriate policies to address their challenges. Knowledge of and insights into Streetism, child neglect would also be used to direct community-based educational programmes for social welfare and health agencies that provide services to children persons who may have

experienced neglect. This information on streetism would enrich the knowledge base of advocates in the community, who in turn would be able to educate children to prevent them from being neglected.

This study will also engender research attitudes in both the researcher and research assistants who will be involved in the conduct of this study. That is, as a form of empirical study, it will lend itself to scientific ways of solving social problems.

1.7 Delimitation

The study deals with the phenomenon of Streetism and its consequences in the Ho Municipality. The focus of the study was on the exploration of the nature of Streetism in the Ho Municipality, the push and pull factors underlying the phenomenon of streetism in the Ho Municipality, the views of street children concerning the consequences.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into five major chapters. Chapter one consists of the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the objectives of the study, the research questions, the significance of the study, the delimitations, the limitations, the organization of the study, and the operational definition of terms. Chapter two deals with the literature review. The researcher in this chapter reviewed relevant literature in themes. Chapter three is on research methodology. This includes the research design, setting, population, sample and sampling procedure, data collection instruments, pilot testing of instruments, data collection procedure/process, data analysis procedure, issues for trustworthiness, and related ethical issues. The fourth chapter deals with data presentation, analysis, and discussion per the research questions. Lastly, the fifth chapter comprises the summary

of the study from which conclusions are drawn and recommendations and suggestions for further research are made.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The literature was reviewed under the themes; the nature of streetism, the pull and push factors underlying streetism, the perception of street children about streetism in the Ho Municipality, consequences of Streetism in the Ho Municipality.

2.1 Theoretical Framework of the Study

Since the 1950s, researchers have tried to understand and explain why people do what they do (Pickens, 2005). Although many possible theories could be drawn from social psychology for the study, Ajzen's theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) fits well within the study. TPB is a theory of attitude behaviour relations whose main premise is that behavioral intention is the direct antecedent of behaviour (Boarnet and Crane, 2001). According to the theory, a behavioral intention indicates not only a desire to act (as attitude alone does) but also a commitment to act. Intention strength is therefore a measure of the likelihood that one will perform a behaviour (Ajzen, 1991; Boarnet, 2001).

This theory explains three determinants of factors or intentions (Ajzen & Driver, 2001, p.208). The first includes "attitudes towards the behaviour" which concerns favourable or unfavourable judgments of people about a particular behaviour. In the case of this study, this factor relates to societies", stakeholders, families, parents" and children"s support or opposition to streetism or not to undertake a particular behaviour. This can be connected to social factors. The second factor is "subjective norms" and this has to do with social pressure to undertake including peer pressure, cultural and economic issues encouraging or discouraging children from becoming

street children. Finally, “perceived behavioural control” as a determining factor of TPB, refers to the ability or inability, ease or difficulty to undertake the behaviour including former experiences and obstructions that come with it. Relating this to the study reflects the ability or inability of societies, families, parents, and stakeholders to provide support systems for needy children. Also, this includes how informed or ignorant societies, families, and stakeholders are about streetism how easy or difficult it will be and the challenges they will face in preventing streetism. If parents, families, and stakeholders do not provide the child with their basic needs, they create the behavioral intention of moving into the street. In brief, the more supportive societies, families, parents, and stakeholders are in terms of attitude and the subjective norms of their communities regarding the concerns of streetism, the more they will have perceived behaviour control and stronger intention to provide support, shelter, care, and love for the needy children in our societies. The attitude is applied in the study as the child's feelings and evaluation of moving into the street. Does the child see this action as good or bad? If the child feels that the street is better than home, then he considers the idea of moving into the street. The subjective Norm can be explained as society’s view about the behavior of Streetism that is stakeholders are not so sure if they could completely frown on the phenomenon. Children move into the street; society engages in their services. Though life in the street becomes very tough they still survive it. A child who knows this and has conceived the idea will happily move into the street. Perceived behavioural control can be applied to the study as, where the child has control over his intention or action. If he believes that he can successfully act, then he moves into the street. Children who end up in the street actually plan to go to the street. Therefore, I recommend some survival strategies to move them from the street.

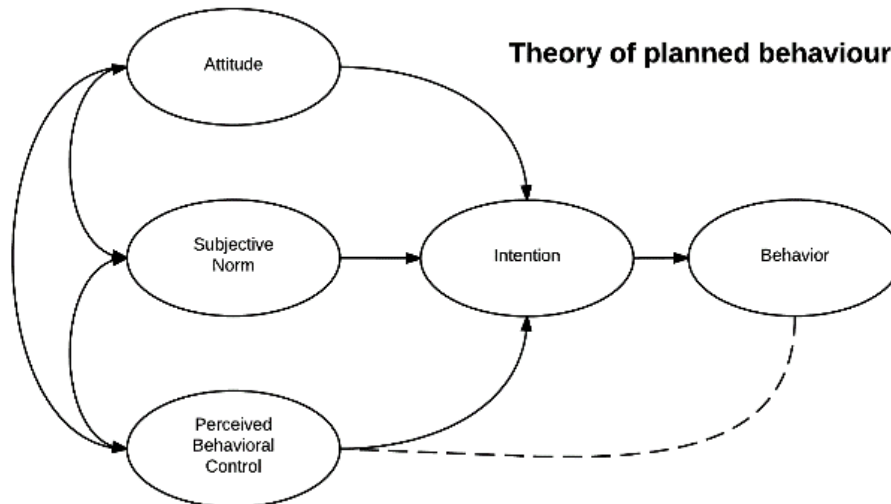


Figure: 2.1 Theory of planned behaviour

(Source: Ajzen & Driver, 2001)

2.2 The Nature of Streetism

The phenomenon of Streetism is a situation surrounded by children „in“ and „on“ the street. Though there are adults who live in the streets of the cities, municipalities, and even in the markets in towns, the phenomenon is mostly comfortably associated with children hence the literature looked at the concept of Streetism from the view of children.

At the hub of research on the phenomenon of street children is a controversy surrounding the acceptance of a common definition for the term street children. There have been so many discrepancies in the attempt to provide an all-encompassing definition and typology for the term. There are those definitions adopted by non-governmental agencies, academics and researchers, and the media; and another considered a legal definition adopted by various legislators. The issue of measurability and accessibility, the elements of time and space as well as the idea that individuals are active agents in the construction of social reality have made researchers hesitant to accept any one particular definition for street children as

universal (Ennew & Swart-Kruger, 2003). Compared to other categories of children who might be identified by their physical and mental abilities, street children cannot be described by precise criteria. Rather, theirs, *street children*, is a generic term that denotes young people with a special relationship to the street, their families, and the public at large (Bar-on, 1997).

The term “street children” is commonly used in Africa and South-America, while in Europe, North-America, and Australia, the terms homeless children, runaways, throwaways, and push-outs are more common (Le Roux and Smith, 1998). The widely accepted definition of the term is the one provided by the United Nations (UN):

Any boy or girl for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults (Lusk, 1992, p.294).

Although widely accepted, the foregoing definition also has its share of controversy. (Muchini; UNICEF, 2001) notes the problems associated with the last part of this widely accepted definition of a street child: and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults. Muchini (2007) contends that this part of the definition fails to acknowledge the role played by children in shaping their destiny. Again, this part reflects society’s perception of a child as someone who must live within boundaries delineated by adults. According to Corsaro and Johannesen (2007), children actively make contributions to the culture and cultural changes but do not merely internalize society. Muchini presupposes that it might be possible that more and more parents are unable to adequately protect, supervise, or direct and

provide for their children. The result is that these children assume the roles that were originally considered parental roles. This indicates that these children assume the role of taking care of themselves.

In a report by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa (Schurink and Mathye, 1993), a street child is,

“Any girl or boy who is under the age of eighteen and who has left his/her home environment part-time or permanently (because of problems at home and/or in school, or try to alleviate those problems) and who spends most of his/her time unsupervised on the street as part of a subculture of children who live an unprotected communal life and who depend on themselves and each other, and/or not on an adult, for the provision of physical and emotional needs, such as food, clothing, nurturance, direction, and socialization”.

Three elements common to street children could be deduced from the various aforementioned definitions: the children live or spend a significant amount of their time on the street; the street is the children's source of livelihood; and street children are inadequately cared for, protected, or supervised by responsible adults. Again, irrespective of which authority defines street children, the children's relationship with their family is considered a crucial element of the definition (Le Roux and Smith; 1998).

Equally important, the term “street children” is a repository of various typologies. The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF; 1984), provides three types of street children: children at risk“, „children *on* the street“ and „Children *of* the streets“. Children at risk, live in families but work on the streets to supplement the family income. They are poor children with particular risk factors, such as poverty and lack of schooling that may lead to their expulsion from the home and spending their life on

the street. According to UNICEF, this is the largest group; they are children of the urban poor and they form the reservoir from which street children spring.

Children „on“ the street work on the street during the day and return home at night. Their jobs often consist of menial labour, such as shoe shining; selling confectionery, lottery tickets, magazines, and newspapers; carrying goods, and peddling cigarettes among other things. A significant number attend school on a part-time basis (Lalor, 1999). They sometimes have some family support but usually, they live, sleep, and work on the street without any family support.

Children „of“ the streets have very limited family contact and very remote family ties. The main living place for the children is on the street. A subgroup of this category, according to UNICEF, is abandoned street children, who have no contact with their parents; this includes orphans, runaways, refugees, and others who have no contact with careers. In terms of lifestyle and daily activities, abandoned street children are very similar to children *of* the street. They are distinguishable, in that, all ties with family have been severed, either through death, displacement, or abandonment (Lalor; 1999).

Apteker (1994), however, sees the phenomenon of street children as a *process* (but not in discrete categories) starting with the potential street child spending a small amount of time away from home, and progressing gradually to the total adoption of the street lifestyle and culture. Researchers have identified these *categories of street children* and their *process* of formation in Ghana and other parts of Africa (Donald & Swart-Kruger, 1994; Ennew & Swart-Kruger, 2003; Le Roux & Smith, 1998; Orme & Seipel, 2007; Schurink & Mathye, 1993; Wutoh et al., 2006).

Thomas (1998) asserts that street children vary, although much research distinguishes two groups: home base, who usually return home at night, and street base who remain on the street and have no family support. The expression “street children” was first utilized by Henry Mayhew in the year 1851 when stating “London Labor London Poor” although it came into general use simply after the United Nations Year of the Child in 1979. Before these street children were alluded to as destitute, relinquished, or runaways, most meanings of street children focus on only attributes: nearness to the city and contact with the family.

In 1986, UNICEF defined three categories that relate essentially to the Third World

- children working on the street but living with their families. They are the so-called “candidates of the street”
- “children on the street”. Home base children who spend much of the day on the street but have some family support and usually return home at night;
- “children of the street” street base children who spend most of days and nights on the street and are functionally without family support (Williams, 1993).

The UNICEF definition was developed with Latin America in mind, where studies suggest that 80% to 90% of street children have some contact with their family. It may be inappropriate for some countries such as India, where often most families remain on the street. (Thomas et al.,1998).

In Ghana, two main types of street children have been identified by previous studies (CAS, 2003; CSC, 2003): the typical street child who lives and works on the street; and the urban poor child who survives daily on the street but still has some family ties. Both groups live in sub-standard shelters, sometimes attend school, and go onto the street mainly to engage in economic activities.

Most of the literature reviewed about the definition of streetism gave different views. Some were of the view that street children are those children who work on the street and are not protected by adults. Also, others are of the view that; the children live or spend a significant amount of their time on the street; the street is the children's source of livelihood; and street children are inadequately cared for, protected, or supervised by responsible adults. Street children are defined as boys and girls who spend most of their productive time in the street are less than 18 years these children are sent to the street by some adults and stay on the street with them to protect.

2.3 How People Perceive Streetism

Children and adolescents are expected to be at home or in school, but not in the streets without an adult's supervision. This fact according to De Moura (2002), results in street children portrayed as exhibiting socially unacceptable qualities and behaviour thereby placing them at the fringes of society. Street children are not part of the larger community they form small communities on their own; a sub – culture, which grows within a larger culture (CAS, 1996).

This situation can be likened to an in-group versus out-group phenomenon. The in-group represents the wider community, and the out-group, the street children, where the wider community has a lot of prejudices and stereotypes about the street children and vice versa. As acknowledged by others (Payne, 2004; Tipple & Speak, 2009), a series of self-reinforcing perceptions of the public help to keep street children (and other homeless people) as „others“ and „out of place“ in society.

Despite the resilience developed by street children to make up for, virtually, all the inadequacies in their lives, they still find themselves, on daily basis, battling marginalization from the urban society. (Koller & Hutz, 2001).

Campbell and Williams (2007) assert that street children are marginalized and rejected by virtually all sections of the urban community and are relegated, inevitably, to the position of social rejection. Tipple and Speak (2004) found that these negative attributions and ill-informed perceptions of the larger society about street children are self – reinforcing and serve to keep homeless children and people excluded from society. They tend to society instead of being viewed as children with problems who need help from society (Corsaro, 2011). They are seen as victims because they do not have shelter, clothes, food, or adult protection; they have to work on the streets instead of going to school, are sexually exploited, and so on. They are also perceived as transgressors because they often use drugs, commit robbery, make noise, and are grouped in threatening gangs. The adult environment is usually very hostile to street children because the street is traditionally not a place for children (Koller & Hutz, 2001; Scheper- Hughes, 1995). These negative perceptions and attitudes consequently lead to poorly designed and inefficient intervention programmes aimed at grappling with the street children phenomenon in Ghana (Boakye- Boaten. 2006).

The general perception of the public towards street children is generally negative. The public perception and hostilities against street children according to Aptekar (1995) is a result of the children being treated in aggregate, and the total disregard for their individual and personal predicaments. Thus, irrespective of the unique characteristics and predicaments of each child, they are all lumped together and treated with scorn.

Le Roux (1998) postulates that “adults” negative interpretations of the lifestyle and hostile condemnatory responses to street children would seem to make it almost impossible for them to retain healthy self-esteem” This is also translated in the provisions of services and the general attitude of most government agencies. For

instance, Wilson and Arnold (1986) maintain that there are few safety nets for street children because they are alienated from society and are regarded as deviants and social misfits. This stereotypical ascription of street children holds them in contempt for their existence within a society that is organized by rules and regulations. Street children are considered immoral and their long relationship with the street earns them their criminal status. However, Swart-Kruger and Donald (1994), argue that street children, to survive in a world that has alienated them, employ lying and deceitful tactics. The chaotic circumstances of the world of street children could be better understood by appreciating the traumatized engagement that characterizes their existence in a space they are unappreciated and unwanted. Their frustrations and resentments of the treatment meted to them by society are sometimes vented through a perpetuation of violence against society (Swart, 1988). It has also been suggested that the deviant behaviour of street children could be as a result of the depravity of their fundamental social needs, including food and shelter, security, and the affection of a peaceful and loving family (Paton, 1990).

The literature specifically said a lot about how society perceived street children. From the literature, street children are perceived as criminals. I agree with Swart, 1988 that because the children lack fundamental social need like food, and shelter. These children are perceived as people who do not belong to the large community but rather belong to their own world this make them move on to the street. That is why the theory of plan behavior was used to remind the society and the stakeholders that, the failure in performing their duties made the child move and stay in the street.

2.4 To What Extent Do People Know About Street Children

Every city in the world has some street children, including the biggest and richest cities in the industrialized world (UNICEF, 2006). The State of the World's Children report (UNICEF, 2003) estimated that 100 million children were growing up on urban streets around the world. Three years later the same report (UNICEF, 2006) acknowledges that:

The exact number of street children is impossible to quantify, but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. The numbers are likely increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continues apace (pp.40-41).

Similarly, the Consortium for Street Children (CSC, 2009) contends that it is debatable whether the numbers of street children are growing globally or whether it is the awareness of street children within societies that have grown. While there are understandable pressures for policies to be informed by aggregate numbers, an estimate of the street child population, even at city levels, are often hotly disputed and can distract rather than inform policymakers (CSC 2009, UNICEF, 2006) observed the situation as follows:

Street children are among the most physical visible of all children, living and working on the roads and public squares of cities all over the world. Yet, paradoxically, they are almost invisible and, therefore, hardest children to reach with vital services, such as education and health care, and the most difficult to protect (p.40).

Thus, the nature of the lifestyle of street children is associated with such fluidity that it is virtually impossible to get data that can stand the test of time on the phenomenon. This has however not deterred researchers from undertaking demographic and other studies aimed at identifying street children in the cities of the world.

Across the African continent, the figures are staggering. Statistics released by the CSC (2009) show that around one million children (of which a greater proportion had dropped out of school and a significant number had never been to school) are believed to be on the streets of Egypt, most in Cairo and Alexandria. This high number was found to be a result of child abuse (at home or work); neglect; peer pressure; and sensation seeking. The report further showed that conservative estimates indicated that 300,000 children live and work on the streets of Kenya with over 50% of them concentrated in and around the capital of Nairobi. In order to survive on the streets, these children were found to often beg, carry luggage, or clean business premises and vehicles. Some collect garbage, and help load and unload market goods, earning them up to a dollar (US 1) a day, and girls are forced to resort to prostitution to get cloth or food. Over 95% of the children in the Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, have been stigmatized as “witches” by pastors and abandoned to live on the streets by their parents. There are estimated 10 – 12,000 homeless children in South Africa. These children find disintegration and HIV/AIDS. The situation is not very different from other African countries including cities in Ethiopia (Abebe,2008), Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, and Ghana.

Studies (usually, surveys) aimed at providing information on street children’s background and estimate the number of street children has been carried out across the 10 regions of Ghana. According to the Catholic Action for Street Children’s “headcount” statistics, there were 10,401 street children in Accra alone as of 1996 (CAS, 1996). Beauchemin (1999), in a seminal study on the problems of street children in Ghana under the co-sponsorship of CAS and UNICEF, showed that about 15,000 children were living and working in the streets of Accra. The headcount

repeated in 2002 by CAS estimated that there were 19,196 street children in Accra alone (Hatloy & Huser, 2005).

According to Baah (2007), a statistic in 2003 showed that about 23,000 porters roamed the streets of Kumasi (the capital city of the Ashanti Region), with the number increasing each day. Baah explains that mostly these porters are indigenes from the three northern regions; their business is to carry any load whether heavy or light for a fee. The charge depends on the load size and distance involved. The female carries the loads with head pans whereas; their male counterparts do so with their trucks. Another headcount by Catholic Action for street children again in 2006 amount to 21,143 which confirmed the increasing number of street children in Greater Accra alone. CAS research found the new group of children that fall into two main categories called the „urban poor“ and „second generation“. The urban poor are those who have a „home kind of home“ to go to at the end of the day on the street or can choose to go home or not. The Second generation children“ on the other hand, are children who are born on the street with their „parents“ also being children living on the street who are below the age of 18years. CAS (2009 P.3) categorizes the results of the „headcount“ of street children and young mothers in the different parts of Accra as follows 21,140 street children; 6,000 street babies; „mothers“ under the age of 20; and 14,050 urban poor children (most likely at high risk of coming to the street)

Nationwide, some 50,000 street children (between the ages of 10 and 18, though many are far younger) are believed to be living in Ghana, and Takoradi are ranked second and the respectively concerning the number of street children living in the cities (Wutoh et al, 2006). According to Orme and Seipel (2007), some public social welfare agencies (e.g. the integrated community for Employment Skills and the

National Youth Council) offer several services from job training to shelter to help the children seldom use these public Social services even when they are available to meet their needs. Some children feel public agencies are either too strict or ask too many questions (Orme & Seipel, 2007).

2.5 Push and Pull Factors Underlying Streetism

The reason why children migrate to the street can be identified as “pull and push” factors (West 2003; Raffaelli et al.,2001:407; Human and Thomass,2008; Ward and Seager, 2010:87). “push” factors can be described as those factors involve situations where children are attracted to go to the streets, whereas “pull” factors involved situations where children are attracted by excitement, independence and the „glamorous life“ on the street (Human and Thomas, 2008:208).” push” factors typically include unemployment, poverty, child abuse, overcrowding, family disintegration, failure at school, alcohol abuse by parents, alternative care facilities, and family violence (Waed & Seager, 2010).

A Ghanaian study about the perspective of the street children’s parents (Alenoma; 2012:77) also showed that parents believe that street children’s exodus to the street may be due to reasons such as wanting to learn a trade, a gap in the educational system at the basic level, children learn to raise pocket money for school the next day, poverty, divorce or separation, a need for children to support guardian in return for support for further education, guardian too old to work and provide household, avoiding idleness at home and raising money to buy cooking wares.

2.5.1 Family/parental conflict

For instance, the reasons for children leaving their homes have been well documented by various authors. One of the salient points of consideration has been family or

parental conflict (Bradley, 1997). These conflicts in many instances result in abuse of the child. The conflict may arise due to a clash of values of the parents and that of the children. Children at a certain point also rebel against parental control towards an acclamation of independence.

The decision to leave home according to Miller et al. (1990) is oftentimes a reaction to stressful situations and conflicts based on gross irrational beliefs. The street is perceived by these children as an abode of freedom, negating the consequential effects associated with street life. Indeed, Lundy (1995) posits that among the homeless children she interviewed, a majority claimed that the most singular factor that precipitated their flight from the home to the streets was conflictual situations with the parents. The literature highlighted above only provides the profile of the street children, but not programs to enhance their reintegration into society.

2.5.2 Verbal and physical abuse

Among the reasons why children leave their homes for the streets is physical abuse. According to Russell (1998), these push factors account for the situations of about 79.3% of the homeless street children who report some history of physical abuse. Russell answers that extreme physical abuse in the home promotes rebellious attitudes among many adolescents, who may perceive leaving the home as the only opportunity towards emancipation. Suffice to mention that in many developing nations, traditional practices in most cases clash with modern societal orientation. For instance, traditional authoritative sanctions and a growing assertion of individual rights and freedoms are highly contentious issues. For a child, these traditional sanctions which were hitherto seen as appropriate punitive measures are perceived to be an affront to his or her rights and freedoms.

Verbal and physical abuse and condition of neglect also drive children from home. some of the families of street children are headed by mothers who are victims of abusive male partners. The mothers have no alternative but to endure because she needs the male partner for economic survival. These children run away from home due to poor relationships with their step-parents (Apteker, 1986).

Some children are on the street in many developing countries because they have no suitable homes. some have families that live in very cramped conditions, perhaps one room or even a room shared with another family, as children reach the adolescent stage, they are no longer able to live in such conditions and opt for the street (Lucchini, 1996).²⁵ state: the dimensions of the accommodations are too small to allow any intimacy.

The child is the most precious asset and the focal point of development for the country. However, unless children are brought up in a stimulating and conducive environment getting the best care and protection, their physical, mental, emotional, and social development is susceptible to permanent damage. Africa is one of the least developed continents in the world due to interrelated complex socio-economic factors including man-made and natural calamities, a large portion of the population especially children are victimized by social evil like famine, disease, poverty, mass displacement, lack of education, and family instability. Because children are the most vulnerable group among the whole society and also because they constitute half of the population, it is evident that a considerable number of children are leaving under difficult circumstances, therefore, as in the number of the most third world countries, there are many poor, displaced, unaccompanied, and orphan children. In our country, a considerable proportion of these children work on the street with some even totally

living on the street without any adult care and protection. These children are forced to the street in their tight survival. They supplement their parents' meagre income or support themselves with the small incomes they earn doing menial jobs (Veale et al. 1993).

2.5.3 Poverty

Poverty is the main cause of child streetism and children seek to work. Poor parents send their children to the work, not out of choice, but for a reason of economic expediency. The hunting ground for the child traffickers is in variable areas of the most extreme poverty where families have exhausted all other strategies for survival. Poverty is also a symptom of child labour. Daniel of education blocks the escape route from poverty for the next generation of the household (Muchini, 2001).

Family poverty features prominently in the works of Alenoma (2012), Apt and Grieco (1997), Cambel and Ntsabane (1995), Korboe (1995), Hatloy and Husser (2005) as a cause of child streetism. Alenoma (2012) researched Tamale to uncover „parental perspective on child streetism in Tamale, Ghana. In her research, she purposely interviewed 80 street children and 80 guardians of the interviewed street children using snowballing. She found out that most of the parents were poor and they encouraged their children to move to the street to help raise money to support the family becomes a push factor responsible for child streetism.

On the street, street children do all forms of menial jobs including street hawking, dishwashing in chop bars, truck pushing, shoe shining, carrying loads for a fee, and errands for a fee (Hatloy and Huser, 2005) and Apt and Grieco, 1997). All these jobs, despite how meager the reward they promise still attract children to the street (Alenoma, 2012).

Globally, economic policies matter for children's wellbeing. Though on the surface, economic policies seem far removed from children's everyday lives, they are the root cause of much of the poverty that children face" (Macus and Marshall, 2004) Nevertheless, academic economic research has rarely focused on children and less still on children poverty (Schmidt, 2003). Economic researchers who have explored the social effects of the economic policies on children in poverty have found that early investment in children produced a very high rate of return in terms of economic income possibilities in adult life, and are cost-effective (Harper & Macus, 2000; Karoly et al., 1998).

Street children subsist in street existence contexts beset with dangers that could affect their mental and bodily wellbeing, but they discover methods of coping resiliently. Street children develop up with very little parental care but; studies indicate that they make cash via supporting buyers at automobiles, shinning footwears, selling fruits and vegetables, prostitution and drug proliferation, petty crimes, muggings, and ruin-and-grabs (Altanis & Goddard, 2004; Aataove & Haider, 2006; Samaa, 2005; Schurink, 1994). The aforementioned constellation of coping techniques enables some of the children to obtain a reasonable level of mental health. Panter-Brick (2002) refers to pioneer studies in Colombia though Aptekar (1991) and Felsham (1981) that confirmed that the maximum of the street kids who participated in those researches had been without pathology. The youngsters they study loved being independent and capable of fending for themselves, albeit on the fringes of society. Bacos et al. (2002) observed that street-concerned children in Manila Philippines had capacities for adaptive distancing from societal problems, a feel of route or mission, and capacities for empathy that enable resilience in them. Other research sources showed that road – concerned youngsters had capacities to evolve and that they have been social actors

who purposefully developed approaches of reselling inside the context of risk and adversity (Atav & Haider, 2006; Macdam-Crip et al., 2005).

2.5.4 Large family size

According to Adeyemi and Oluwaseun (2012), parents who give birth to many children beyond the capacity of their resources are not able to cater for the needs of their children, so the neglected children go on the street to find their means of survival (Adeyemi & Oluwaseun, 2012).

In line with how family structure contributes to child streetism, Ward et al (2007) pointed out that the degree of care shown to the child can also inform the child's decision to move to the street or not. This came to light when they conducted a qualitative study in Gauteng Province in South Africa on the factors underlying child streetism in South Africa. Especially, child abuse, discord between the child and family or neighbours, and feeling unsafe emerged as causal factors embedded in family structure that cause child streetism (Ward et al., 2007)

Catholic Action for Street Children (CAS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), indicates that the ages of the street children in Ghana range between 10-18 years, which is consistent with the estimated numbers of other African countries. The research was conducted in fifty towns and villages, with samples from government agencies, NGOs, street children, parents, and opinion leaders from various communities.

2.5.5 Family disintegration

Family disintegration has been implicated in the initiation of streetism. The structural disruption of the family through the death of one or both parents or divorces might be one of the reasons the children migrate to the streets (Anon, 2003:4; Mahlangu, 2002,

p.22; Schurink, 1993, p.137). When a divorced parent enters into a new marriage, his or her children might be abused by a step-parent, which will lead to isolation, trauma, and a child's hostility from his or her family. Mahlangu (2002, p.37) and Alenoma (2012:79) point out that after the parents' divorce; most children opt for street life as they can no longer cope with their new family situation. They do this as a way of seeking comfort. The presence of step-parents in their homes has increased hatred and the deterioration of the required parental care. These kinds of situations caused many children to run away from their homes and live on the streets (West, 2003:17; Donald *et al.*, 2006).

2.5.6 Discrimination and stigmatization

Discrimination and stigmatisation based on parental HIV statuses have been identified as social factors that cause children to migrate to the city streets. When parents are living with HIV or die of AIDS-related illnesses, their children are stigmatised and this situation forces these children to run away and live on the streets (West, 2003, p.17). This occurs especially when the next-of-kin reject orphaned children.

Donald *et al.* (2006) and Mahlangu (2002, p.42) point out that Individual factors such as stress and personality functioning contribute towards the problem of street children. Many children experience rejection, conflict, violence, failure, and stigmatization at school. Other children can be bullied by either their teachers or other children at school. They mostly become psychologically withdrawn from their educators, school activities such as extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, and others (West, 2003:18). This leads to a situation where they will seek friends who will satisfy their needs or comfort them rather than criticising them. These children are faced with enormous school pressure, such as the volume of school work and anxiety about good

performance (West, 2003:18). Most parents have a lack of interest in the progress of their children at school, whereby the failure of children causes conflict at home (Mahlangu, 2002:43). For these reasons, they decide to migrate to the streets to search for friendships (West, 2003, p.18).

Many children are born out of wedlock in South Africa. Most of the children who are illegitimate and born in poverty are at risk of being abused, neglected, and abandoned. This results in children running away from their homes to seek survival on the streets (Montane, 2006; De Moura, 2005; Le Roux, 2001; Mahlangu, 2002; Schurink, 1993). These children view this as unjust and as rejection by their families; therefore, they feel that the street is the solution to their problems (Donald *et al.*, 2006; West, 2003; Mahlangu, 2002).

2.5.7 Urbanisation

The disparity between the urban and rural areas is largely a function of underdevelopment and societal inequalities. Children who live and work on the street often come from slum and squatter settlements where poverty and precarious family situations are common, schools are overcrowded with no safe place to stay (Hecht, 2003).

Urbanisation is one of the social factors that cause the street child phenomenon (Mahlangu, 2002). Donald *et al.* (2006) and Mahlangu (2002) add that progressive urbanisation concerning insufficient access to proper housing and health and welfare causes the children to migrate to the streets. It should be noted that urbanisation combines with other contextual factors in causing children to leave their homes.

Due to urbanisation, parents are forced to work unusually long hours for low pay and leave their children without proper supervision, care, and adequate support systems. Mahlangu (2002) and Schurink (1993) confirm that most parents spend most of their time at work than at home. As a result, the family weakens and the relations deteriorate. In this case, the children become primary victims who no longer have values that are set by the parents. They mostly leave their homes to live on the streets and never come back to these disintegrated families, which results in other family members, especially children, opting for the street as their solution (Mahlangu, 2002; Vogel, 2001).

For many of the children, the urban centers offer an opportunity that does not exist in their areas of origin, the rural areas. Rapid urbanization and the promise of employment attract many young people from the rural areas of Ghana to the urban centers, which invariably have limited opportunities for these children. The report also cites the introduction of electricity as one of the factors that attract rural children to urban centers. The Beauchemin (1999) report states that:

“The arrival of electricity has a profound impact on rural communities, and particularly on young people. In the village of Dunkwa (W/R), for instance, a unit committee member told us that since the arrival of electricity two years ago, a growing number of children had been leaving the village. Television opens people’s eyes to the “modern” world, and they believe the city has much more to offer”.

This assertion may be a little simplification of the problem. As part of Ghana’s rural development initiative, rural electrification is supposed to open these areas for investment opportunities and economic development. The research cites rural electrification as a potential culprit for street children but does not show any statistical significance of this assertion. For example, the report cites the opinion of local

officials, not the children as to how rural electrification has impacted their decision to move to the urban areas.

The Beauchemin (1999) also indicates that children who have relatives living in the cities have a higher propensity to move to urban areas. The relatives of these children serve as an incentive to leave their rural homes. The children may expect that their relatives will help them adjust to city life, either assisting them in attending school or enrolling in an apprenticeship for a trade. This calculation is irrespective of whether the relative welcomes the idea, or has the means to support such an endeavour. Often, the children find out their fate too late and eventually end up on the streets. Another pull factor the report cited was the pressure from the peers of the children. Beauchemin (1999) indicates that;

In the absence of role models for the young people in most villages, these adolescents are respected, and rural teenagers want to emulate them. In the village of Namong in the Ashanti Region, dozens of teenagers had returned from Accra, Kumasi, Cotonou, and Abidjan for the Christmas holidays. The assemblyman told us that after the New Year, they would go back to the urban centres, taking friends or other younger relatives with them as they do every year (p.31).

This assertion may mean that the rural teenager is easily influenced by city life and some parents also wish to have their children living in the cities. Since these parents do not have relatives, trusted friends to send their children to, they comfortably allow their children to join their friends in the city. This is because, when these adolescents return from the cities, they are seen differently as civilized persons. They come in pairs of jeans trousers, short skirts and some amount of money to lure rural teenagers. Most of the urban teenagers hustle so hard to make money to show off when they go back to the village. The literature reviewed several reasons why the phenomenon of street children is on the increase; certain responsibilities of parents and society. Have

been cited as responsible. For instance, large family size, discrimination, urbanisation, death of parents. All these are common factors that push children to the street. I hold the view that; there are some children on the street not necessarily because of the above mentioned factors. Some children maybe moving to the street because they feel that their parents are too harsh on them so they prefer the freedom the street offers. Some aspect of the research verified this.

2.6 The Consequences of Streetism

The street life is not easy for the street children. There are many challenges that they encounter in the street. Some of the challenges that street children face in the street (Kids Report, 2012, p.9; Van Baalen, 2012, p.64) include malnutrition or difficulty to access basic nutrition, susceptible to cuts and wounds due to lack of pairs of shoes and protective clothes, injuries and physical pain due to work and walking long distances as well as the exposure to drugs. Violence and abuse by other street children, the general public, and law enforcement officials that street children endure in the street may make them feel nervous, scared, angry, or confused (Kids Report, 2012; Kiros, 2016). Other negative impacts of streetism include:

- Extreme deprivation and social exclusion of street children create opportunities for engaging in crime.
- Street children perceive themselves as discriminated against and hated by the members of society.
- Street children are stigmatized because they do not have the power to demand attention from the public and private agencies.
- Street children are also subject to social, physical, psychological, and sexual abuse.

Some survival strategies of street children include menial income-generating activities to survive. Some of these activities include helping motorists at the car park, washing cars, begging for money, selling fruits and vegetables, and prostitution, carrying personal belongings of passengers as well as collecting scraps from garbage and dumps and selling them (Samuel, 2014, p.170; Kiros, 2016, p.220). The money that they earn from these activities is used to purchase food, cigarettes, local beverages, and other necessities. Street children are known to survive through drug and drug trafficking (Van Blenk, 2012:327) they survive and cope by engaging themselves in unlawful activities. Abusing drugs help to numb their feelings of coldness and hunger (Kiros, 2016, p.220). Other unlawful activities comprise theft, robbery, assault, prostitution, petty offences, fighting among them, littering in public places, gambling, causing disturbances, and deliberately damaging vehicles of people who decline their offer of parking assistance and car washing (Van Blerk, 2011, p.29; Ward & Seager, 2010, p.89). These unlawful and dangerous activities that street children engage themselves in may lead to serious injury or even death (Sauma, 2008, p.33).

The relationship of street children with people around them contributes to their means of survival. Van Blerk (2012) explain that street children's relationship can either be intergenerational or intragenerational. Intergenerational relationship refers to the state whereby street children still maintain their relationship with their parents. Particularly mothers, especially the "the children-on-the-street". These street children usually visit their home to change cloth and eat; nevertheless, they stay only for a short period.

Intragenerational relations refer to a situation where street children take care of their siblings on the streets, especially children of the street who stay with their families. In this case, the older siblings protect their young siblings in return for the younger

siblings doing some work for them (Kok et al., 2010; Van Blerk, 2012). They also form friendships and alliances with adults who survive on the streets as a way of adapting to street life.

Kiros (2016) also reveal that street children's coping mechanism also includes changing their sleeping location to hide from their aggressors, sometimes even hide in the underground, creating their affiliated community where they could live in an atmosphere of love and a sense of family hood. The survival means and coping mechanism mentioned above point out that even though street children live dangerously in the street, they have hidden resilience in them. Malindi (2014) point out that the researchers should stop viewing street children from medical and charity perspectives by treating them as clients who need to be rescued from the street hazards, but instead, they should focus on the street children's mechanisms and how they show resilience during adversities.

Street children are labelled as criminals, thieves, rebels, gangsters, and prostitutes by neighbourhood residents (Hayes, 2008). Life in the streets is not easy for street children. Because of these difficulties, street children develop bad behaviour such as aggressive behaviour, theft, drug abuse, and inadequate socialization (Vogel, 2001). The study of Orme and Seipel (2007) revealed the heterogeneity of street children in the way they conduct themselves. While street children are known for their bad behaviour, this study revealed that sometimes street children decide not to engage in crime and anti-social behaviour because they are encouraged by other street children to endure challenges. Street children have a high degree of hope for a better future, believe in God, and play by rules so that they will be able to succeed (Orme & Seipel, 2007). Kudrati et al. (2008, p.441) indicate that street life is characterized by working hours that are defined by eating, glue-sniffing, begging for food from restaurant

customers, or purchasing restaurant food from restaurant staff. They walk barefooted, have two or three clothes changes, and engage in activities for pleasure (football and music). They obtain money by working for others, independent work, theft, and sex work for girls.

The most common problem in street children in African countries is the abuse of inhalants (Olgar, Dindar, Artugrul, Omeroglu & Aydogan, 2007, p.59). These inhalants include substances such as petrol, tobacco, or glue. Street children end up in jail, car accidents, drowning, or succumbing to sudden death because of these inhalants' abuse (Olga et al., 2007, p.59). Their health is at risk since they lack nutritious food and subsist on less than adequate diet and they have no access to medical facilities (Ali & Muynck, 2005, p.527).

Sicknesses that result from these are skin infections, wounds from fighting, stomach ailments, and viral contagions. Street children have the following health problem that they refer to as minor health problems: heart pains, headaches, chest pains, back pains, abdominal colic, renal colic, blood in urine, shortening of breath from running, cough, wounds and bruises, diarrhoea, dental problems, fever, and discharge from the ear (Ali and Muynck, 2005:527). In countries such as Ghana, street children are in the danger of getting malaria as a result of their exposure to mosquitoes (Orme and Seipel, 2007).

The activities that are done by street children are the same as in other countries, and they include begging, carrying of goods for people, small income-generating activities such as shoe shining, car window washing, truck pushing, and collecting refuse (Grundling et al., 2004,p.102). Victimization of street children is also evident. People that children trust become the perpetrators of violence (Contini & Hulme, 2007:219).

The positive qualities that street children have include the ability to improve their conditions of life on their own and the ability to earn income that helps them buy food and other necessities (Lalor et al., 2002, p.348).

Alexander (1987) maintains that street children in Guatemala are prone to widespread abuse and intimidation from the police. These children are considered pets and subjected to inhumane treatment. The epistemological basis of the definition of street children mostly determines the policy framework of most governments. The perception that street children are delinquents and social misfits, a definition widely held in western literature has affected policy formulation in many developing states (Richter, 1989). He maintains that the distinction between “runaways and throwaways” does not permeate policies that deal with the problem. He concludes that although street children may indulge in illegal activities, those who could be identified as delinquents are in the minority.

To fully understand the epistemological underpinnings of the negative public reaction towards street children, I will explore the concept of stigmatization, which makes it easier for people to perceive and treat street children negatively.

The stigmatization of the poor and in this case including street children and the tendency to blame them for their predicaments is a result of two mutually reinforcing social psychological processes, first, sociopolitical roots and second, cognitive/perceptual basis (Phelan, Link, Moore & Steve 1997). The dominant group in society uses societal institutions and mechanisms to maintain the social stratification system. Through the beliefs, values, and attitudes, the dominant group can perpetuate their ideology, which is internalized by the members of the society (Phelan et. el. 1997). The public stigmatization towards street children and the

projection of the notion of personal inadequacies of the children relieves the structural elements of the society of any responsibility. This system of blame does not allow for a thorough analysis of the status quo, which in many instances has been the core culprit of the perpetuation of the rigid social stratification system.

Phelan et al. (1997), acclaim that fundamental attribution error “is a reliable cognitive inclination to underestimate the power of situations to influence other people’s behaviour and to correspondingly overestimate the role of personal attributes” (p. 325). The emphasis on the internal dispositions of street children rather than the situational analysis of their conditions stimulate the bias the larger society projects against them. This personality-based disposition and the attribution of the street children phenomenon on the internal inadequacies of the children foreshadows not only a lack of imagination in dealing with the problem, but it also displaces the available resources for remedial action.

Stigmatization leads potentially to abuse, which many street children are subjected to in their daily encounters on the streets. Society made up of law enforcement agents, government agents, and service providers, and the general public, abuse and treat these children with contempt and open hostilities; Le Roux et al., (1998). Street children are fearful of authority especially the police because of their notoriety and brutality. Because of the public demand for the cleaning of the streets, city officials and the police are forced to use unorthodox methods in dealing with street children.

Police brutality has been well documented in Brazil, where street children have been killed in execution-style (Deweese and Kless, 1995). Scheper-Hughes (1997) suggests that while Brazilian street children in the 1960s were referred to with a blend of annoyance and affection as moleques, these children in the 1990s were perceived to

be scandalous, public nuisance, and a danger. The public perception of the street children is reflected in the morphology of their names. While in the 1960s they were referred to as moleque (streetwise, cute cunning, etc.) they are currently referred to as pivete (young thief), trombadinha (pickpocket), and maloqueiro (street child, thief) It can be inferred that the name given to the children justifies the perception of the public about the children, which also determines how the children are treated.

The brutality of street children at the hands of police and other law enforcement agents in Brazil has been a result of an alliance between off duty police officers and some business and shop owners who perceive the presence of the children on the streets to be bad for business, tourism, and the general health of the public (Scheper and Hughes, 1997). The author further estimates that between 1988 and 1990, about five thousand street children between the ages of 15 and 19 were murdered and the police were reluctant to investigate these homicides.

Another important example of intimidation and abuse by police and other law enforcement agents is in Guatemala as reported by Alexander (1987). The author posits that street children were widely abused and intimidated by police in Guatemala, where the children were perceived to be delinquents and pests to the general public. This identity ascribed to the children gave the moral justification for the control of the street children before they were socially uncontrollable. Le Roux and Smith (1998) suggest that the public perceive street youths as an impersonal aggregate rather than individuals. This has created a profound misunderstanding of the street children.

Aptekar (1995) maintains that the insensitivity of the press towards the plight of the children through unsubstantiated allegations increases the fear of the public, resulting in hostile attitudes of the public towards the children. The author states that recently

in the Kenyan press there was a report that street children were carrying HIV-infected syringes and people who refused to give money were threatened with injection. The author asserts that although the reports were not corroborated, there was an increased apprehension of the public towards the street children.

Other false allegations against street children have been made in Brazil. For instance, Scheper-Hughes (1997) reports that there was a report in a weekly magazine in May 1991, which claimed that street children in a particular shopping plaza in Sao Paulo committed more than thirty-two thousand robberies every year. There were other reports in 1992 in both print and electronic media on how street gangs were robbing people in certain areas in Rio de Janeiro. These allegations were however unsubstantiated. Just isolated incidences of such cases had occurred. What these rumor mills do is to further widen the mistrust between the children and the general public which is a catalyst to the abuse and neglect these children face from the public and the societal institutions.

Suffice to mention that while other members of the society have avenues to seek redress, street children have very limited avenues and, in most cases may refuse to report abuses against them because of the mistrust they have in the system. Some have argued that traditionally the street in Africa plays an important role in the lives of young people (Aptekar, Cathey, Ciano and Giardino 1995), and maybe the reason for which society pays very little attention to children on the streets.

The idea of survival connotes an opportunity to vie for a piece of the available resources. This opportunity should be guaranteed to all without regard to any social categorizations. However, street children are excluded from any such opportunities because they are perceived to be against the conventional notion of decency and

social decorum. This non-visible and non-communicated exclusionary philosophy against the children provides them no incentives to conform to the rules of engagement of a society where they are not recognized. This is not to justify the criminal behaviours of the street children, but to highlight the limited options and opportunities available for their survival. For them, survival is key and if society denies them the appropriate channels of survival, then they must do whatever is necessary for their survival and that is the human spirit.

The theory of planned behaviour actually aimed at developing survival strategies for the children so that they can be moved away from the street. Since the children have made up their mind to move in to the street. The street children according to the reviewed literature, faces lots of challenges on the street this made the vulnerable, not accepted by the society these leads the children to severe beatings, STDs, and malaria. I also think that people who maltreats these children should be punish.

2.7 Measures Put in Place to Support Victims of Streetism

Interventions for street children seem to be on the agenda of government and institutions globally. What kind of intervention exists and how useful have these interventions been impacting positively on the lives of the children? This is to gain a deeper understanding of how street children are valued by all who seek their welfare and have their interests at heart.

Intervention rolled out by institutions of state and non-governmental organizations fall around certain priorities and depending on the outline priorities, these interventions are implemented. Lualla and Kibassa (2003) discussed some of these interventions. These interventions all served specific purposes or were targeted. They include interventions that are:

Social welfare orientation: these are usually in the form of drop-in centres that specifically deal with street children's immediate concerns like food, accommodation, clothing, and medical treatment.

Social work and rehabilitation: some providers also aim to permanently move children away from the street situation/setting and strive to introduce them back into mainstream society. Those who manage rehabilitation well and are not able to stop taking drugs are then encouraged to go back to school or attend vocational training institutions.

Education and Vocational Training Model: Other organizations seek to promote primary education as their prime objective. Some centres, therefore, provide vocational training for those it is felt are advanced in age to return to or begin school. These are often times very informal thus, helps children to develop skills like carpentry, tailoring, and masonry, and this enables them to begin their income-generating activities.

Family Reunification: re-uniting street children with their families is another common aim of some organizations. These strategies are often difficult to achieve/attain because the children are not willing to move back home as the conditions that drove them to the street persist. Parents who may be experiencing extreme poverty may be reluctant to take in their children again.

Children's Homes: the primary objective of these homes is to cater for street children. The children found within these homes are usually from diverse backgrounds. These homes often set out small and expand to offer school facilities. The children's Act 560, ascended into parliament on 30th December 1988 seeks to represent and protect the interest of the Ghanaian child in terms of basic rights,

maintenance and adoption, regulate child labour and apprenticeship, and for the other matters concerning the welfare of the child. The Act serves as the major law and policy guiding child protection in the country, having taken into consideration some conventions from international and other national guidelines.

Aside from the convention adopted in the Act to protect and ensure the survival and development of the child, Section 18 of the Children's Acts, spells out specific criteria to determine when the child needs care and protection by the state. The District Assembly is responsible for protecting the welfare and rights of the children within the district, whereas the Department of Social Welfare and community development centres are to investigate cases of rights violations.

Under this Act, Section 18 defines these criteria for intervention in terms of state protection and care in the event that the child is found:

1. is wandering and has no home or settled place of abode or visible means of subsistence;
2. is begging or receiving alms, whether or not there is any pretense of singing, playing, performing, offering anything for sale or otherwise, or is found in any street, premises or place to beg or receive alms;
3. accompanies any person when that person is begging or receiving alms, whether or not there is any pretense of singing, playing, performing, offering anything for sale or otherwise" (Republic of Ghana, The Children's Act 560,1988:10)

In response to these circumstances, section 19 of the Act defines actions to be taken. In cases of a child in need of such protection and care. Actions involve investigation,

and when it is determining that the child's current situation poses harm to him or her, further action is taken. In this case:

“Actio 20

1. Family Tribunal may issue an order to the Department on an application by a probation officer or social welfare under section 19(4).
2. the care order shall remove the child from a situation where he is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and shall transfer the parental rights to the Department.
3. the probation officer or social welfare officer shall take custody of the child and shall determine the most suitable place for the child which may be:
 - (a) an approved residential home
 - (b) with an approved fit person; or
 - (c) at the home of a parent, guardian, or relative.
 1. the maximum duration of a care order shall be three years or until the child attains eighteen years whichever is earliest and the family Tribunal may make an interim order or may vary in the order.
 2. the Family Tribunal may make a further order that the parent, guardian or another person responsible for the child shall pay for the cost of maintaining the child” (Republic of Ghana, The Children's Act 560, 1988:11)

With the implementation of this Act in the right and adequate way means that children found in the street are to be guided back to their parents or their relatives, and measures put in place that these parents or relatives, or in the

case that the above are unable to cater for the children, they are to be rightfully placed under the care of the state.

The family and child welfare policy under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) the policy was introduced by the MGCSP with support from UNICEF in February, 2015. there was increasing concern arising from issues like child trafficking, children living and or working on the street, absence of birth registration for some children, corporal punishment, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation found prevalent in Ghana with more children being victimized. Other forms of abuse include child marriage, female genital mutilation, and the Trokosi system of shrine enslavement which prevails partly in some regions. These necessitated the introduction of the new policy to address the problems that were on the rise despite the presence of the Children's Act and other former policies aimed at protecting the Ghanaian child. The policy was also response to challenges identified in the existing policies which tended to facilitate little coordination and were characterized mostly with reactive measures with very few preventive measures. The new policy was also to complement the gap in the old system which also lacked a reliable information system and poor coordination among key actors.

The policy is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

“To design child and family welfare programmes and activities to more effectively prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

To ensure effective coordination of the child and family welfare service at all levels.

To empower children and families to better understand the abusive situation and make a choice to prevent and respond to situations of risk.

To build the capacity of institutions and service providers to ensure the quality of service for children and families in urban and rural areas.

To reform existing laws and policies to conform to the new vision for Child and Family Welfare.

To ensure the provision of adequate resources for the functioning of the Child and family welfare service at all levels” (MGCSO, 2015). Thus, 11 strategies were adopted towards achieving these.

“Strategy 1: strengthening community structures

Strategy 2: early intervention through social protection

Strategy 3: Improve child and family welfare service

Strategy 4: alternative care – when the child’s family is not an option

Strategy 5: regular coordination and improved information and data management

Strategy 6 Empower children and young people

Strategy 7 Empower families through social dialogue and change.

Strategy 8: Social welfare resources and capacity building.

Strategy 9: Building an alliance with Civil Society Organizations

Strategy 10: Legal and policy reform

Strategy 11: Analysis of and advocacy for adequate financial, technical and human resources” (MGCSP, 2015:3)

These strategies aim to address 3 key areas:

- i child protection issues arising from family-related problems like domestic violence, and children living or working on the street.

- ii cases of child maltreatment in terms of violence of all kinds, abuse, exploitation, and neglect in all settings.
- iii other protection issues concerning children especially older children not perpetuated by a third party but the child's risk-taking behaviour like substance abuse, unwanted pregnancy or being in conflict with the law”
(MGCP, 2015, p.3)

There are no indications that the influx of children into urban streets will be abating shortly. However, in Ghana, the government in conjunction with NGOs has instituted several programmes to alleviate the plight of the children. In 1998, the government introduced the Children's Act which was designed to protect the rights of children. Among other things, the Act seeks to address issues about adoption and maintenance, fostering and child labor, and the provision of institutional facilities for abused and neglected children (Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs 2004). The Act also enjoins the government to partner with the private and the informal sector in the provision of apprentice facilities for children willing to go into vocational training. Among the provisions of the Act is the clause which prohibits any individual from depriving the child access to basic education, primary health care, immunization, shelter, and adequate dietary supply. While the objectives of the Act are laudable, implementation and supervision have been woefully inadequate. The government claims that inadequate financial resources have made it impossible to realize those objectives.

2.8 Summary of the Major Findings of the Literature Review⁸

This chapter gives a summary of the literature review of the study. It emphasizes the major findings of earlier researchers on the topic under study. These major findings included the causes, negative effects, and attempts by international actors such as UNO and its agencies, non-governmental organizations, governments, individuals, and in combating the street children menace.

- i. Street children exist and it is a global phenomenon but predominant in large proportions in cities and towns with daily increases.
- ii. The number of street children in the world, Africa and Ghana kept on increasing. Today, the figure stands unknown because daily new entrants add up the number.
- iii. Modernity has affected the society's in-built mechanism that regulated the behaviour of its younger members in past and has given way to child rights making every child autonomous to a greater extent.
- iv. Most of these children are from poor families, out of marriage dissolutions, and others politically incited violence, war, harassment, and abusive parents.
- v. International organisations such as the United Nations, (UNO), specialized agencies like the World Health Organisation (WHO) institutions, governments, individuals, and non-governmental agencies have campaigned against street children for more than three decades.
- vi. Developing countries have more street children than a developed one because of adverse effects of poverty in such countries.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This gives an indication of the steps the researcher followed in conducting the study. These include the research design, setting, population, sample and sampling procedure, data collection instruments, pilot testing of the instrument, data collection procedure/process, data analysis procedure, issues for trustworthiness, and related ethical issues.

3.1 Study Area

Ho is the capital of the city of the Ho Municipal District in the Volta region of Ghana. The city lies between Mountain Adaklu and Mountain Galenukui or Togo Atakora Range. The population of Ho Municipality according to the 2010 population census is 177,281 representing 8.4 percent of the region's total population. About 62 percent of the population resides in the urban localities. The municipality shares boundaries with Adaklu and Agortime-Ziope District to the South, Ho West to the North and West, and the republic of Togo to the East (GSS, 2010).

Although an urban area, agriculture is the mainstay of the Ho Municipality's economy. It employs about 70 percent of the economically active labour force. Nearly every household in the Municipality is engaged in farming or agricultural-related activity. This made a lot of researchers not imagine the phenomenon of Streetism ever emerging in the Municipality (ISSER 2012).

The Municipality's economy is also characterized by a large number of small-scale commercial and industrial activities. The Municipality being a commercial town attracts children from nearby towns and villages. These children mostly do not have relatives in the Municipality so they work and sleep on the street. Society sees this behaviour and only wonder if Streetism can emerge in the Municipality. But the truth to be told is that the phenomenon of Streetism has been in the Municipality (ISSER 2013).

3.2 Research Design

A qualitative research approach with the phenomenological design was employed for this study. Qualitative case study research is “an approach to research that facilitates exploration of a phenomenon within its context using a variety of data sources” (Baxter & Jack, 2008:544). Qualitative research is grounded in a broadly interpretivist philosophical position, in the sense that it is concerned with how the social world is interpreted, understood, experienced, and produced; Carson et al, (2001). Interpretivism regards reality as a complex social construction of meanings, values, and lived experience Cohen *et al.*, 2000 and Grix, (Baabereyir, 2009:105). This, according to Robson, 1993 and Bryman, 2004 (Baabereyir, 2009:105) can better be understood through people's interpretive or meaning-endowing capacities rather than through our sensory observation and experience of the world. To this effect, data for interpretivist research is obtained through the interpretations people give to situations and experiences of reality. According to Creswell (1998:99), qualitative research is:

“An inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports detailed views of informant and conducts the study in a natural setting”.

The approach usually involves “in-depth investigation of the phenomenon through such means as participant observation, interviewing, archival or other documentary analysis or ethnographic study” (Ragin, 1994:91). One of the advantages of this approach, according to Baxter and Jack, (2008) is that there is a close collaboration between the researcher and the participants while enabling participants to tell their stories.

Through these stories, the participants can describe their views of reality and this enables the researcher to better understand the participants’ actions (Lather, 1992, cited in Baxter and Jack, 2008). This approach was preferred by the researcher because it provides an opportunity to explore the phenomenon of streetism and its consequences. The use of the qualitative approach was therefore aimed at gathering an in-depth understanding of street life from the perspective of street children. The purpose of this design was also to help the researcher get in-depth focus on a phenomenon in its naturalistic setting. It also can incorporate a variety of different types of data gathered using multiple data collection methods. Other reasons for using the case study design was to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the groups under study and to develop general theoretical statements about regularities in social structure and process (Becker, 1968: 233). In line with this methodological approach, research tools associated with the qualitative approach were used to collect data.

Polit and Hungler (1987, p.145) describe phenomenological studies as “capturing what people think, feel, and behave in their naturalistic environments”. De Vos, Strydom et al. (2005, p.270) opine that “the phenomenological approach aims to understand and interpret the meaning the participants give to their life world or life setting of their everyday lives.” The term “phenomenology” is summarised by De Vos

et al (1987), as an approach to human inquiry that emphasises the complexity of human experiences and the need to study that experiences holistically as it is lived.

The phenomenological design is an approach to qualitative research that focuses on the commonality of a lived experiences within a particular group. The fundamental goal of the approach is to arrive at a description of the nature of the phenomenon (Creswell, 2013). Typically, interviews are conducted with groups of individuals who have first-hand knowledge of an event, situation or experience (Moustakas,1994). Other forms of data such as documents, observations and arts may also be used. The data is then read, reread and culled like phrases and themes that are then grouped to form cluster of meanings (Creswell, 2013). Through this process, the researcher constructs the universal meaning of the event, situation or experiences and arrived at a more profound understanding of the phenomenon. The researcher chose the phenomenological design because it has the ability to be a conduit, allowing for identification for attitude, beliefs, and true feeling about a particular situation without constraints or control (McMillan & Wergin, 2010). The design also has some challenges; the time intensive process to conduct interviews, transcribe, analyze the data, and find themes.

Despite the challenges, the researcher made time for the data collection process. This enabled me have enough time to collect the data and transcribe. The researcher adopted phenomenological design because the researcher wanted to explore the phenomena of streetism and its consequences in the Ho municipality. The intent of the researcher was not too opposed, observe, measure, predict, or to generalize but to understand, interpret, and report the issue of street life as lived by the street children. Thus, the researcher adopted this design because the issue of streetism as a concept

was experienced differently by each participant, and therefore each participant's life experiences were described differently during the interactive focus groups and one-on-one interviews during data collection.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population of the study was all street children in the Volta Region of Ghana. The target population for the study was all street children in the Ho municipality who were aged 9 to 18 years. Eight street children and six stakeholders were selected to provide information to understand the individual's perception, opinions, and points of view as formed by their socialization, cultural and life experiences.

Ho is the capital of the capital town of Ho Municipal District in the Volta region of Ghana. The population of Ho Municipality according to the 2010 population census is 177,281 representing 8.4 percent of the region's total population. About 62 percent of the population resides in the urban localities. The Municipality's economy is also characterized by a large number of small-scale commercial and industrial activities. The municipality also has this big market that attracts people to it. The Municipality being a commercial town attracts children from nearby towns and villages such as Nyive, Akatsi, Afloa, Wegbe.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

The study used the purposive sampling technique to select a sample size of fourteen participants which comprised eight street children between the ages of 9 and 18 and six stakeholders who owe a duty of care to children. Brick (1996) describe purposive sampling as the selection of research participant who is knowledgeable about the phenomenon being investigated because of their involvement in or with the phenomenon and the experiences that have been acquired regarding the phenomenon.

Creswell (2008) expatiates that in purposive sampling, researchers intentionally select individuals and sites to learn or understand the central phenomenon. The standard used in choosing participants and sites is whether they are information-rich. The researcher was able to identify the children through observation. Five of the street children were identified with the help of the manager of Progressive Transport Owners' Association manager (PROTOA). The rest of the three who were girls were brought to me by the earlier group when I went for my normal night observation. Therefore, all the participants were intentionally chosen for the study to gain deeper insight into the lives of the street children.

3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

The researcher employed unstructured or in-depth interview also known as one-on-one interview, Focus Group Discussion, and observation as tools for gathering data. Greef (DeVos et al., 2005, p.286) describe the one-on-one interview as "a conversation with a purpose or an interactional conversation". This focused on a specific topic to elicit information to understand the individuals' perceptions, opinions, and points of view as well as their life experiences. In this type of interview, the objective was to achieve a holistic understanding of the interviewees' point of view or situation (Dawson, 2002). Researchers have to be able to establish a rapport between them and their participant(s) since they have to be trusted if someone is to reveal intimate life information. As a result, one-on-one interviews with the participants provided a flexible approach since it allowed the participants to talk freely about how each one of them found their way into the street, as well as providing an opportunity to the key stakeholders to express their experiences in their quest to intervene for the street children. The one-on-one interviews also helped to elicit in-depth information that was too sensitive to raise in the focus group

discussions” (Polit & Hunger, 1987, p.229). The one-on-one interviews ended when data saturation was reached.

Also, the composition of the focus group was based on the homogeneity or similarity of the group members. According to ASA, (1997: p2) “bringing participants who are similar together in a focus group makes it easier for them to carry on a productive and interactive discussion”. Focus group discussion helps participants to overcome inhibitions, especially if they know other people in the group as well as helping participants to ask questions of each other, lessening the impact of researcher bias (Dawson, 2002). The researcher engaged in two section focus groups discussion made up of five street boys and three street girls, to allow everyone to speak during the discussions. The discussion ended when data saturation was reached among the participants of the focus group.

In the observation, physical observation of their sleeping places, what they wear, the kind of errands they do, the food they eat. Through this method, useful first-hand information was gathered to support the interviews. These observations were important since they enriched the data collected and contributed to generating an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of streetism in the Ho Municipality. This is because according to Creswell (2009), the researcher was not able to create observation guide. This made it impossible for the researcher to use the excerpts from the observation guide during the data discussion. Through interviews, focus group discussion improved significantly the validity of the data since such triangulation of methods has been proven to produce good research data. The observation guide could have made it better.

3.6 Procedure for Data Collection

The one-on-one interview was conducted by the researcher with the Regional Coordinator of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU). This was done after the researcher served her with an introductory letter from the Department of Social Studies with my letter requesting for a few minutes' interview on the research topic with her at her office. She agreed after a long conversation and gave me a day for the interview. Focus group discussions with the rest of the participants were conducted within a day in a conducive environment. This was done after I served them with letters requesting to have a discussion with them on the topic of the phenomenon of Streetism in the Ho Municipality. After the discussion with the stakeholders, I discussed having a focus group discussion with the children with the PROTOA manager since he has a very good relationship with the children. He gave me a day to come back after he had spoken with the children. The second focus group discussion was done with the boys in a day. The third focus group discussion was with the street girls. The girls were brought to me with the help of the street boys and the PROTOA manager. The focus group discussions and the one-on-one interviews were recorded on tape.

3.7 Data Analysis

The analysis of qualitative data is an active and interactive process where information is typically scrutinized, read, and reread carefully. The audio-tapes were listened to repeatedly before being transcribed to facilitate analysis and to ensure the accuracy of the transcribed data to thematically analyze the data. (Polit and Beck, 2008: p508). In analysing data from this phenomenological study, broad themes were predetermined and discussed. In this study, the researcher followed the approach where the collected

data were read and reread which helped in the interpretation and description of themes and patterns.

I transcribed the audio recordings of the focus group discussions word-for-word in normal national text, English. However, local concepts and terminologies which have no direct English equivalents were maintained. The one-on-one interview with the regional coordinator of DOVVSU was done in English so there was no translation. I used selective protocol to organize the field notes based on the themes: trends, patterns, keywords, and phrases. Strauss and Corbin (1998) posit that events, happenings, objects, and actions/interactions that are found to be conceptually similar in nature or related in meaning are grouped under more abstract concepts termed categories (p.102).

I followed the iterative process (Dewalt and Dewalt, 2001) of reading, thinking and writing, and re-reading, re-thinking, and re-writing to allow the themes (according to which the data were analyzed) to emerge naturally from the data itself. Then I collected texts from different interviews under the identified themes.

3.8 Trustworthiness

Various constructs have been suggested as indicators of the validity of a qualitative research study. De Vos et al. (2005; p346) state that “the strength of a qualitative study that aims to explore a problem or describe a setting, process, social group or pattern of interaction will be its validity.” (De Vos et al., 2005; p346). This study followed the criteria proposed by Lincoln and Guba (1985) credibility, transferability, dependability, and checking/confirmability. In ensuring the credibility of the study, the researcher engaged the participants in prolonged interviews and focus group discussions to unearth all the issues. In ensuring dependability, the researcher engaged

in an inquiry audit by giving the interview questions to the supervisor to examine both the process and product of the study. In ensuring confirmability, data interpretations and findings were shaped by the stakeholders from whom the data were obtained.

Also, to avoid researcher bias and to ensure that the interview guides measured what it was purported to measure, a pilot study was conducted in Aflao in the Volta Region of Ghana. The pilot study was conducted with four street children participants who were between 10 to 16 years who possessed the same characteristics as the study group. This is because Hughes (1989) argues that because interviews are interpersonal, humans interacting with humans, it is inevitable that the researcher will have some influence on the interviewee and thereby, on the data.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The researcher went to the office of the municipal chief executive of the municipality with my introductory letter from the university giving a go-ahead with the conduct of the research. I also explained to him why I needed to conduct a focus group discussion with him and other participants. It was difficult for him because of his schedule but he later agreed and asked me to check on him later. When I went back to the office he gave me a date and time and venue to meet him with the rest of the participants since most of them have an office at the municipal assembly. As for the volunteers, they were introduced to me by the MCE. They seem to have interest in the topic since these cases come to them often.

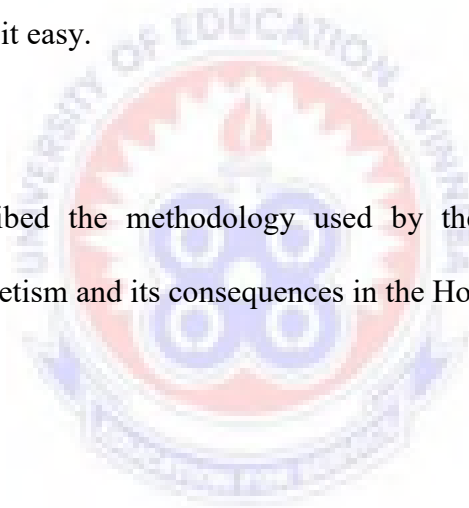
Confidentiality was ensured since an audio tape-recording was used in the discussion that transpired among participants of each focus group and one-on-one interview. All participants were made aware that the discussions were to be tape-recorded. Also, data collected on each audio-tape was marked correctly and each data collection

session was summarized and validated by the stakeholder and the street children participants who were involved in the study.

The researcher observed ethical principles governing social research such as informed consent, confidentiality and rapport building. In an attempt to get valid information from the street children, the researcher sought the consent of the street children. The researcher explained the process involved in the assessment as well as what they stand to benefit. In order to achieve confidentiality, the children were talked to by the PROTOA manager to negotiate access to the children. I was able to win the trust of the children which made them willing to share their stories. This really made my data collection period a bit easy.

3.10 Summary

This chapter described the methodology used by the researcher to explore the phenomenon of Streetism and its consequences in the Ho Municipality.



CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSES

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the presentation, analyses, and discussion of the study. The purpose of the study was to study the phenomenon of streetism and its consequences in the Ho Municipality. The data collected in this study were scrutinized and reread several times to help the researcher to familiarize herself with the content, gain a deeper understanding, describe, and clarify points as experienced and expressed by the participants. Data were analyzed by organizing under the themes. The themes were conceptualized to effectively describe the information expressed by the street children in Ho. The transcribed data from the focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews were analyzed in totality.

4.1 Emerging Themes

Essential themes are the basis for the descriptive and interpretive dimension of the life experiences of the street children. They are fundamental to the experience and understanding of the total phenomenological dimension. According to Van Manen (1990), emerging themes are aspects or qualities that make a phenomenon what it is and without which the reality of the phenomenon could not be identified. Due to this, the researcher engaged with the data in a meaningful way to identify emerging themes. According to Richards (2009), striving for quality in data records occurred simultaneously throughout the collection and analysis focusing on accuracy, application of context, depth of description, usefulness, and a reflexive connection to the data. This made the researcher immersed in the data by revisiting the data and then repeating the process several times to describe the true picture as experienced by the

street children participants. The themes and patterns that emerged have been described in the ensuing sections. Though the participants gave me their names, to protect their identities, different names were assigned to them rather than using real names. Job titles were used for the stakeholders and the two volunteers.

4.2 Perception of Streetism

The themes that emerged from the data was the perception of Streetism. This emerged from some responses from participants. Some critical responses are;

children in and on the street. “In the street” means that they are permanently living on the street. “on the street” means they come temporarily living on the street. They come to work and go back home.
(Social Welfare Officer)

children who are less privileged. They are those children without families or orphans; they are called “survivals” and those who have a parent but decided to come to the street are called “un-survivals”
(Daniel)

Streetism is a situation where people find themselves domiciling on the street day in day out. It could also be a situation where people are more seen working on the street, seen at the roadside so they revolve around the street 24 hours a day (DOVVSU).

The excerpts from the data collected show that the different groups of participants understood Streetism differently. The excerpts from the social welfare practitioner significantly deviate from those of the street children and the DOVVSU officer. As may be observed, the Social Welfare Officer presents Streetism as referring to children being in the street permanently and living there. However, the street children see it as a phenomenon that is a survival issue for them. While the social welfare professional categorized it according to the state of being in the street versus being on the street. The children categorized it into survivals and un-survivals. The DOVVSU on the other hand explains as children working on the street.

UNICEF (1986) defined three categories that relate essentially to the Third World:

- (1) children working on the street but living with their families. They are the so-called “candidates of the street”
- (2) “children on the street”. Home base children who spend much of the day on the street but have some family support and usually return home at night;
- (3) “children of the street” street base children who spend most days and nights on the street and are functionally without family support (Williams, 1993).

This means that the „survival“ as categorized by the participant is „candidates of the street“ as identified by UNICEF. Thomas (1998) also defined Streetism in a similar view that, street children vary, although much research distinguishes two groups: home base, who usually return home at night, and street based who remain on the street and have no family support. The views of the street children and that of the social welfare officer agreed with the categorization of UNICEF.

4.3 Nature of Streetism

Another theme that the discussion addressed is what the children do on the street. What children do in the street is fundamental in a way in which the phenomenon is perceived, and the description and the characteristic associated with street children. From the data collected the street children do a lot of things on the street to survive.

One morning, I was around the metro mass station where I saw four of these boys sleeping in a car tyre. At night they play cards so they sleep a little from 3 am to 4 am (PROTOA)

I asked them; “since you chose to be on the street of Ho, what do you do?”

We carry loads for market women for a fee. madam; we carry a basket of okro for GH¢7.00 (Tanko)

I used to work with a woman who bakes bread. This woman used to pay me GH¢20.00 when she goes to sell. I later worked with another woman who sells tea. (Sefiamor)

We sell pure water for a woman in the market. She gives a bag of chilled water to us at GH¢3.50. (Sefa and Elorm)

The PROTOA manager also responded to the question of what the children do on the street.

They do minor activities like carrying loads for a fee, the girls turn to prostitution and men are ready to entertain them, few of them sell ice water. (PROTOA)

The excerpts suggest that children in the street engage in selling items as some of the responses indicated. Their motive on the street is more economic and survival than any other thing else. Thus, the children on the street engage in petty business to make money. The main item they sell is ice water, roasted plantain to passers-by. They also carry loads for market women, help truck owners to unpack foodstuffs like yams, tomatoes at the market. The responses of the PROTOA officer affirm that of the street children that they engage in different activities. He added the issue of playing cards at night.

These children live an unpredictable life, a life full of many uncertainties that a child should not worry about. They do not seem to have regular life and good rest. These children are not happy with street life. This exposes them to all kinds of risks that may be very uncomfortable.

According to literature, street children engage in different activities in the street. Some of these activities include begging, carrying of goods for people, small income-generating activities such as truck pushing, shoe shining, car-washing, and collecting refuse (Grunding 2004). In Ghana, Ismael (2013) explains that street children are typically limited to working as porters, street vendors, and security personnel.

4.3.1 Accommodation on the street

To elicit data on accommodation and its related issues, focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews were organized.

The arduous nature of the work street children do, their sleeping places, and the overall nature of their living conditions make them (street children) susceptible to numerous social and health problems.

children on the streets do not have good accommodation (volunteer 2).

You left your homes for the street. Where do you sleep?

I sleep in front of a woman's shop at Nyive station (Sefiamor).

We stay with our friend Esi who brought us from the village (Sefa and Elorm).

The rest of them agreed with Daniel that:

we sleep on the pavement under the new market building. The securities used to sack us. But now they don't mind us again.

A careful study of excerpts on data collected on accommodation issues of the children indicated that they do not have a decent place to sleep. Volunteer 2 described street children as people who do not have good accommodation. That was also in line with the children's responses. The excerpt from the children showed that; they sleep on the pavement under the new market building. Street children themselves acknowledged the fact that they have problems with decent accommodation.

Those (children) on the street get malaria and cholera because the gutters are not covered and they don't sleep in mosquito nets (volunteer 1).

Sleeping in the open makes, particularly the girls, susceptible to rape:

some men take advantage of the girls: for example, they have been forced to have sex with them, and if the girl is not lucky and the man has STD she also gets it (PROTOA).

This is consistent with the findings by Orme and Seipel (2007) that girls are especially prone to sexual harassment and some end up with unwanted pregnancies or contract sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Sleeping at night together as a group in the open has been found to serve as a protective mechanism against attacks by thieves and rapists (Awumbila and Ardayfio-Schandorf, 2008). However, these street children remain exposed to the bites of mosquitoes in the open. Malaria is a common occurrence among street children because they are exposed to mosquitoes while sleeping out there in the open (Orme and Seipel, 2007). According to Yeboah and Appiah-Yeboah (2009), the group of kayaye who sleep in front of stores or on city pavements during the night are the most vulnerable (p. 3).

From the excerpts, it was indicated that not all street children remain on the street at night. Some street children do while others return home at night. In the case of Sefa and Elorm, they return to their friend Esi's place. Also, the responses indicate that children on the street have difficult childhoods. From the focus group discussion with the boys, they do not have designated sleeping places. They sleep where space is available. They sleep under market sheds, in front of people's shops, on the market pavements. As a consequence, they experience various traumatic situations and experiences. From the discussion, they were mostly sacked by the securities at the market but they got tired of sacking them.

Where do you keep your belongings?

*We keep them in „Ghana must go“ and hide it in the roofing of the stores. Sometimes they are stolen but we have no place to keep them.
(street children)*

Speaking with some of them, I realized that they have plastic bags in which they keep their things and hide them at the top of the market sheds and old kiosks. Most of them do not have anything. They buy dresses very cheap, wear it for some days and throw it away when it is dirty. In reality, they do not have any place to keep their things. The fact is, if they hide their belongings somewhere, others will come and steal them. (PROTOA)

The excerpt above can be understood as these children having a serious problem with accommodation. They do not even have a place to keep their belongings. The two comments indicate that even if they hide their things some others come to steal them. So they do not even have to hide them anymore.

Though they called themselves “survivals and un-survivals” of the street, they need to bath. How do you bath?

We bath at the public washroom around the station and anytime there is no water flowing we go to bath at a reservoir at „CLA TOP“ where water flows every day. (Tanko & Daniel).

The children asserted that there is a public washroom where they bath. This can also suggest that social welfare, private organizations can help accommodate these children.

The main reason why you are on the street is to make some amount of money. You work very hard everyday except Sundays that you usually had fewer jobs to do. The question is how do you save your money:

We save our money with a man who writes lotto at the station. We save GH¢30 a day in a form of „susu“ we have cards that he records our monies.

For their monies, they have people they keep the money with as “susu.” they even sometimes give their monies to older people to keep for them. PROTOA“

A careful study of the excerpts explains that the children work hard to save some money. They do these savings in a form of „susu“ with a man at the station where they work. The PROTOA officer agreed with the children on how they save their monies with the „susu“ collector.

The transport manager explained that the boys give them tips out of whatever amount is kept with them. So they cannot run away with their monies. But they may refuse to give all the monies out to them. The explanation from the PROTOA agreed with that of the children that the „susu“ collector secure their welfare because when they are unwell he gives them part of their money to buy drugs with.

The “perceived behavioral control” as a determinant factor of TPB the ability or inability, ease, or difficulty to undertake the behaviour including former experiences and obstructions that come with it. Relating this to the study reflects the ability or inability of societies, families, parents, and stakeholders to provide support systems for needy children made them move to the street. This implies that society does not completely frown on the phenomenon because the stakeholder makes life on the street a bit comfortable for the children. That is by engaging in their services.

During the focus group discussion with the street children, they lamented that

street hustling is not easy. That, they are saving money to get accommodation and even learn a trade. One of them wants to learn driving and the rest three want to learn moto fitting. But the girls want to go back to school and become teachers and Nurses. (street children)

We had plans to go for these children from the streets, house them, look for a foster parent for some of them, and relay the rest to their families. But we are still facing financial difficulties. (Social Welfare)

I can say from the excerpts, both the children and the stakeholders do not like the phenomenon of Streetism. They both have plans to put a stop to the phenomenon.

The children planned to use their savings on good accommodation and learn a trade. This means that the children wish to have a normal life as children since their parent, society could not do for them as their responsibility, the children plan about that so they can be recognized as normal children. Social welfare practitioners also said they have plans to move the children from the street by housing some of them, relaying them to their families but the officer complained about funds. We could see that the children may move out from the street before the social welfare department moves them. But there are some far younger ones so the department will have to speed up their plans to prevent the second generation of Streetism.

The intervention rolled out by institutions of state and non-governmental organizations fall around certain priorities and depending on the outline priorities. These interventions are implemented. Luagalla and Kibassa (2003) discussed some of these interventions. All these interventions all served specific purposes or were targeted. They include interventions that are:

Social welfare orientation: These are usually in the form of drop-in centres that specifically deal with street children's immediate concerns like food, accommodation, clothing, and medical treatment.

Social work and rehabilitation: some providers also aim to permanently move children away from the street situation/setting and strive to introduce them back into mainstream society. Those who manage rehabilitation well and are not able to stop taking drugs are then encouraged to go back to school or attend vocational training institutions.

From the focus group discussion with the street children (boys), they made me aware that, an NGO once came to help them. They said, the woman cooked for them on a

few occasions and stopped. The only time they see this woman is when the „whites“ are around.

From the one-on-one interview with DOVVSU, she said there was a time that a French NGO came to rescue these children but it looked as if their efforts were not successful.

Talking about a society knowing the phenomenon, the Social Welfare opines that, anytime they go for these children at the station and the market, the women shout at the officers to leave the children alone; that they are only working to send some money home for their parents. This means that society (market women) do not know the negative effects of the phenomenon even if they know, then it means that they enjoy the services of the children.

4.4 Push and Pull Factors

Several factors influenced the children to move into the street. These reasons are identified from the data collected

4.4.1 Parent related issues

The researcher's target population was eight street children in the Ho Municipality. Seven of the children moved to the street of Ho as a result of the death of their parents. Dela and Daniel though have their father alive, moved to the street because of maltreatment from the stepmother. His father is a taxi driver. These were some of the responses from the data collected.

Dela whose parents are both alive but do not know where they are said:

My father is somewhere but my mother I don't know. My mother used to sell for people in the market. Our father left us to go and look for a job where I don't know. We never receive financial assistance from

extended family. Madam, I think that was what made my mother run away from us (Dela).

Before we came here, we were staying with our Aunty who sales „waakye“. She has four children aside us. There was no financial assistance from the extended family for our upkeep. things became very difficult. When we work here, we don't send money home. We keep everything to ourselves. (Sefa and Elorm)

Hmmm, madam is all alone in this world. Though I have a family house, I don't receive financial assistance from anyone so I come here to make money. (Atiavi)

I was selling water for my mother at the age of four on the market pavement before she passed on, I have no family here in Ho. So I work and keep the money for himself (Tanko).

From the excerpts, it is understood that the absence of parents, poverty made the children seek a more conducive life in the street. Tanko who was selling water with the mother on the street already exposed to hardship. He sells water at the age of four. This means that he was already used to the street life before the mother died. Since he has no family here in the Municipality, he does not receive financial assistance from anyone. Hence, he keeps all the money he works for to himself.

The excerpts also suggest that all the children are from poor family backgrounds their parents died so early that they could not have access to at least primary education. In the case of Sefa and her sister Elorm, they also lost their parents but were staying with their aunt who already has four children. I can imagine that taking care of six children might have been very difficult for her since she receives no financial assistance from the extended family. Out of frustration, she maltreats the girls. So they also got influenced by Esi to move to the streets of Ho.

I can also argue from the responses that, since the children do not have any contact with their families, they work and keep every to themselves.

Another understanding from the excerpt is that the death of parents is a contributing factor for Streetism, if caring for children rests upon extended family, friends and even stepmothers, the inability to cater for the children will lead them to create the intention of seeking freedom, money in the street.

The excerpts explain that the foundational role of poverty as a determinant of Streetism. It says that the economic conditions of parents and guardians push children into Streetism. Thus, improving their economic situation can fundamentally curb the phenomenon of Streetism. From the needs-based perspective, supporting families to engage in income-generating activities appears to be a fundamental pathway out of Streetism.

The main argument is that children are not on the street as a matter of choice. Several economic factors push them onto the street. Whereas cultural factors as large family size, parental neglect, orphanage are fundamental push factors. In the creation of Streetism, household poverty, and prospects of economic benefits from living on the street are the fundamental pull factors.

The excerpts have also shown that children have little parental/ family support due to household poverty. Unlike the traditional situation where parents fend for their children, the street children were responsible for themselves. What was more concerning was the realization that parental poverty is an instrument of child neglect and the shirking of responsibility.

Given the excerpts made, it may simply be stated that the children on the streets are taking care of themselves. They have no parental guidance. Also, it could be argued that the participants engage in a different kind of trade such as selling of iced water, roasted plantain, carrying loads to fend for themselves. They work in the street and

expect to find work in the street, find friends, and earn money to survive. While it may have argued that parents were not in a position to take care of their children. Mintah's (2011) argument that parents who shirk responsibility contribute to the prevalence of Streetism. The central thesis, unlike some descriptions of street children across the world, is that parental inability to cater for their children leaves them with no option to engage in some economic activities as a way of earning a living. In extreme cases where children have to travel further away from home, they are left with no option other than to live in the street and sleep at night on the street in front of shops, market sheds, discarded cardboard, etc.

Another view from the excerpt is that parental responsibility for street children is a complicated issue. It has several dimensions. Whatever conception and understanding it may be, however, it seems that children involved in Streetism have parents who find it difficult to provide their basic needs. Other children have no parents or guardians. Therefore, it is difficult to argue that children in the street are there as delinquents (Mashicolo, 2013). They are children who are finding it difficult to meet their basic needs. Some felt neglected while others could see no possibility that parents/ families can support them. It is my wish that when these children are seen on the streets, these children should be seen as people at risk of sexual abuse, drug abuse, theft begging, while at the same time emerging from their origins as victims of harsh cultural and economic conditions that make the street more attractive as a place they can find hope and secure their survival and livelihood.

The focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews with the street children and the stakeholders was conducted to know why children conceive the behaviour of moving to the street of Ho Municipal. From the data collected, it explains that the children in and on the street of Ho are not from Ho township. Some are from the

neighbouring villages while others are from Akatsi, Walavi, and Atiavi. Their comments highlighted several reasons why children are on the street. Some were:

These children came to the municipality because it has a big market where everything goes in and around the market. They come to wash cars, carry loads. (PROTOA)

This means that majority of the children who are not from Ho came from nearby villages like Nyive and Togo. (M.C.E).

Street hustle is not easy oooo madam. (Sefiamor)

These children were not willing to say the reasons that drove them to the street.

They only tell me; madam, because of one or two things I left home for the street (Atiavi).

These children have several reasons why they are in the street. Some of these reasons are not available to be shared. The researcher decided to argue out this as an „unspoken“ reason. From the response of Sefiamor, it explained that some of the children are on the street for reasons they are not happy to share with anyone. This means that these children are going through much psychological trauma.

The phenomenon of Streetism was not in the Ho Municipality. This problem came as a result of urbanization“. What attracts the children to the street is money, freedom, and independent life. At home, they are restricted. They want to be on their own to do whatever they want. (MCE)

I crossed seven borders, I am from Niger. I came to my mother here in Ho leaving my father and the other siblings in Niger. I sold water for my mum when I was 4years. Now am 16years. I am the last born of eight children who are all females (Tanko).

Some of these children come for holidays with the perception that Ho is a big town for them to make money before going back to school. When they enjoy the outcome, the desire to come back to the street is high so if they feel a little uncomfortable in school, then they run back to the street. (The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE).

The excerpts are understood that the phenomenon was not in the municipality. The phenomenon of Streetism is usually associated with cities where a lot attract these children. This started emerging as a result of urbanization as mentioned by MCE, the municipality became attractive to people and this results in the phenomenon of Streetism. The children agreed that they are not from Ho. Tanko came from Niger, others are from Walavi, and Atiavi. Another idea that I got from the comment was that since the Municipality now has attractions children from villages come to work for money and go back home. When next they are coming they come with either relatives or friends to come for some of these attractions like money.

Data collected revealed several reasons for which the children are on the street. From the excerpts, the stakeholders and the children mentioned the following as reasons that intended the behaviour of streetism. There were issues of maltreatment, cultural issues like large family size, death of parents seems to be a major reason for the children on the street, peer pressure, poverty, the issue of family instability. The neglect of children by their parents is another major factor contributing to Streetism. The comment also indicated greatly that urbanization is one major reason for Streetism. This is because the children mentioned that they were from towns and villages as Ativi, Walavi, Adaklu, and Wegbe-Kpalime. The stakeholders also mentioned that the children are not from Ho but other towns and villages such as Nyive, Togo, and Hodzo. Since the municipality is developing and it has lots of commercial activities going on, the children were attracted to the street to work for money.

According to the TPB, children who go through the challenges of poverty, maltreatment by a guardian, death of a parent all other harsh situations may develop the intention of seeking a comfortable life hence moving to the street. since they have the power to control their intention to develop into a behaviour.

Some literature all over the world identified the reasons why children are on the street. Some of these are in line with the reasons for which these children are in the streets in the Ho municipality.

In line with how family structure contributes to child streetism, Ward et al (2007) pointed out that the degree of care shown to the child can also inform the child's decision to move to the street or not. This came to light when he conducted a qualitative study in Gauteng Province in South Africa on the factors underlying child streetism in South Africa. Especially, child abuse, discord between the child and family or neighbours, and feeling unsafe emerged as causal factors embedded in family structure that cause child streetism (Ward et al., 2007).

A Ghanaian study about the perspective of the street children's parents (Alenoma2012:77) also showed that parents believe that street children's exodus to the street may be due to reasons such as wanting to learn a trade, a gap in the educational system at the basic level, children learn to raise pocket money for school the next day, poverty, divorce or separation, a need for children to support guardian in return for support for further education, guardian too old to work and provide for the household, avoiding idleness at home and raising money to buy cooking wares.

Family disruption, in the form of desertion, separation, divorce, and death due to HIV/AIDS or other natural causes, has shrunk the family size among the poor still further, often resulting in poor single-parent or child-headed households. parents' behaviors have a big impact on the construction of a child's personality or intentionally, harm their children. According to Kars, parents might give them work in unhealthy conditions (Agnell, 1986). According to Agnell (1986), some children leave the home for the street because of the death of their parents.

This indicates that if children are given the necessary care and protection from family, the behavioral intention would not be created by them. These children only end up in the street because they will have to survive. As Darko (2013) explains each of these children has to grow quickly onto the street in order to take up for themselves those responsibilities that their parents could not fulfill for them or are not available to fulfill for them. From the observation I made these children struggle each day in the street to work for money to buy food.

From the data collected based on parental care for the children, parents seem not to have cared for the children. Some runaway from them, others are dead. Family members with reasons best known to them were not there for the children. The following comments confirm this.

My mother is dead and is staying with my stepmother with three other siblings. because of the maltreatment at home, I decided to drop out of school and stay permanently on the street and work for money. I have traveled all over to hustle I even went to the „up“(Accra, Kumasi) as a street boy (Daniel).

I have no family so I decided to come to Ho and work for money. But since I have a family house at Atiavi I go home often (Ativivi).

I lost my parents so came here to stay with my uncle. I worked with a woman who bakes bread. I moved to another woman who sells tea. I

worked with her until one-day hot water poured on me. She paid part of my hospital bills and left me on the street. Since then, I have been on the street permanently. (Sefiamor).

Madam my father is somewhere but my mother I don't know where she is. My other three siblings are staying with some family members but I decided to leave the village to come here and hustles for money. (Dela).

From the discussion, it was realized that parents play a major role in the development of the child. The absence of parents from the children's life made society see them as criminals. Society even maltreats them, cheat them, insult them, and abused them. The majority of these children drop out of school because they will have to work hard to look after themselves and their younger siblings.

The theory of TPB explains that children conceive the idea of moving to the street if parents have failed to play their role. since there is no parent to work and take care of them as children, they are also human and need to survive. They have to move into the street despite the harsh conditions on the street.

4.5 Consequences of Streetism for the Children

Street children face lots of problems in the street. These children are cheated, abused, helpless and there is no protection for them as society looks on. These are some of the information got from the street children and the stakeholders

I saw a boy, I don't think he was even five years old, selling pure water and some drivers at the station bought the water and wouldn't want to pay him; they were cheating him (PROTOA)

I saw this girl selling roasted plantain at the entrance of a „trotro“ to the passengers on board. The driver ordered her to leave the place but she wouldn't listen and the driver came down to slap her and drag her from the door, and nobody could say anything... (PROTOA)

It feels so bad and sad to see these children living on their own without somebody taking care of them or supervising what they do and where

they go. And these days too children are being used for money ritual. (DOVVSU).

These children face lots of challenges some of which include: kidnapping, child labor, contracting all manner of diseases, in worst cases death. “We are in the era of organ sacrifice, people can kidnap them under bet of giving them jobs, putting them through school. The commonest among them is sexual abuse”. (DOVVSU)

In the cause of helping with carrying loads, they run away with people’s luggage. These boys have their masters around so they send these stolen items to them. Their masters sell it and give some amount to the boys (PROTOA).

I stayed with a woman who sells tea. Working with her she promised to send me back to school or make me learn a trade. One day, I was heating water and it poured on me, she called my uncle and they took me to the hospital she paid part of my hospital bills and she left me alone. Since then I had to survive all alone on the street. (Sefiamor)

The excerpts collected from the DOVVSU indicate that street children are always seen as weak; they are created by society. They are also not regarded as a human that is why they are given little or no money when they render services. Society sees them as people who will do any tedious job for a little amount.

The suggestion here is that street children tend to be gullible to bad influences from both the adults and children population. It seems the volunteer’s „assumption is that the street child lacks the information or the awareness and the adult supervision required to ward off these influences as in the case of the ideal child at home.

A careful study of the excerpts is understood as that the street children are faced with lots of challenges in the street. The PROTOA officer indicated in his responses that these children are cheated any time they render services to people. They are either paid less or not paid at all. The comment from the DOVVSU officer seems a little different from the PROTOA officer she said these children are sometimes kidnaped

and are used for money rituals. This can only mean that SC is respected, they are treated as animals anyone can use them for so ever pleases them.

The PROTOA officer again mentioned that street children sometimes run away with people's items when they help as a result they are beaten severely.

Sefiamor's responses confirmed that street children are faced with lots of challenges. He has been cheated on by a woman he worked for who promise to send him back to school. She never fulfilled her promise. These children are vulnerable people in society they are called names, maltreated, cheated, and even beaten at the slightest provocation.

Campbell and Williams (2007) assert that street children are marginalized and rejected by virtually all sections of the urban community and are relegated, inevitably, to the position of social reject. Tipple and Speak (2004) found that these negative attributions and ill-informed perceptions of the larger society about street children are self-reinforcing and serve to keep homeless children and people excluded from society.

It appears in their daily economic lives, street children face much hostility at the hands of the adult population (as found by Koller and Hutz, 2001; Scheper-Hughes, 1995). They are also harassed by patrons who insult, reproach, and ridicule them. There are instances when they are beaten if they spill, lose or damage „patrons“ goods (Agarwal et al., 1997; Beauchemin, 1999; Opare, 2003; Yeboah & Appiah-Yeboah, 2009).

This suggests that although adults wield more power than children generally in the Ghanaian society, street children appear to be powerless and pushed to the passive

ends of exploitation. However, it appears because the street is frequently associated with deviance and criminal lifestyles in the eyes of the public (De Moura, 2002), street children tend to be virtually powerless, especially in their interactions with adults.

4.5.1 Protection issues on the street

As the children have decided to put their intention into the behaviour of Streetism, society needs to protect them since it was not able to discourage them from carrying out their behavioural intention. Children are supposed to have some form of parent figure even if they lost their parents. The question was that, do children living on the street of Ho have a parent figure to protect them?

It is not everybody on the street who does not have a caregiver. If the children have been placed on the street to beg for alms, then we have people who owed them a duty of care. We have people who allow their children to help them in trading of their wares, then they have caregivers

On a whole, if a child is on the street and it comes to the attention of authorities, social welfare is the agency responsible for them. (DOVVSU)

The Social Welfare Officer during the focus group discussion stressed that:

we do come for children at the station and sometimes arranged foster parents for them. This made the children believed that social welfare is to come for them from the street and enroll them in school.

The street children also agreed that;

whenever they are sick, or there is an emergency they run to the man they keep their money with. He borrowed them part of their money to buy drugs or pay hospital bills and they pay later.

With the excerpts from the data collected on the caregiver or the parent figure in the lives of the street children, I found out that there are people who owe a duty of care to

these children. From the excerpts, the DOVVSU officer believes that some children are sent on by elderly people to work for money and beg for alms. So the people who sent them are responsible for their welfare. The DOVVSU Officer mention in her comment that social welfare is the institution responsible for street child's care. The social welfare officer also agreed with the DOVVSU officer that they are responsible for the welfare of these children. he said, the institution sometimes arranges for foster parents for the children, they also made the children aware that they will come for them from the street. The view of the street children significantly differs from the stakeholders. The children believe that the man who keeps their money as „susu“ is responsible for their welfare because whenever they are unwell, he gives them part of their savings.

4.5.2 Health challenges

Another major theme that emerged from the data collected was health challenges. The children in the street face health problems some even die as a result of their ill-health.

Some of the comments are:

Most of them get infected with tuberculosis because they smoke the same stick of cigarette, they get infected easily. Some of them are grown on the street. Some are about fourteen to sixteen years.
(PROTOA)

When they fall sick, they do “on the shelf or self-medication”. They listen to old men and women around them. I once chanced upon a boy who said he got infected with sexually transmitted diseases. The boy had ampicillin/ amoxicillin. He removed them and poured the powder in “akpeteshie” which is what he was asked to use to cure gonorrhoea.
(DOVVSU)

The above excerpts imply that drug use is common among street children posing a serious threat to both their health and their chance of reintegration into society. The

street children take drugs for several reasons, mainly to endure the harsh condition of street life.

The PROTOA officer respond that due to drug use like smoking, the children get infected with tuberculosis. The DOVVSU officer also agreed that the children are easily infected with communicable diseases, STD's. When they are infected they do self-medication. Some of them are influenced by older people to use certain mixtures like pouring amoxicillin in akpeteshie.

The excerpts suggest that street life makes a child defenseless against physical and psychological pressures and spiritual influences from certain recalcitrant adults and children out there. These children go through all this but they will not like to go back home. Following the TPB social factors peer pressure, family disintegration, poverty, have already made the children take up the behaviour of Streetism. These children might not have thought of challenges on the street even if they did they have the behavioural control so they decided to take up the behaviour despite all the challenges.

The encounter with the general public, law enforcement officials, and the situation that street children endure in the street may make them feel nervous, scared, angry, or confused (Kids Report, 2012; Kiros, 2016). Street children, suffer multiple, repeated, violation of their right child in the street situation are at high risk of suffering violence particularly torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Ado,2013).

An important effect is labeling the street children as criminals, thieves, rebels, gangsters, and prostitutes by society (Hayes, 2008). difficulties in the street force some street children to develop bad behaviour such as aggression, theft, drug abuse, and inadequate socialization (Vogel, 2001). It can be argued that health problems are

major problems and other hazards are major problems street children face. Also, the children work in an uncondusive environment and they are vulnerable to defilement, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, and gonorrhoea as they suffer sexual abuse. Street children who become pregnant in the process and can cater to the needs of their children and ends up reproducing the generation of street children.

Safety is a major challenge faced by street children. This is not known to the street child. They had to survive throughout the seasons thus rainy, cold and even hot weather, they sleep in front of people's shops, pavements, and even market shades. The experiences of the street children are in line with Kiros (2016:220) who revealed that street children's coping mechanism also includes changing their sleeping location to hide from their aggressors, sometimes even hide in the underground, creating their affiliated community where they could live in an atmosphere of love and sense of family hood.

Some of them sleep in front of his office:

I have never tried sacking them. One morning I saw that one of them did not wake up so I called my assistant. They did what they could, they realized that the boy is a son to a known person. When they called on the man he said, he did everything possible for him to go to school but he refused. Unfortunately, the boy passed on. Mostly when they fall sick and they are not able to get the good medication they die. (PROTOA)

The excerpts explain that the children face severe health issues that if they are not able to have attention from the right person they die. From the excerpt, he was very sick but could not have proper medical care so he died. Although they called on the father, he did not have any information about his son's health.

Ali and Muynck, (2005:527) agreed with children and stakeholders that, street children go through lots of health issues. Sicknesses that result from this are skin infections, wounds from fighting, stomach ailments, and viral contagions. Street children have the following health problems that they refer to as minor health problems: heart pains, headaches, chest pains, back pains, abdominal colic, renal colic, blood in urine, shortening of breath from running, cough, wounds and bruises, diarrhea, dental problems, fever, and discharge from the ear. In Ghana, street children are in danger of getting malaria as a result of their exposure to mosquitoes (Orme & Seipel, 2007, p.497).

From the excerpts, the mechanism for child protection is not in short supply. There exist many mechanisms whether structural, systems, or processes. However, there seems to be a general lack of attention to implementation, enforcement, or operational utilization of the mechanism of the children's Act and the provisions in the 1992 constitution about child welfare. In terms of institution, it seems there are several institutions including the Department of Social Welfare, the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service, and the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection.

What can be said out of the excerpts is that the support mechanisms have not been sufficiently used to protect children on the street. another argument that can be put forward is that there is no sufficient social scrutiny of how the institutions designed to protect children are deployed for the protection of the children in the street. A third strand of the argument may be that the institutions do not seem to have developed capacity or knowledge in the sense of how they could protect the vulnerable children on the street.

Also, it can be argued that these mechanisms seem to have turned away from protecting the children in the street to regular children in homes and institutions such as schools, orphanages, etc.

Another area to consider is that Social Welfare kept on saying all though the institution has plans to house the children in the street, they do not have the funds to implement their plans. I can also argue again that, it seems overall that there is a certain admission that public disdain, objectification, or characterization of street children or to protect them. one point that needs reflection is that proposition there seems to be a national failure to protect children and that Streetism epitomize how children are taken care of and the exhibits the extent to which national child protection mechanism has been effective.

These propositions are grounded within the literature explored. First, they highlight the idea of Hagon (2003) that street children were denied their basic rights to life, health, shelter, education, and food. The argument will be that the children are not be supported to realize the rights of the child as enshrined within international and national human rights and legal instruments.it should be noted that the provisions in human and legal instruments place responsibilities on the state to take appropriate steps to protect children from all forms of physical, mental, and sexual abuse through the establishment of investigation.

Another understanding is that the failure of society to protect children in society does not mean a mechanism does not exist. The issue that coincided with Mashicolo's argument is that there are actions that should be taken to deal with Streetism which institutions, the state, and NGO's have failed to do. Thus, the reason for Streetism is not simply poverty and family dysfunction, or as Dybics (2005; 765) suggests that,

street children are delinquents and that they adopted their lifestyle due to the appeal of freedom adventure that the street offered.

West (2003) suggests that multiple strategies prevention mechanisms, making rules about the street, the protection of children in the street through institutions, and reintegration are needed to assist in dealing with the issue of Streetism. Whereas the root of addressing the “push” and “pull” factors of Streetism is prevention (Dybics; 2005), it needs to be understood as the primary intervention. This measure will require dealing with extreme poverty using community-based programmes that increase people’s life chances. As De Moura (2007) suggests it will require that the government plays a crucial role in eradicating poverty through skills development and employment creation (Ward and Seager, 2010).in terms of children, the government can assist by providing a house for them. offering them skill training, giving them grant providing primary health care, and enforcing free compulsory basic and secondary education where present street children can return to school (Dybics; 2005:766). As a preventive measure, children who are at “risk “of migrating to the street due to poverty and other factors should be placed in other forms of care such as foster care or adoption families.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the key findings from the research; the conclusions based on the findings and the major recommendations. Also, the limitations of the research and the suggestion for future research is presented. The chapter is organized into four main sections. The first session presents a summary of major findings from the research. The second presents the conclusions drawn from the research process while the third present the limitation that produces the results. The fourth section presents the major recommendations from the study and the fourth section focused on the suggestions for further research into Streetism in the Ho municipality and elsewhere.

5.1 Summary of Research Findings

This research set out to achieve several objectives. As indicated in chapter one, the main objectives were to

- i Analyse the nature of streetism in the Ho municipality.
- ii Assess the push and pull factors underlining streetism in the Ho Municipality.
- iii Assess the consequences of Streetism in the Ho Municipality.

Based on the objectives, four main questions were developed to guide the research. the questions explored were

- i What is the nature of streetism in the Ho Municipality?
- ii What are the pull and push factors underlining streetism in the Ho Municipality?
- iii What are the consequences of streetism in the Ho Municipality?

Following the analysis in chapter four, this section draws the main findings together.

The summary is presented based on the four main research questions.

5.2 What is the nature of streetism in the Ho Municipality?

The findings from the research on the nature of Streetism came out as what they do to survive on the street and what they and others think of the street child.

- The street children face lots of difficulties with basic needs include food, shelter, healthcare services, toilet, and bath facilities, and adequate shelter.
- They also suffer from the absence of parental protection and security due to the missing connection with their families.
- Also, there is a lack of any kind of moral and emotional support. These children do several things to survive the dangerous, harsh, poor living condition they encounter.
- They struggle to make ends meet by hawking, pottering, and car washing. others worked as a guard for the cars and security for shops where they slip at night. Some worked as food vendors at vantage points while others push wheelbarrows. Some also assist to either load or to help offload goods from cargo tracks at the lorry parks.
- Those involve in hawking engage in different kinds of things such as selling ice water, plantain chips. from the study children in the street are classified as criminals as a result of the kind of work they do on the street.

5.3 What are the push and pull factors underlining streetism in the Ho Municipality?

From the findings, children moved into the street because of several reasons. These children are mainly from homes where they faced several difficulties. They are children of parents who have difficulty in providing for them. Other reasons include; maltreatment from their homes, death of parents, poverty, large family size. From the discussion street children are children who find solace in the street because life has become very difficult, harsh, abused for them in the place where they originated from. The findings from the literature support the research finding that,

- Street children exist and it's a global phenomenon but predominant in large proportions in cities and towns with daily increases.
- The number of street children in the world, Africa and Ghana kept on increasing. Today figure stands unknown because daily new entrants add up the number.
- Modernity has affected the society in-built mechanism that regulated the behaviour of its younger members in past and has given way to child rights making every child autonomous to a greater extent.
- Most of these children are from poor families, out of marriage dissolutions, and others politically incited violence, war, harassment, and abusive parents.

5.4 What are the consequences of streetism in Ho Municipality?

The finding shows that destroyed child childhood destroys children by giving them unattractive childhood experiences, forcing them to be responsible for their lives. They become a prey and vulnerable to many has the social condition in the streets. As

such, they depend on peer groups to provide them with security and protection. Regarding their health condition, street children are subjected to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV due to unprotected sexual behaviour among them and also because of casual sexual relationships. Street children mostly live as homeless people. They sleep in front of the shops. Some took off to help them to endure the harshness on the street to cope with the cold, hunger, and fear.

5.5 Limitations

The limitations encountered in this study have been fully recognized upon careful overview and observations after the completion of the study. Among the limitations include the following:

The study was done only in Ho, a predominantly urban area in the Ho Municipality with a qualitative research approach using phenomenological design. Therefore, results cannot be generalized for the entire Volta Region or the whole country

Another limitation was that the period used for the collection of data was longer than anticipated because street children were busy working for money. I had arranged a meeting with them several times before I met them. I could have used convenience sampling where I collect information from available respondent but I could not use this technique because the street children though visible, they are very busy so I had to fall on the PROTOA manager to assist in getting access to them. Hence the use of purposive sampling.

Further, it was noted that some respondents were very reluctant to respond to the interview questions during the focus group discussion. Particularly some were reluctant with the fear that their story was pathetic. To overcome this, the researcher had to encourage them with little motivational words.

5.6 Conclusion

What is the nature of streetism?

They are children who find solace in the street because life had become very difficult and unsustainable for the place where they originated. While some occasionally join gangs or engage in untoward activities, the majority remain chaste in the hope of a better future. This study argues that street children are not to be associated with social vices. The work of children in the street includes hawking, pottering.

What are the push and pull factors underling streetism?

From the study, it is concluded that these children created the intention long ago to move into the street. The intention was created as a result of maltreatment from stepparents, poverty, peer pressure, and large family size. Since they have control over their intention and their behaviour, some of them did not consider whether society encourages the behaviour of Streetism or not. They only thought of the money, the freedom in the street. Hence the exhibition of the behaviour Streetism.

What are the consequences of streetism in the Ho Municipality?

They suffer several things including health problems, lack of shelter, and exposure to all kinds of vulnerable situations like death, STD's.

5.7 Recommendations

The study examined the causes of streetism in Ho Municipal, its effects and despite some efforts made by Governments and social welfare so far, streetism at the Ho Municipality remains intractable.

From the observations arising so far from the study, certain loopholes exist in the administration of the previous prescriptions to curb the phenomenon.

Firstly, the scourge of poverty is still biting deeper into the social fibre. Secondly, rural communities are still lagging in terms of infrastructural development which pushes the youth to the cities. Finally, most of the interventions, especially government ones are on a pilot basis whilst some are tied to rigid conditions such as “brilliant but needy” issues and political affiliations. While some interventions tackle part of it, others treat only the symptoms leaving the root causes untouched.

It is the positive conviction of the researcher that the following recommendations will appropriately forestall child streetism in the Municipality if diligently and strictly applied. The children have made up their mind to move in to the street with reference to the theory of planned behaviour. where the family and the society failed to provide the needs of these children. The study recommends these survival strategies to prevent the children from coming to the street, protecting them in the street and also not to allow the public treat them as nuisance, by calling them names.

What is the nature of streetism in the Ho municipality?

It is recommended that the state and non-state institution find appropriate way of meeting the needs of the street children by pooling resource and expertise together, as well as engaging them in order to develop interventions that meet the needs of the children.

The institutions like the social welfare should make the office welcoming for these children to seek counsel so as not to become nuisance to the society.

The department of social welfare in collaboration with N.G,O's must provide the children with their social needs like toilet and bath facilities, peer counselling sessions so that the children will not take advantage over by the general public, they will not be seen as criminal and social misfits.

What are the push and pull factors underling streetism in the Ho Municipality?

Ultimately, the answer to the child streetism phenomenon in the Ho Municipality of Volta Region of Ghana in particular, and Ghana in general, lies in the economic empowerment of rural communities through the reduction of the high prevalence of unemployment, especially, the urgent need of the Government to take a bold step to bridge the worsening infrastructural gap between the urban and the rural communities. Thus, there is a need to institute Rural Development Projects (RDP) are to be made to empower parents financially to boost their ability to cater to their wards. This will equally provide jobs for the youth and engage them to halt the tendency to migrate in search of jobs.

Extension of social amenities to the rural settings will not only provide entertainment to sustain the youth interest in the rural areas but as a push factor to investors to open up businesses. Non-governmental organizations, Telecommunications like MTN, who are into education should target the rural areas where these children migrate from rather than in cities so that barriers will be placed against further migration.

If all citizens are to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of Ghana, then, policies that seek to treat streetism must be extended to well-known areas with incidence of child streetism. For instance, scholarship should not cover the “brilliant but needy” only but also those who cannot cope with academic work to pursue an apprenticeship. Scholarships from MP’s common fund, traditional councils, and even some individuals.

The Municipal Chief Executive should make sure that there is non-partisan committee to determine who qualifies for the scholarship scheme while intensive publicity should be made to catch the attention of needy families.

What are the consequences of streetism in the Ho Municipality

Existing children should be registered, categorised and enrolled in appropriate institutions where they can develop and enhance their skills so that they can secure employment.

The Social Welfare Department of Ho Municipality should periodically embark on village „tours“ to give a talk on the consequences of broken homes, migration, peer group influence, and death of a parent on the child. This will at least make an impact to reduce the dissolution of marriages which is a major cause of streetism in the Municipality.

Actors and actresses are called upon to show in their works the effects of child streetism rather than displaying areas that motivate children to leave their families of orientation in pursuance of their own lives in the cities. Film shows could be carried on streetism at vantage areas.

Religious leaders have a key role to play. Religious leaders should spend time on areas that will shape the moral aspects of the young generation especially truancy and peer influence.

There should be stringent laws to prosecute parents and relatives who neglect their wards within school-going age. Alongside prosecution of offenders, the information service division of the Assembly should disseminate warning at the nearby communities.

5.8 Suggestions for Further Research

This research on the phenomenon of Streetism and its consequences in the Ho municipality. Further research is recommended to examine the impact of Streetism in the Ho Municipality or any other fast-growing towns.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Introductory Letter



UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

✉ P. O. Box 25, Winneba, Ghana
☎ +233 (020) 2041096

✉ socialstudies@uew.edu.gh

17th February, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: MISS EVANAM HAMENU

We write to introduce Miss Evanam Hamenu to your outfit. She is an M. Phil Social Studies student with registration number 8180140007 from the above-named Department.

As part of the requirements for the award of Master of Philosophy in Social Studies, she is undertaking a research on "*Explore the phenomenon of streetism and its consequences in the Ho Municipality*"

We wish to assure you that any information provided would be treated confidential.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Effeh Attom'.

Lucy Effeh Attom (Ph.D.)
Ag. Head of Department

APPENDIX B

Interview Guide for Stakeholders

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

This Interview is designed to solicit opinion(s) on the phenomenon of Streetism in the Ho Municipality. I have chosen these research methods to gain knowledge and insight from stakeholders on nature of Streetism, push and pull factors of Streetism and the consequences of Streetism in the municipality. You are kindly requested to provide answers to enable the researcher contribute to knowledge in the field of study. Kindly be assured that your response(s) would be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please remember participation in the study is voluntary. This means that no one is forced to take part in the study. Should you wish to withdraw from the study, please feel free to do so.

Questions

1. Can you tell me something about streetism or children working in the street?
2. What do you know about streetism or Children working in the street of Ho municipality?
3. What do you think about street children?
4. How do the people of Ho Municipality think/regard about streetism and street children?
5. What kind of children are in the street?
6. Where are they from?
7. What do they do in the street?
8. Are they always in the street?
9. Do some children return home at night?
10. Are the children permanently in the street?
11. What are their hopes and aspiration in being in the street?
12. What are they hoping to get in the street?
13. Who is responsible for their upkeep?
14. What drove them from their home on to the street?
15. Why did they choose Ho not any other city?

Accommodation on the street.

- a. Where do the children sleep in the street?
- b. Where do they keep their belongings?
- c. How do the street children bath?
- d. Where do they save they money?

Vulnerability

1. Why do they choose a difficult life of coming to live in the street?
2. What are the risks of being in the street?
3. How do the children keep save in the street?
4. Who is their parent figure in the street?
5. What friendship patterns do they have on the street?
6. How do they feed?
7. Who takes them to the hospital in case of emergency

Economic difficulties of parents

1. What do their parents do?
2. Do parents of the street children earn enough money?
3. What do their parents use the money for?
4. Do their parents receive financial assistance from the extended family?
5. How, and in what ways, do street children try to survive and cope with life on the street?

Are their measures in place to stop them from coming to the street?

APPENDIX C

Interview Guide for Street Children

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

This Interview is designed to solicit opinion(s) on the phenomenon of Streetism in the Ho Municipality. I have chosen these research methods to gain knowledge and insight from street children on nature of Streetism, push and pull factors of Streetism and the consequences of Streetism in the municipality. You are kindly requested to provide answers to enable the researcher contribute to knowledge in the field of study. Kindly be assured that your response(s) would be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please remember participation in the study is voluntary. This means that no one is forced to take part in the study. Should you wish to withdraw from the study, please feel free to do so.

Questions

1. Can you tell me something about streetism or children working in the street?
2. What do you know about streetism or Children working in the street of Ho municipality?
3. What do you think about street children?
4. How do the people of Ho Municipality think/regard about streetism and street children?
5. Where ae from?
6. What do you do in the street?
7. Are you always in the street?
8. Do some of some you return home at night?
9. Are you permanently in the street?
10. What are your hopes and aspiration in being in the street?
11. What are you hoping to get in the street?
12. Who is responsible for your upkeep?
13. What drove from their home on to the street?
14. Why did you choose Ho not any other city?

Accommodation on the street.

1. Where do the children sleep in the street?
2. Where do they keep their belongings?
3. How do the street children bath?
4. Where do they save they money?

Vulnerability

1. Why do you choose a difficult life of coming to live in the street?
2. What are the risks of being in the street?
3. How do the you keep save in the street?
4. Who is your parent figure in the street?
5. What friendship patterns do you have on the street?
6. How do you feed?
7. Who takes you to the hospital in case of emergency

Economic difficulties of parents

1. Are your parents alive?
2. What do your parents do?
3. Do your parents earn enough money?
4. What do your parents use the money for?
5. Do your parents receive financial assistance from the extended family?
6. How, and in what ways, do street children try to survive and cope with life on the street?
7. Are their measures in place to stop them from coming to the street?