

**INTERVENTION PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN LIVING
AND WORKING ON THE STREET: THE CASE OF SIMUKAI CHILD
PROTECTION PROGRAM**

BY

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN
SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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Declaration

I Joannah Mwaurayeni, Registration Number R 077513D do hereby declare that this work is of my own origin and it has not been submitted to any institution of higher learning for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate or any other qualification.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to those who assisted me during the development of this research. This document was developed after a series of consultations, field visits and in-depth interviews.

My most sincere gratitude goes to Dr W. Rugaranganda for his patient guidance, supervision, constructive ideas and comments for improvement during the preparation of this dissertation.

I am grateful to Sister Eunice Quigley and KAAD for assisting me with the funding for my studies.

My thanks also deserved to my workmates for the unwavering support, assistance in this project and input in my research.

My gratitude also goes to my classmates, Tariro Mukwidigwi, Rejoice Muzondo, Justice Medzani, Billy Kalima, Tarisai Manyati, Ngonidzashe Chidavaenzi. Thank you guys for being supportive.

I acknowledge the technical assistance provided by Simukai Child Protection Program and Youth Alive, Zimbabwe. I would like to express my special thanks to the children living and working on the street, staff at Simukai, stakeholders (Youth Alive Zimbabwe, Swedish Individual Relief Programme and Scripture Union) and the Victim Friendly Unit (ZRP) who kindly spared their time and patiently assisted me with the information needed for this research. I am equally grateful to those who assisted me by providing the necessary information needed to develop the dissertation.

All those who contributed in one way or another, as this study came into fruition, are also acknowledged.

Finally my thanks are due to my husband Kudakwashe Chirimuuta and family for their endless support and prayers.

I owe many thanks to a number of people who offered me their valuable contribution for the completion of this dissertation.

Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to the most important person in my life Sister Eunice Quigley for the unwavering support, commitment and love during my studies. Special mention also goes to my two lovely sons Jamarley and Jayden for being there for me and understanding that mummy has to read, I'm proud of you guys.

Not forgetting my late mother and grandmother you were my heroines.

ABSTRACT

There are a number of organizations implementing intervention programmes for children in Zimbabwe. Their projects and programs have been well documented in literature. Though there is considerable evidence of these intervention programmes in Zimbabwe there is, however, limited exploration and analysis of a single organization on the factors that influence the programming of its interventions. The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions and experiences of children living and working on the street of the intervention programmes designed for them, in this case by Simukai child protection program. It sought to highlight the challenges and the success story of the intervention programmes. It also aimed to establish the factors that influence the programming of interventions with specific reference to Simukai child protection program. The research used the qualitative methodology approach. A total of twenty five in depth interviews were conducted in order to collect data. The study was conducted at Simukai with the children currently living on the street when they came for their daily routines. The same applied to the staff at Simukai with whom interviews were done during their normal working hours. Observations were done at Simukai where the children spent the greater part of the day playing, accessing psycho-social support, doing laundry, bathing and having meals. Their interactions with staff and as peers were also noted. Informal conversations were also conducted with the children at Simukai and in town towards the end of the day. At the end of the day children return to town and begin to beg and do odd jobs such as carrying people's luggage and minding cars. Interviews with former beneficiaries were conducted at their respective homes while they carried on with their day to day activities. Stakeholders' interviews were conducted at their workplaces during working hours. The thematic approach to data analysis was utilized to present and analyse the qualitative data. The study established that institutions and programmes simply ignore the context in which they work. 85% of the children who participated in the study felt that they had not been considered in the designing and programming of the interventions. The top down approach used by Simukai was seen as oppressive, where children and communities are forced to make changes in their life according to external values which do not match their real context and values. The study established that the street children phenomenon must not be seen as an isolated phenomenon, but should be approached from the context in which it is located. The rational choice theory was used to explain and analyse the phenomenon under investigation.

Key words: intervention programmes, street children, context specific, top down approach, Simukai Child Protection Program.

List of Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome
CPA	Child Protection and Adoption Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SU	Scripture Union
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
YAZIM	Youth Alive Zimbabwe

Table of Contents

Declaration.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
List of Abbreviations.....	vi
Definition of key terms.....	viii
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY.....	4
BACKGROUND TO THE ORGANIZATION.....	6
1.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.....	7
2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.....	10
3.1 Research questions.....	10
3.0 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY.....	10
4.1 Limitations.....	11
4.2 Delimitations.....	11
4.0 THEORATICAL FRAMEWORK.....	12
5.0 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	13
6.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	19
7.1 Research Design.....	20
7.2 Sampling Techniques and Sampling Size.....	20
7.3 Techniques of Data Collection.....	21
7.4 Techniques of Data Analysis.....	26
7.5 Ethical Considerations.....	26
7.0 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS.....	27
9.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.....	37
9.1 Project Design.....	37
9.2 Intervention Programs.....	37
9.3 Reasons for being on the Street.....	38
9.4 Children as Rational Beings.....	38
9.5 Understanding the Context.....	39
9.6 Success Stories.....	39
9.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	41
10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	43
REFERENCES.....	44
Appendices.....	46

Definition of key terms

Street child:

Any boy or girl who has not reached adulthood for whom the street in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland etc has become his or her habitual abode and or sources of livelihood and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults (Inter-NGO, 1985).

Children of the street:

Are homeless children who live and sleep on the street in urban areas. They are on their own and do not have any parental supervision or care though some do live with other homeless adults.

Children on the street:

Earn a livelihood from the street such as street urchins and beggars. They return home at night and have contact with their families.

Intervention:

Interfering or becoming involved in something.

Programming:

A set of activities planned to address a developmental challenge.

Institution:

Organization for helping people with special needs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Children living and working on the street should not be considered as a social problem, but instead as human beings with full potential to contribute to the society and as positive agents for change. Marengula (2010) notes that the term “street- children” has been a subject of enduring debate among decision makers, politicians and academicians for many years. In many parts of the world the street children phenomenon continues to be an integral part of the urban landscape. There is so much debate on the laws and policies designed for children. However, in most developing countries policies and strategies designed for street children are a shadowy presence that fills the empty background of street children’s daily lives while they carry on with their odd jobs, scavenge for food, beg and steal from other citizens.

The term street children was coined in the 1980s to refer to ‘any girl or boy for whom the street (in the broadest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland etc.) has become his/her habitual abode and source of living and who is inadequately supervised, protected and directed by a responsible adult’ (Ennew 1994). In an attempt to understand this growing phenomenon, researchers and authors have put street children into two categories. The first category comprises of children who work on the street and go home at night and they have been termed children on the street, the second category consists of children who work and live on the street and are functionally without family links or abandoned children who completely live on their own and these are known as children of the street. However recent research conducted reveals that this categorization does not accurately describe the circumstances and experience of children living and working on the street. The categorization has in itself a lot of problems that do not portray a real picture of the phenomenon. It is the inability to properly describe this population that makes it difficult to design the right interventions for them. The term street children carries with it negative connotations. It is a socially constructed category, which in the practical sense does not constitute a homogenous group.

New terminology is emerging that emphasizes an understanding of the street children phenomenon based on the relationships that children form and their connection on the street. Paying particular attention to the choices that children make in developing relationships on the street, connection with their families, neighbours and schools they attend. Panter and Smith (2000) points out that it has to borne in mind that children living and working on the

street have established some connections while on the street, but are not completely reliant on the public spaces for their development; they have stronger connections with family, schools and peers within the community.

In Zimbabwe there have been many studies conducted on children living and working on the street. Bourdillion (1994), Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003); Dube (1999, 2002); Muchini and Nyandiya –Bundy (1991), Ruparanganda (2008), Musekiwa (2009) have profiled the life experiences of children living and working on the street. All the researchers seem to point to the issue that the street children phenomenon is exacerbated by a plethora of causes, most of which are embedded in the socio-economic context. However they did not emphasize on the issues of intervention programs designed for the children. A study by Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003) recommended that efforts should be directed at protecting children living and working on the street and to provide guidance for their activities instead of criminalizing them. Bourdillion (1994) notes that powerful people in the society have taken a punitive approach towards children, forcefully removing them from streets and placing them in detention centres for children often technically referred to as “house of safety”. Marima (1995) concurs with Bourdillion (1994) and notes that in Zimbabwe the official policy towards street children appears to be a social welfare approach in which children are removed from the street to a place of safety. On the face of it, this is a worthy objective. In practice, the state has inadequate facilities for street children. The street children see probation homes in terms distinctly other than places of safety.

Marengula (2010) notes that in Mozambique there are different organizations implementing interventions and social programs for children living and working on the street in order to provide social support and resolve the problems of the street children. Mtonga (2011) observes that in Zambia government and other stakeholders have sought to intervene through the rehabilitation approach which seeks to relocate children in residential institutions.

Selznick (2009) notes that in the United States a national survey of homeless assistance providers and clients report that they are only fourteen youth drop- in centres and twenty two outreach programmes. These centres are unstructured and provide immediate services. Lam and Cheng (2008) observe that the central government of China sought to intervene in the growing problem of street children and it established protection and education centres for street children which offer basic needs and shelter and emergency medical services as well as arrange for children to be returned to their family.

Panter Brick (2000) notes that the number and flow of children on the streets of any given city or country may rise significantly depending on the changes in the socio-economic and cultural political context and availability of protection services and patterns of urbanization. However poverty is by far the predominant cause of the street children phenomenon. This may be exacerbated by unemployment. The economic structural adjustment programs also impact on the already dire situation. Other factors that also contribute to this phenomenon include family disintegration, violence and abuse.

Researchers such as Ennew (1994), Aptekar (1988), Swart (1990), Luchinni (1993 a, 1996), UNICEF, (2000) Veale and Dona (2002), Mulinge (2010), De Moura (2002) have been puzzled by the street children phenomenon, paying attention on how to develop strategies for child protection, social reintegration, social well-being for the children living and working on the street and how to reduce the push and pull factors of the phenomenon locally and globally. The research for appropriate responses to deal with this escalating phenomenon has taken different twists and directions in different countries in the region.

In Zimbabwe organizations such as the Department Of Social Welfare, Streets Ahead, Simukai, Thuthuka, Presbyterian and the Roman Catholic Church, Harare Shelter for the Destitute, Streets Kids in Action and Scripture Union, amongst many others, have established programs and interventions to deal with children living and working on the street. The interventions run from identifying, and registration of street children, establishment of some shelter facility ranging from a drop- in centre to a reception centre, a clearing house or a traditional home for these children, counselling services, facilitating reintegration of children with their parents and provision of formal, informal education and vocational training.

Therefore this study sought to investigate the factors that influence the programming of the interventions for the children living and working on the street. It analysed the effectiveness of the intervention programs in addressing the needs of the children on the street; and explored the children's experience with intervention programmes. The study was conducted with children who have lived on the street and those who are currently living and working on the street. Access to these children was facilitated by Simukai Child Protection Program. This organization facilitated access to the children with street connections and street situations.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Blackman (2001) notes that orphaned, abandoned and working children have always existed in the world. Historically, adequate systems of dealing with children existed. In more industrialized societies they were placed as apprentices into foster care or in public institutions. Extended families absorbed these children in the traditional societies. Many of these mechanisms are still being adopted in many industrialised societies. However, in the past few decades, things have changed. The increasing burden of debt, the AIDS pandemic and, the lack of development in Africa have led to the near dissolution of the extended family safety nets.

It has become almost impossible for needy and disadvantaged children to be taken in by the extended family and public institutions. Children often labelled as street children are the unfortunate products of modern day social and economic systems. The number of children spending their days and nights on the street seem to be on the increase despite the phenomenon having received so much international attention. Different interventions have been devised by the society in order to curb this problem; some have rotated into and out of favour depending on the needs and social values of the time. Blackman (2000) points out that not any one of these interventions has deviated from roots in the pre-industrial Europe. Basic ideas of informal care, fostering and institutionalization have been and are still being relied upon in both the developing and developed countries.

Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003), opine that the Zimbabwean government has been more concerned with public safety rather than children's wellbeing. The violent and sporadic removal of the children living and working on the street has resulted in the infringement of their rights. Lack of sound legal systems to protect the children has resulted in the state machinery further infringing the rights of children living and working on the street. A lot of citizens feel that children living and working on the street drive away business potential. However the sporadic removal of the children from the street has proved to be a futile move. On a daily basis children relapse to the street while others are initiated onto the street. Institutionalizing street children has not yielded the desired results of persuading them to revert to childhood activities like schooling and play because children have developed different ideas of what childhood is about.

Ennew (2000) contends that there has been a historical progression in the ways of dealing with children, whose links to the current generation of adults are not firmly embedded in the

structures of legitimacy, ranging from kinship to citizenship. There has been marked changes in the caring of children who are viewed as outside structures. There is a shift from generalised societal investment in informal fostering and welfare mechanisms within kinship based societies to institutionalized abandonment in early modern states in which the public law solution is provided for by a perceived demographic problem.

Foster and Williamson (2000), note that the coping mechanisms for orphans and vulnerable children vary according to social settings. In most African communities the concept of adoption does not exist in the western sense. The role of the extended family and community in dealing with orphans are in a state of deterioration. In situations where traditional values are maintained the extended family nets are better preserved. In more urban areas, the traditional family ties are weakened. Due to the weakening of the extended family nets, alternative safety nets have been provided. Children who fail to cope within these extended family nets end up in a variety of vulnerable situations such as street and working children. The realisation that extended families are under pressure often leads to the idea that the most appropriate response is to develop other alternatives such as institutions, children's village and adoptive placements.

Raffaelli, (1991) notes that interventions for impoverished working children, who make up the bulk of street youth population, typically aim to help youths to stay connected to society by providing after school programs, community centres and recreational programs. Tyler et.al (1992) notes that homeless children who are in need of intensive, comprehensive care often receive the care in the form of group homes or institutional settings. The street children phenomenon is embedded in structural factors that lie outside individual children and their families of origin. Thus programs designed to help youth living and working on the street need to help youths cope with daily life, as well as a long term need that prevents youth from being on the street.

However, failure has characterised many programs that have tried to deal with children living and working on the street. The fact that a street child phenomenon is embedded in the profound social and economic situations has made it impossible and difficult to run effective intervention programs. Intervention programs that are being implemented in Zimbabwe by various non-governmental organizations assist street children to become literate, complete high school, develop skills in a trade and , break a drug habit. Other interventions have had

positive results while others have totally failed. In spite of the differences in results evidence on the ground shows that all of these interventions have a powerful impact on children.

Most literature has concentrated solely on describing the population and consequently the knowledge on the intervention strategies for street children remains at a nascent stage of development. Literature on institutions and institutional programming for street children has been lacking. Evidently there is data paucity with regards to the successes, challenges and opportunities facing institutions that work with street children on a daily basis. No efforts have been directed to studying a single institution that works with children living and working on the streets to understand the programming of its intervention. The study therefore sought to explore and understand the factors that influence the programs designed to help curb the street children phenomenon and to assess the effectiveness of the programs in addressing the needs of the children living and working on the street. The research used Simukai as a single case to assess its programming of the interventions, their challenges and success stories in relation to their efforts of curbing the street children phenomenon.

BACKGROUND TO THE ORGANIZATION

Simukai Child Protection Program is a registered child welfare organization under the Private Voluntary Organisations Act (chapter 17:05) 27/12 and located at number 9 Aerodrome road Yeovil, Mutare. Though situated in Mutare, Simukai's geographical coverage is Manicaland and beyond. Satellite offices have been established in Rusape and Chipinge to decentralise activities and reaching out to the people. Simukai was established in 2000 as a community response to the plight of abused, neglected and abandoned children who live on the streets and those who live outside family environments. Simukai works to improve the quality of life of orphans and other vulnerable children, through working with communities to prevent various forms of child abuse. Community capacity building programmes assist the communities to create an enabling environment for sustainable livelihoods so that children are not pushed out of family environments. Simukai is committed to tackle the street children phenomenon on three levels that is assisting in the rehabilitation of children, working with the children's families and working with the community to address issues regarding child care and protection. Their current interventions are a drop- in centre for children living and working on the street at 9 Aerodrome Road, Yeovil Mutare. This is a support centre for former street children in Sakubva township area in Mutare and an emergency care shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children. Simukai is involved in rehabilitation and psycho-

social support for children living and working on the street, family reunification, placements of children in formal school and in training, remedial programme and psycho social support for former street children and public awareness on child care and protection.

The current financial situation as of January 2014

The organization is surviving on funds from a few funding partners including HOPE HIV, ZOE Ministry, Action Aid International Zimbabwe, OAK Foundation and Plan International. There are also hopes to get funds from World Education Incorporation and NORAD.

The disbursements received under the periods of review can be summarised as below.

Funding partner	Current disbursements
HOPE HIV	US \$18 116.47
Plan International	US\$3110.00
OAK Foundation	US\$ 7500.00
ZOE Ministry	US\$88 929.50
Action Aid International	US\$24 704.23

(Source: Finance and Administration Report Simukai January-March 2014)

1.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Glauser (1990) notes that international organisations, policy makers, social institutions and individuals, who feel entitled to intervene in the lives of children with problems, do so on the basis of obviously unclear and arbitrary knowledge about the reality of these children. Police officials often conduct clean campaigns during which many children in street situations are sent to rehabilitation centres, illegally confined and subjected to a variety of abuses which in some cases results in death including suicide, (Karabanow and Clement 2004). The immediate situation of the children living and working on the street is largely unknown. Ennew and Milne (1998) point out that it is misleading to focus on the work or the street context rather than aspects of a child’s life. Many researchers with street connected children and youth are trapped in ethnographic studies to provide the unconnected snap short descriptions of children’s working activities. Many governments continue making consented efforts to remove these children from the street. However Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003) note

that in Zimbabwe over the past years the episodic removal of children from the street has not proved a solution. Bourdillion (2001) notes that it is not good deciding where we do not want them and wish them out of existence. Efforts must be directed at deciding where and how we want them to live in a way that is practically possible.

It is quite evident that current literature has depended solely on trying to describe this population and this has meant that the knowledge base on the intervention programs being implemented for these children especially in Zimbabwe is at a nascent stage of development. Organizations working with street children are well documented and their programs are well stated. However not much has been done to understand how these organizations design and implement their program. Little is known about their success, challenges and the impact of the interventions in the lives of the children living and working on the street. Regardless of the fact that there are a number of organizations working with street children conducting intervention programs of different magnitude the number of children on the street is actually increasing. In addition despite being involved with various organizations the lives of these children seem not to be changing. The children that you see at a drop- in centre in the afternoon you are most likely to see them again at night on the street.

Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003) note that the removal approach, adopted by the Zimbabwean government, is based on a globalized paradigm of childhood. This model views childhood as childhood spent while learning and playing within the home environment. However this view does not consider the context in which this social problem is emanating from. This view ignores the prestige that children who contribute to the income of their families gain

Most organizations implementing projects for children living and working on the street in Zimbabwe have concentrated solely on providing instantaneous needs of the children while they are on the street or taking them to a house of safety. Intervention programs of that nature are not suitable and do not provide a lasting solution to the street children phenomenon. These interventions are in actual and practical sense expensive and harm the wellbeing of the children and exacerbate by making it easier for children to thrive and survive on the street. Benitez (2007), notes that many governments have taken a harmful and life threatening steps to remove children off the streets, and they have failed to provide auxiliary option for the children. Time and again reports on police treatment of street children have been documented. Issues of victimization, rape, threats and brutality by the police have been mentioned. These matters continue to scuffle in the wider context of the society. Karabanow

and clement (2004) have noted that most studies have highlighted a myriad of humanitarian service organization that work with children living and working on the streets but little has existed in terms of a systematic analysis of interventions for street children.

Evans (2006) notes that intervention programs for children living and working on the street are driven by a western conceptualization of childhood which sees good childhood as childhood spent at home, in schools characterised with play and not working and begging in the streets. These approaches formulated against this background institutionalize the children and aim at removing the children from the streets and then rehabilitate the child and reintegrate.

Marengula (2010) notes that according to the national NGO network there are about 90 NGOs working on children's rights in Mozambique and about 40 of these organizations focus on street children's issues in Maputo. Even with so many organizations addressing the children's rights and the street children's reintegration programs, the phenomenon of street children persists and seems to be increasing rapidly.

Booth (2006), notes that research indicate that the number of children living and working on the street is increasing worldwide. The government of Uganda implemented a program to resettle youths from the capital city to their families or local agencies. It noted that by the end of the first year of implementation seven hundred children had been taken off the streets of the city and had been reunified with their families. However, an organisation implementing the project in the same area discovered that 50% of the reunified children were no longer staying in the villages.

Marima (1995) points out that the government of Zimbabwe's traditional practice has been to round up the street children and confine them along with the abandoned children, delinquents, stray children and other children in need of care, in government residential facilities of remand ,training centres, probation and children's homes. In some cases the street children become children in need of care in these institutions. Child care workers and street children have spoken of harsh conditions at some of the government training centres.

There is limited exploration as to why some interventions succeed while others fail. Blackman (2000) notes that the impact of projects and programs on street children is largely unknown. Marengula (2010) notes that even with so many organizations addressing the issues of child rights and street children, reintegration programs, the phenomenon of street

children still persists and seems to be increasing rapidly. The study therefore sought to make an empirical investigation into the factors influencing the programming of intervention for children living and working on the street. It also aimed to analyse the effectiveness of intervention programs in addressing the needs of children living and working on the street, to explore children's experience with intervention programs designed for them.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To establish the factors which influence the programming of intervention programs for children living and working on the street
- To examine the perceptions of children living and working on the street of the intervention initiatives designed for them
- To highlight the challenges and success stories of intervention programs for children living and working on the street.

3.1 Research questions

- What are the factors that influence the programming of interventions at Simukai?
- What are the experiences and perceptions of children living and working on the street of the interventions designed for them?
- What are the successes and challenges of the intervention programmes?

3.0 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

In Africa and Zimbabwe to be specific the burden of children living and working on the street has been greatly shouldered by the NGOs and churches. However, despite the fact that NGOs and churches have been playing a leading role in this area they have been unable to ensure the elimination and reduction of children living and working on the street. This study provides an in –depth understanding of the experiences and perceptions of the children living and working on the street of the intervention programmes designed for them. It seeks to understand the factors that influence the programming and the specific successes and

challenges of the interventions from the staff and the children's opinions. The study will contribute to the sociology of organization and of childhood.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Child, which is a statute governing the rights of the abused and neglected children to protection. By signing the convention Zimbabwe intended that all the abused and neglected children are adequately protected and provided for. However the implementation of the laws has been very weak. Society has tended to emphasize more the protection of society or the maintenance of order or stability. This study thus aims to provide an understanding of the programming of intervention programmes designed and implemented for children living and working on the street, which has the potential to significantly contribute to the establishment of child protection committees by providing empirical evidence on this subject matter.

The study also offers an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence the programming of interventions which is an area that has not been largely explored in sociological research in the Zimbabwean context especially with a specific case study of an organization implementing such projects. It can also provide an improved understanding of the factors that influence programming of interventions designed for children living and working on the street, which can help in the designing and implementation of programmes and development projects that are context specific and not donor driven.

4.1 Limitations

- The sensitivity associated with the topic under discussion made it difficult to further probe the participants to reveal more information.
- There were inadequate financial resources to conduct the research properly.
- The staff was not willing to disclose issues pertaining to the running of their organization
- Some of the former street children were not willing to talk about their past experiences. They felt shy about their past experiences.

4.2 Delimitations

The study was carried out in Mutare urban in the Manicaland province of Zimbabwe.

4.0 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The research used the rational choice theory for analysis. The major propositions of the theory were used to critically analyse the phenomenon under investigation. The rational choice theory was developed from the work of George Homans, (1961), who set out a basic framework of the exchange theory, which he grounded in the assumptions drawn from behaviourist psychology. Elster (1989) postulates that the rationale theory proposes that intricate social phenomena can be described in terms of the simple individual actions of which they are composed. This view called methodological individualism holds that ‘the simple unit of social life is the distinct human action. To explicate social institutions and social change is to describe how they arise as a result of the action and interaction of individuals.

The central position of the rational choice theory is that individuals are seen as motivated by wants and goals that express their ‘preferences’. They act within specific given constraints and on the basis of the information they have about conditions under which they are acting. A basic premise of the theory is that individuals seek to benefit themselves by their behaviour which involves making decisions and choices characterised by a degree of rationality (Cornish and Clarke, 1986). Simon (1978), points out that behaviour is rational in so far as it contributes to meeting the needs and goals of the individual.

Using the rational choice theory in the context of this research, street involvement is understood in the context of its reward for individual children. Children’s involvement in the street fulfils certain needs of the child such as food, money, clothes, freedom which is absent within the home environment. This can be viewed as a rational adaptation to the specific contexts of the child’s environment, past experiences and available courses of action. While children could have surveyed other options available for them to deal with problems at home, street life is chosen as one of a range of available alternatives. One aspect of this decision making process is the street child cognitive representation of decision factors, such as representation of the street compared with the home environment. This is fundamental in conceptualising the reasons why children become involved in street life and why they do not take intervention programs designed for them seriously.

The perceptions that people have about the street children will determine their attitude and reaction. When children’s involvement in the street is viewed as a problem, the most common

reaction of those in authority is to punish the children or try to make them behave normally. The rational choice theory reframes the problem to respond to the children's actual circumstance. Many aspects of the children's lives on the street, such as friendship with other street children and street adults, the tendency to form groups and the use of glue, are assessed not as pathological or deviant, but as strategies for coping with difficult environments. Panter and Brick Smith (2000) point out that rational choice theory facilitates a re-examination of the role of the family in the children's lives and the development of effective intervention programs. Epstein (1996) notes that instead of putting children back into the family, school, and mainstream society with the hope of normalizing their behaviour the way forward maybe to recognize the strengths that street children have developed and built upon for their survival skills.

Heath et al (1976), note that the rational choice theory states that individuals must antedate the results of alternative course of action and analyse that which will be of paramount importance to them. Cogent individuals select the option that is likely to give them the greatest satisfaction. In the context of this research children living and working on the street tend to calculate that which is beneficial to them and give them satisfaction, living on the street, taking part in the intervention program and returning home. The children also calculate how the intervention will satisfy their goals and needs.

5.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have implemented interventions to ameliorate the street child phenomenon. The problem of children living and working on the street seems to be a comparatively new phenomenon in sub Saharan Africa. Dzikus and Ochola (1996) note that authorities in Africa are increasingly confronted with an increasing number of children living and working on the street and all too often do not know how to deal with this growing population.

Just like in many other countries in the world, Zimbabwe's urban areas have children who live and work on the street. Studies conducted by Dube (2000); Bourdillion (1994); Muchini (1994); and Ruparanganda (2008) have shown that there is no one single cause to the phenomenon of children living and working on the street. There are a number of contributing factors to the problem such as the disintegration of the family unit, weakening of the kinship system, and poverty. Children are the most vulnerable members of the society hence the

different conditions facing these children call for urgent attention. Most local authorities in Africa have not been able to provide services to all residents in the face of increasing urban population and dwindling resources.

In Zimbabwe there have been many studies conducted on children living and working on the street. Bourdillion (1994), Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003); Dube (1999, 2002); Muchini and Nyandiya –Bundy (1991), Ruparanganda (20008) Musekiwa (2009) have profiled the experiences of children living and working on the street, they have all pointed out to the fact that street children are on the street due to a plethora of causes that are embedded in the wider context of the society. A lot of issues have been explored by these researches such as the push and pull factors of the street children phenomenon, the sexuality of street children and the girls as the less visible on the street. A lot of rich data has been elicited through these researches. However they did not emphasize on the issues of intervention programs designed for the children living and working on the street. Research conducted in Zimbabwe and other African countries have focused mainly on trying to understand the street children but they have not taken time to understand the intervention programs being designed for them hence the need for this study. There is a gap in research that merit further exploration on the phenomenon of street children.

It is quite evident that without understanding intervention programs designed for these children, their plight will continue. In order to successfully curb the phenomenon there is urgent need to understand the basis, impact, success of these interventions on the children living and working on the street. A study by Rurevo and Bourdillion (2003) recommend that efforts should be directed at protecting children living and working on the street and to provide guidance for their activities instead of criminalizing them. It is against this background that the researcher was compelled to explore the intervention programs that help mitigate the conditions of children living and working on the street.

Regionally, researchers such as Marengula (2010), Mtonga (2011), Blackman (2011) and Booth (2006) have written a lot on the street children phenomenon. They have explored the intervention programs in Zambia, Mozambique, Nairobi and Uganda. These authors seem to point to the fact that intervention programs for street children have been done without thorough knowledge of the street children's needs. They note that in order to formulate successful interventions aimed at alleviating challenges faced by children living and working on the street in any given society, it is of paramount importance to have knowledge about the

background, characteristics, causes and extent of the problem, as well as needs of the children and knowledge about them on the street. In Africa the intervention initiatives for children living and working on the street are driven by the western conceptualisation of childhood which sees good childhood as childhood spent at home and in schools not on the street working and begging. Consequently, there is need to design the intervention initiatives from an African perspective with the ideas of the children being considered. The contextualization of the interventions can only be understood through a research on how the current interventions for children living and working on the street are being designed. Clearly, there is a gap on current literature on this area hence the focus of this study.

Internationally, Ennew (1994), Aptekar (1998), Swart (1990), Luchinni (1993a, 1996), have written a lot on the children living and working on the street. However no research has been conducted in order to understand the intervention programs designed for the children living and working on the street. They have only been puzzled by the street children phenomenon focussing their concern on how to develop strategies for child protection, social reintegration and social well-being amongst children and how to reduce the pull and push factors of this phenomenon. The absence of literature on the intervention programmes designed for children living and working on the street is hypothesised by Khan (2000) who notes that, historically interventions followed the ideology that street children were criminal delinquents and their removal from society and placement in correctional facilities was the only way to deal with them

Gaps in literature on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street originate in the absence of public policy. Public policy regarding street children all too often does not seem to exist. Whatever that exists is grounded on the laws dating back to the colonial period. In most incidences the children living and working on the street are rounded up by police officials and handed back to their parents or temporarily locked up in prisons. Historically, children would be put in the custody of institutions such as an approved school, remand home. However, with the increasing number of children coming to the streets, government and non-governmental responses and initiatives appear futile. Therefore authorities are now in a dilemma on the course of action to be taken (Ruparanganda 2008). This is goaded by the absence of literature informing the interventions and programming for children living and working on the street, thus the need to carry out this research. Many

governments are making efforts to remove children from the street rather than assisting them while on the street which makes a study on intervention programs, as alternatives to such arbitrary removals, even more compelling.

Dzikus and Ochola (1996) note that initiatives to rehabilitate street children have been undertaken in various degrees by organizations such as NGOs, religious institutions, voluntary agencies and, to a limited extent, agencies of the central and local government as well as individual persons. NGOs have been at the forefront of initiating the most appropriate interventions to address the street children problem. However most NGO initiatives have proved to be remedial and provide services such as food, clothing and medical care which are only short term solutions to the problem. Some initiatives to intervene in the lives of these children have become fashionable tools for increasing institutional publicity which makes it easy to attract funding from donors. This research therefore seeks to empirically investigate the factors that influence the nature and design of the various interventions for children living and working on the street.

Bourdillion (2001) postulates that the Zimbabwean government does not make any sound strategy for children living and working on the streets. He notes that wherever they appear they are not wanted. However credit should indeed be given to some organizations that are working tirelessly to alleviate the street children phenomenon. Organizations such as Simukai, Thuthuka, Streets Ahead, Presbyterian and the Roman Catholic Church in Harare are making concerted efforts to curb the street children phenomenon. However their biggest challenge is that children are not willing to stay at the institutions and some always return to the street. Marima (1995) points out that the government of Zimbabwe's policy guarding the interest of each and every needy child under the age of sixteen is the Child Protection and Adoption Act (1972) chapter 33 (CPA). While a number of government training centres have tried to be responsive to the rights of street children, they have cited financial and human resources as inadequate to fully meet the challenges of providing for these children.

In Zimbabwe people in power often take a punitive approach towards the street children. They forcefully remove them from the street and placing them in detention centres for children often referred to as "house of safety" (Bourdillion 1994). Due to inadequate legal provisions for children living and working on the street, their ferocious removal from the streets generally results in the state machinery infringing on their rights, partly through

pressure from executives in industry and commerce in the city centre, who feel that street children drive away prospective business.

Mtonga (2011) notes that in Zambia, it is estimated that there are about four thousand five hundred and ninety two (4592) institutionalized children in Zambia undergoing rehabilitation. The Zambian government has also been leading in intervening in the problem of street children by establishing Zambia national service skills training program which houses children moved from the streets.

Community involvement and participation are regarded as having a major role to play in a holistic approach of rehabilitating street children. One of the NGOs in Nairobi that provides education scholarship for children living and working on streets managed to help ten former street children to acquire university degrees. Dzikus and Ochola (1996) note that issues of shelter have not received much attention in the rehabilitation of street children. This is despite the fact that slums and squatter settlements have the greatest potential of producing street children. Marengula (2010) notes that in Mozambique there are different organizations implementing intervention and social programs in order to provide social support and resolve problems of street children, but still the situation is uncontrollable. According to the national NGO network organization, there about ninety NGOs working on child rights in Mozambique and about forty of those focus on street children's issues in Maputo. Even with so many organizations addressing the children's rights and street children reintegration programs, the phenomenon of street children persists and seems to be increasing rapidly. Lam Cheng (2008) points out that the government of China sought to intervene in the growing problem and it established protection and education centres for street children which offers basic needs and shelter and emergency medical and arranges for children to be returned to their families.

Nieuwenhuys (1999) notes that these children represented as urgently in need of help are competent enough to take charge of their lives. They have been used as perfect allies by NGOs in their bid to fund raise and gain legitimacy. Ennew (1994) states that governments tend to abstain from developing policies for children living and working on the street in favour of funding and encouraging NGOs engaged in actions to combat the problems, particularly action which diminishes the visibility of these children on the street. Hence the problems faced by the children living and working on the street are tapped by NGOs dissimulating the necessity of a state that provides for their welfare (Nieuwenhuys, 1999).

The reviewed literature on the intervention strategies for children living and working on the street shows that programs do not look at the contextual and cultural background of street children. Their interest is more linked to the need to take children off the streets back home, to provide them with the basic food and support for a while and that is all. In some circumstances street children are collected from the street and locked up in rehabilitation centres without questioning their motivation to be on the street, and their interest in staying or not staying in rehabilitation centres.

Children have learnt that being on the street is a mediated role that they can adopt in order to gain access, through local NGOs to proper childhood. This so because they are not entitled to any help if they stay at home (Nieuwenhuys 1999). It has been noted that NGOs employ different strategies in their work with street children. The street based programmes are however the most common today. Ennew (1994) notes that in the past decades it was widely acknowledged that children on the streets saw peer relationship as relevant factors to their growth and identity, hence a more comfortable life while on the street while and the development of certain skills gained popularity. In spite of this, reintegration into the mainstream society remains a fundamental objective. Though these studies provide evidence of intervention programs being conducted there is little empirical evidence on the factors influencing the programming of intervention programs being given to the children living and working on the street and an in –depth analysis of the effectiveness of the interventions in meeting the needs of the children living and working on the street. Children’s experiences with the intervention programs have not been well documented.

The review of existing literature on intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street shows that a lot of interventions have, and are being conducted. However, as Hecht (1998), notes children do not see the social service institutions as a way out or a means of leaving the street. Instead they tend to view them as an integral part of street life from which to obtain material benefits. Although one can argue that the aim of these institutions is to reintegrate the child into the family or simply take them off the streets, there is always some kind of service provided that attracts the child to the project. Pirot (2004) notes that sandwich politics has been heavily criticized for keeping the children in an artificial dependency syndrome and even encouraging them to stay on the streets.

Divergent views on the impact of the intervention programs have been noted in literature. Many interventions are designed to meet the short term results and not the long term because

the donors have their own agendas. Nieuwenhuys (2001) notes that children are not heard. The interventions are top –down reflecting mostly what adults, foreigners and even the charity market perceive is important to address. Children and youth, as rightly pointed out by Hecht (1998), make use of the services provided for them in the best way they can, without paying too much attention to the discourses of salvation or reintegration.

Rehabilitation of children living outside the family care is one of the many arms being extended to the Zimbabwean children. However there is need to look beyond the immediate situation of the children living and working on the street and consider the long impact of street life. Hecht (1998) has argued that all work on street children is shaped by moral judgements of how childhood ought to be. Luchinni underscores that the street is only one domain among others, such as the family, homes, schools and welfare programs through which individual children pass at different times and with which they have a constellation of relationships and being a street child corresponds neither to a clearly delimited social category, nor to a perfectly homogenous psychological unity (Connolly and Ennew 1996).

The reviewed literature indicates how international organizations, policy makers, social institutions and individuals who feel entitled to intervene in the lives of children living and working on the street do so on the basis of obviously unclear and arbitrary knowledge about the reality of these children. This study therefore sought to address this gap in literature by focussing on establishing the factors that influence the programming of interventions that have been designed for the children living and working on the street. It aimed to probe the effectiveness of the intervention programs in addressing the needs of the children living and working on the street and understand the children’s experiences with the intervention initiatives.

6.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Baskerville (1991) postulates that methodology is the investigation of ideologies, approaches, procedures and hypotheses employed by a discipline, the significant study systems that can be used within a study. In the context of this study, the qualitative methodology was used to understand the street children phenomenon. Qualitative methodology was utilized for this research because it includes an explanatory and realistic approach to the topic under research. The revelatory and realistic style of qualitative methodology were very significant to his research which pursued a detailed understanding of the design and nature of the programs and

interventions designed for children living and working on the street, the effectiveness of the intervention programs in meeting the needs of the children and explore the children's experience with these programs. This segment presents how the research was done. It also shows the study plan, sampling technique and sample size, the methods and data collection, analysis and how they were pertinent to the study.

7.1 Research Design

Research design is a strategic plan for collecting data. It discusses the edifice of the enquiry. The study utilized the case study method. The case study method is defined by Yin (1984) as the pragmatic review that examines the modern phenomenon within its actual context, when the precincts between the phenomenon and environment are not clearly evident and in which a variety of sources of evidence are utilized. The case study method was utilized by the researcher because it stresses the comprehensive circumstantial analysis of programs and interventions designed for children living and working on the street. The researcher was able to assess the effectiveness of the interventions in the lives of the children and then further explore the children's experiences with the intervention programs.

7.2 Sampling Techniques and Sampling Size

Purposive sampling is defined by Aggrawal (1988) as a sampling approach that targets a specific group of people mainly when the preferred population for research is hard to recruit. Mutare urban was purposively selected by the researcher as the study site. This was done because a huge number of children living and working on the street are from Mutare urban. The study location was appropriate to the researcher because it was near town, easily available and had cheaper transport. Additionally, the greater number of participants originated in the same constellation. The researcher used the official course in order to gain contact with the research participants. A preliminary and official letter was directed to Simukai Child Protection Program, an organization that works with children living and working on the street in Mutare. The researcher was given admission through the consent and help of the director of the beneficiaries register. The register helped the researcher to identify the children living and working on the street for the research. The field work was conducted between March 2014 and May 2014.

The researcher also used convenience sampling in choosing the respondents to the study. Convenience sampling involves the selection of cases on the basis of their availability.

Former street children and those living and working on the street during the course of the research were used to elicit data for the study. This approach was adopted because the children who are presently living in the streets of Mutare have contact with NGOs that are offering various intervention programs and those who have had contact will help make a reference point of the effectiveness of the intervention programs. Both groups further helped to understand their experiences of the intervention initiatives. Street children are a difficult group to study because of many reasons most of which stem from the loopholes associated with the definition of the term children and the fact that they are not a homogenous group.

Children living and working on the street are on the street due to a plethora of reasons; hence their needs and experiences with intervention programs will also be varied. Therefore any children who live and work on the street who were accessible during the period of study were interviewed. Children that once lived on the street were also interviewed. The aim was to draw a demonstrative sample so that the results gained from the sample can be spawned to the population. The major challenge was to gain the collaboration of the organization as well as the children getting the services because of the sensitivity associated with the topic under discussion.

A significant deliberation in sampling is whether there are people who are accessible who will permit the researcher to gather data about them. Thomas and Nelson (2001:281) note that convenience sampling is utilized in some studies because the tenacity of the study is not to guess some population value but to choose circumstances from which one can learn most.

7.3 Techniques of Data Collection

Kajornborn (2004) postulates that collecting data is an important constituent of conducting research. Collecting data is an intricate and difficult assignment. Multiple techniques of gathering data had to be employed such as the in-depth interview, key informant interview, conversational technique and observation in order for each method to pawn the weaknesses of the other. O Leary (2004:150) observes that gathering reliable data is hard task and it is worth recalling that one method of data gathering is not integrally better than the other. Therefore triangulation, which is the method of consolidating the outcomes obtained from a qualitative investigation by cross examining information, was used in order to bring together different sources of information to join or conform to one understanding (Potter,1996). With the merging of information from diverse sources, surroundings and surveys, the researcher

was able to make a commanding argument based on the children's views that the explanation is more credible.

The usage of diverse methods of data collection helped the researcher corroborate the weaknesses of each study with the strength of the other. Yin (2003:98) advocates for this development of congregating lines of investigation from numerous springs of information. The researcher conducted fifteen in-depth interviews with the children working and living on the street who were willing to discuss the topic, five key informant interviews with the staff at Simukai, other stakeholders and children that have benefited from the intervention programs. The interviews with children were conducted at Simukai Child Protection Program while interviews with stakeholders were conducted at their various organizations. The in-depth interviews took approximately thirty to forty five minutes.

Interviewing is a method of collecting data as well as to gather knowledge from persons. Therefore this was suitable data gathering tool for the research which is essentially aimed at prompting the children experience with intervention program and understanding the nature and design of intervention programs as well as to analysing the effectiveness of the intervention programs. Kvale (1996) cited in Kajornborn (2004) views interviews as an exchange of opinions between two or more people on an issue of common interest. He sees the importance of human interface for knowledge creation and stresses the social "situatedness" of research data. The interviewing was of important because it allowed the children and the researcher to exchange views and opinions regarding the intervention programmes designed for them. Interviewing allowed the children to fully express themselves on the programmes designed for them.

Interviews with children living and working on the street in this study allowed the children to entirely express themselves without feeling susceptible or frightened. More so the children were able to deliberate on the circumstances and express it from their point of view. Cohen et.al (2002: 267) in Kajornborn (2004) postulate that an interview is not just apprehensive with accumulating data about life, it is part of life itself and its human settings are unavoidable. For this reason, their appropriateness in a study that entailed the lived experiences of children on the street cannot be overemphasised.

Similarly in-depth interviews, as noted by Legard, and Ward (2003), are some of the chief techniques of data gathering used in qualitative research thus their relevance for this study. Malinowski, a well-known classic ethnographer, emphasized the significance of speaking to

people to understand their point of view. It was therefore important to interview stakeholders involved in intervention programs for children living on the street to elicit their perceptions about the efficacy of such programs. Burgess (1982) notes that the individual interpretations are considered to have vital meaning in social research because of the power of language of bringing out meaning.

Hammersely and Atkinson (1995) note that ‘the communicative power of language delivers the most valuable resources for explanations. A critical feature of language is its ability to present explanations, accounts and assessment of virtually immeasurable variety, about any aspect including the world itself. The in -depth interviews with children living and working on the street helped the researcher understand the nature and design of the intervention programs as well as the effectiveness of the programs and the children’s experience with these programs.

Burgess (1982); Lofland and Lofland, (1995) describe the in-depth interview as a form of discussion. While Webb and Webb (1932) also define the process of interviewing as a ‘conversation with a purpose’ as such it replicates an essential procedure through which knowledge about the social world is created in an ordinary human interaction. Through the in-depth interview children were able to articulate all the issues as well as express themselves without disruption from the researcher. However this made the interviews more time consuming as some children ended up conferring unconnected issues to the aim of the research. The vital feature of the in-depth interview is that it is anticipated to conglomerate the aim of the research. The vital feature of the in-depth interview is that it is anticipated to conglomerate structure with flexibility.

Throughout the research the researcher had some themes she wanted to discover and the interviews were normally based on some subject guide setting out the key issues and matters to be covered throughout the interview. Nevertheless, due to assumptions that some children may not be eager to chat about some matters while others are less likely to collaborate or even hide the truth, the organization of the interview was sufficiently flexible to allow themes to be covered in order most inappropriate to the interviewee, to allow reactions to be fully investigated and explored and allow the researcher to be reactive to appropriate issues raised suddenly by the interviewee.

The nature of the interview demands cooperation from both parties. The information is created by the interface that occurs between the interviewer and the interviewee. The collaborative aspect of the interview is essential mainly when a good relationship has been established because it decreases the feeling of stigmatisation. The interviewer asked a preliminary question in a manner that encouraged the participant to talk freely when responding to the questions. This was necessary because children living and working on the street are very emotional and sensitive as well as secretive. They may hide some information from the interviewer because they have not trusted them enough. This was done having in mind that the phenomenon of children living and working on the street is a delicate phenomenon and that quite a large number of children are likely to feel stigmatised. The next interference by the researcher was determined generally by the children's response to the previous question. The researcher used a variety of reviews and other methods to attain depth of answer in terms of penetration, exploration and explanation. This required a lot of time and patience. The children could as well decide to stop talking and go and do their laundry, hence the interviewer had to be quick to react.

The children's preliminary reply was often a shallow one. The interviewer utilized follow up questions to gain a deeper understanding of the children's meanings. This was prominent because the research desired to obtain an understanding of the nature and design of the intervention programs for children living and working on the street. The in-depth set up also allowed the researcher to discover fully all the issues that prop up the children's answers, reasons, feelings, options and beliefs. This equipped the descriptive evidence which is an imperative component of qualitative research.

The researcher also used key informant interviews for collecting data. These interviews were conducted with members of staff at Simukai who implement the programs for the children and other stakeholders. Children that once lived on the street were also interviewed by the researcher. These people were strategically chosen because they were the people with better knowledge of the intervention programs. Key informant interviews are loosely structured conversations with people that have specialised knowledge about the topic that the researcher wishes to understand. In this case the former children had a better appreciation of the intervention programs as well as the staff who design the interventions.

Taylor-Powell (1996) notes that key informant interviews were used by ethnographers to help them understand cultures other than their own. The purpose is to collect information from a

wide range of people who have first-hand information on the subject. For the purpose of this research the key informant interviews were conducted with the staff at Simukai and beneficiaries of their project. These helped the researcher understand the programming of the intervention and the successes and challenges they face with these programs. Through the key informant interviews the researcher was able to discuss sensitive issues and get the respondents candid discussion of the topic.

The researcher also bore in mind that this was a very sensitive topic to discuss especially with the staff as they did not want to be discredited for the work they were doing. Many a times organizations do not want to have an impact and process evaluation done on them by outsiders. Key informant interviews allowed the researcher a chance to explore the subject in depth. The give- and- take nature of the interview usually results in the discovery of information that would have not have been revealed in a survey.

The face to face interview was used by the researcher because it provided a free exchange of ideas between the researcher and the staff at Simukai and lends itself to ask more complex questions and getting more detailed responses. However key informant interviews were more intensive because it required additional scheduling and logistical planning.

Taylor –Powell, E (1996) notes that observation is a way of gathering data by watching behaviour, events or noting physical characteristic in their natural settings. Observations can be overt or covert. The benefit of overt observation is that people are likely to behave naturally if they do not know they are being observed. However, the researcher typically needed to conduct overt observations because of ethical considerations related to concealing your observations. Observations can be direct or indirect (Reisman 2000). Direct observation is when one watches interactions or processes and behaviours in their natural settings. For purposes of this research the researcher watched the children living and working on the street come to the drop in centres and access the facilities provided for them by Simukai. The research also observed the interaction between the children and the staff at the centre.

Indirect observations are defined as watching outcomes of interface processes or behaviour; therefore the researcher also observed the children whilst they had left the rehabilitation centre. Observations were ideal for the purpose of this research as it allowed the researcher to understand the on-going processes of intervening in the lives of children living and working on the street in its natural setting. The observation technique afforded the researcher an opportunity to watch the interaction of children and staff at the centre and also observe the

results of these interactions. Seeing the place or environment where the intervention takes place helped to increase the researcher's understanding of the intervention programs designed for the children living and working on the street. Sometimes it was difficult to collect real information about children living and working on the street. Hence observations were the most ideal when children were unable to provide data through questionnaires or interviews as it requires little from the children for whom the researcher needed data. However, the observations were susceptible to observer bias and the Hawthorne effect that is people usually perform better when they know they are being observed. It was also expensive and time consuming.

The researcher also used conversational technique in eliciting data from the respondents. Conversations were ideal for the purposes of this research as they were more in touch with humanity. The researcher was engaged in a conversation with both the staff and the children living and working on the street. Engaging questions were asked that helped the respondents relax and open up, to share life and reveal the effectiveness of the intervention programs in their lives. Initially the conversations were stilted as both the researcher and respondent settled into rhythm.

7.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

The researcher analysed the data using themes. Using thematic analysis of the data the researcher identified themes which sufficiently replicate the documented data. Howitts and Duncan (1995) note that as with all qualitative analysis it is extremely significant that the researcher is tremendously familiar with their data if the analysis is to be advanced and intuitive. Thus data acquaintance is important to thematic analysis. At every phase of the analysis the researcher transformed and altered the analysis in light of familiarity and as ideas developed. On the basis of coding, the researcher branded themes which incorporated large sets of these coding.

7.5 Ethical Considerations

The social science ethical codes and guidelines for conducting research were followed by the researcher. Simukai Child Protection Program helped the researcher to attain entry to the participants of the study. The data base available at the organization was used to identify children living and working on the street. Informed consent was obtained from every participant and no child was coerced into participating neither was any benefits mentioned.

No monetary benefits or motivations were given to the participants, the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents was observed hence pseudo names were used.

7.0 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

Children's experience with the interventions designed for them

Duration of stay in the street

The range of stay in the street for the children is varied. Five of the respondents of the twelve in depth interviews conducted with the children showed evidence that the children have been on the streets for a long time. The children reported having been on the streets for six months, one and half years and the longest being for six years. Romeo is twelve years old and reported that he has been on the street for almost two years. He notes that while he is on the street he is engaged in a number of activities such as fruit peddling, selling of cooking sticks and carrying luggage for people. He came to the street because his mother abandoned him for her boyfriend and he could no longer attend school. He stated that "*ndane kunge makore maviri chaivo ndichigara mumugwagwa, ndakauya mushure mekunge mai vati ahava chakwanise kugara neni nekuti vawana mumwe murume.*" (*'I have been living in the streets for almost two years now, I came to the street because my mother neglected when she got remarried'*). Romeo noted that there are so many challenges that they face in the streets especially during the night. He highlighted that staying in the street is a survival of the fit game.

Tinashe, another young boy who also lives and works on the street, cannot vividly remember how long he has been staying on the street. He stated that "*handichanyatsozivi asi nguva yacho yareba ndichigara muno mumugwagwa*" (*'I cannot remember very well but I have been on the streets for a long time now'*). Tinashe noted that while on the street he was involved in begging for food and money at the entrance of Spar outlet and other busy centres. During the day he stated that they went to Simukai for bathing and to wash their laundry. At Simukai they get time to relax and socialise without fear of being reprimanded and instigated by people. Tinashe noted that at Simukai they get time to discuss issues affecting them while on the streets such as potential threats and how they can survive better. He stated that "*mustreet makaoma sister saka patinouya kuSimukai tinotwana mukana wekukurukura*

hedu takalazer” (“*life on the street is difficult hence Simukai centre presents an opportunity for us to discuss issues that affect us whilst we are relaxed*”).

Talent, one of the respondents, stated that he had been on the streets for six months. He highlighted that he was still trying to adjust to street life. However he noted that it was quite difficult, especially trying to find food to eat during the nights and weekends when Simukai is closed. “*chakanyanya kuoma munoona sister kutsvaga chekudya manheru nepaweekend panenge pakavhara Simukai ipapo maone*” (“*the most difficult thing on the street is to beg for food when Simukai is closed on weekends and at night*”).

Beauty, a former street child highlighted that she had lived on the street for a year. She noted that “*ndakagara mustreet kwe gore*” (“*I stayed in the street for a year*”). Beauty highlighted that she was invisible during the day as she would spend the day helping the vendors with peddling their fruits. She avoided being active on the streets during the day because she knew that it would be easy for people to recognise her and take her home. One thing she was not ready to do because of the situation at home. She states that “*ndaizobatika deepas panama chicken inn takukumbira mare nechikafu ne rimwe gen á*” (“*I would only be visible at night with the rest of the crew*”). Beauty highlighted that her gender made it difficult to stay on the street as she was prone to abuse from older men.

REASONS FOR LEAVING HOME

The in depth interviews validated that children living and working on the streets are there because of a plethora of reasons. All of the children interviewed, shared their different experiences and reasons for leaving home. Seven of the respondents interviewed noted that they had been pushed onto the street because of the disintegration of their families. Others had left home because of violence, lack of basic needs. One of the respondents, Blessing a ten year old boy noted that “*ndakabva kumba nekuti sekuru vangu vaisandibata zvakanaka kubva pakafa vabereki*” (“*I left home after the death of my parents my uncle started to abuse me*”).

Three of the children interviewed reported that they had left home because of the violence perpetrated to them or their family members. The in- depth interviews showed evidence that children living and working on the street have been exposed to some violence in one way or another. The forms of violence they have been exposed to are physical violence and domestic violence. One of the respondents Teerera stated that “*ndanga ndisisa goni kuramba*

ndichiona mai vangu vachirohwa zvakadaro” (‘I could not stand to see my mother being battered like that on a daily basis’). The interviews also revealed that the children had been abused by their care givers after their parents had died. Peter noted that ‘*ndairohwa akomana uye ndaishanda sedhongi fanika ndikarasa mbudzi*’ (‘I would work like a slave’).

All of the children interviewed noted that at one moment or another they had found it difficult to go to school. Witness stated that ‘*ndakabva kumba nekuti mhai akashaya mare yechikoro*’ (‘I left home because my mother could not pay for my school fees’). Tapfuma also echoed the same sentiments ‘*ndakanga ndisinga chaendi kuchikoro nekuti mainini vakandishaira mare yechikoro*’ (“my aunt could not pay my fees and I stopped going to school”). The respondents highlighted that the situation was also worsened by the lack of care and love from their caregivers and other people who were around them.

REUNIFICATION

The research findings also show children’s perceptions of the reunification interventions. The children living and working on the street revealed that they would want to be reunified with their families though they had conditions for their reunification. Teerai noted that ‘*ndoda kuenda kumba asi kwete kwasekuru angu ndingatoenda kumasvingo kwamukoma better*’ (‘I would rather be reunified with my brother than uncle, it is better that way’). Witness, another respondent, revealed that he would love to go home, but there was no home to return to because his family had disintegrated. He stated, “*kana ndikada kuenda kumba handina kumba kwacho kwekuenda*” (‘even if I want to go home there is no home to return to’). Peter savoured the same sentiments and stated “*handidzokeri kumba kwamainini wangu*” (‘I will not return to my aunt’s place’). One child considered going home but affirmed that he was not ready to leave the street and go back home. Two children did not want to be reunified with their families as yet. They stated that “*mustreet muno mutorinane pane kumba*” (‘I would rather be on the streets than at home’).

Moyana, a former street child, highlighted that he left the streets after Simukai promised to pay for his school fees. Simukai helped Moyana reunite with his family. He stated that “*ndakaenda kumba kune vabereki vangu pakanzi neSimukai ukabuda mumugwawa tinokubhadharira mare yechikoro ndopandakabva*”. (‘I left the streets after Simukai promised to give me educational assistance’). Chipu highlighted that she stopped going to the street when the old woman who used to take care of her died. She stated that ‘*ndakaregera kuenda kustrreet pakafa mbuya vetaiendawo*’ (‘we stopped going to the street when the

woman who took us there died’’). Chipo noted that she also began to benefit from Simukai’s educational assistance programme when she was reunified with her family.

SERVICES ACCESSED AT SIMUKAI BY THE CHILDREN

The research established that children living and working on the street have come to Simukai after being referred by a friend or a fellow on the street. Only one of the street children mentioned that they had been invited to the centre by a staff member. The in –depth interviews conducted and the observations done showed that the children get food, bath and do their laundry at the centre. In the in – depth interview the children noted that they come to Simukai during the day to eat lunch, bath and wash their clothes. Teerera stated that *‘tinoouya pano masikati kodya nekugeza muviri nehembe dzedu’* (‘We come here to bath, eat and wash our clothes’). Blessing also added onto the services they access. *‘Pano tinotamba bhora, tinofundiswa zvakawanda neve Youth Alive Zimbabwe, Scripture Union uye mangezi anombouya pano’* he said. (‘We are engaged in a lot of activities here, we play soccer, taught about life skills by YAZIM, SU and the volunteers that come here’’). The children noted that the life skills sessions are very informative, educative and have them in their survival on the streets. John stated *‘ndakatofundawo nezvekuipa kweku svuta glue nembanje kubudikidza nezvidzidzo izvi.’* (‘I learnt about the effects of drug abuse and stealing from these sessions’). From the observations made the researcher also acknowledged a change in the behaviour of these children while at the centre and on the street. Peter was very grateful to a greater extent for having the opportunity to bath and do laundry at Simukai. He stated that *‘kare ndisati ndaziva nezveSimukai ndaifamba ne tsvina mutaundi umu.’* (‘I used to roam around town without bathing but, now I go around town clean and smart’’).

However, other children showed dissatisfaction with the services they get from Simukai. Witness stated that *‘Simukai inotibatsira zvisvishoma sezvo tichiwana chikafu chemasikati . asi manheru nzara inodzoka futi.’* (‘Simukai has helped us in little ways, especially the fact that we get food, however when night falls we are faced with the predicament of hunger’’). Tinashe had the same to say *‘pano panouya mabhero ehembe asi kana imwe yatakambopihwa.’* (‘A lot of clothes come here, but we have never been given any’’). The conversations done with the children showed that they were resentful of the way Simukai was conducting its business. Romeo stated that *‘chikafu chiri bhoo sister asi toda kuenda kuskuru, mustreet umu makaoma, dai Simukai yatiendesawo kuskuru kana kutifundisa wo*

mabasa emaoko.''(Simukai should take us to school or teach us any practical work''). The children noted with concern that they wanted to be placed in the house of safety so that they would be able to attend school. They highlighted that while they were on the street they would never be able to attend school and all the time lost on the street would never be recovered. Blessing felt that *''dzimwe nguva kuuya kana kuusauya hakuna mutsauko.*'' (*''Coming to Simukai sometimes makes no difference''*). The children highlighted that getting food and going back to the street did not make a big impact in their lives. They needed Simukai to address their real needs and concerns.

Moyana and Beauty, former street children, revealed that Simukai had helped them in many years. It was through the help of Simukai that they had been able to go to school and be reunified with their families. The two family members showed great appreciation for the help that they got from Simukai. Beauty stated that *''handidi kunyepa hangu takambobatsirwa neSimukai, tisu hedu takazobhaiza.*'' (*''We were greatly helped by Simukai; we are the ones to blame for the failure''*). Despite such help being rendered to them they acknowledged that they lost it on the way and failed in their academic work and did not complete their studies. From the researcher's observation the two were under the influence of drugs and seemed to be living a wasted life. Chipso, another beneficiary stated that she had failed to complete her studies because Simukai could no longer fund her studies.

CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN AT SIMUKAI

The children highlighted that they did not face any challenges at Simukai. They actually felt free and enjoyed their time while at the centre. Timothy stated that *''tinotamba bhora nekufara pano.*'' (*''We play soccer and enjoy ourselves here at the centre''*). However, the children noted with concern the treatment they got from one of the staff members. They highlighted that Owen did not want to see them playing and enjoying while at the centre. Tinashe stated that *''mukoma Owen havadi kana kuti ona tichinhonga kotopeya haro.*'' (*''Owen does not want to see us pick even an avocado pear''*). However the observations made reveal that children were generally free and happy at the centre as they could be seen playing soccer while others did their laundry chit chatting to each other.

STAKEHOLDERS' INTERVIEWS

Two organisations were interviewed to examine the role and relevance of the organisation in the Simukai strategy.

Defining Partnership

YAZim defined the partnership that it enjoys with Simukai as a collaborative partnership. Simukai, in partnership with YAZim conducts the commemoration of the Day of the Street Child. YAZim is a key player in the life skills activities that the children living and working in the streets are exposed to. In addition to the activities that are conducted YAZim sits in the Simukai Board of Trustees.

Two respondents were interviewed separately at YAZim and they attested that there was already a strong relationship in existence between the two organisations. The first respondent acknowledged the two organisations to be dated back to 2009 while the other respondents confirmed the relationship since 2004.

Knowledge of the work of Simukai

The two respondents highlighted that Simukai is the organisation that works with children living and working on the streets also with vulnerable children in Mutare. Both respondents cited food provisions, an opportunity to bath and wash clothes, reunification and psychosocial support as activities for intervention for children living and working on the streets and other vulnerable children.

The most outstanding activities done by Simukai are youth Camps for the children living and working on the streets and the engagement of their siblings for effective reunification.

Perception of Simukai's Intervention regarding children living and working on the streets

The respondents felt that in as much as Simukai is doing the best that they can with the children living and working on the streets the best may not be good enough. One respondent said;

“There are more challenges that these children face in the evening than during the day. I personally feel that the Simukai service must be on twenty four hour basis.

Vana varikunetseka mumastreetes umu nyanye manheru (children face a lot of problems in these streets especially at night)”.

The challenge that was cited was that after children have spent the day at Simukai they still had to face the cold, the police, more violence and drugs in the streets. These were seen as the challenges that “*distort a good day’s work at Simukai*”.

Regarding the reunification process efforts may be fruitless because Simukai’s intervention does not extend to helping out the families.

“Simukai should first address the root causes that lead a child to leave home then reunifies the children with their families. Say for instance if the cause was poverty then the family should have an income generating project and if it is about violence then there is need for the a conflict resolution process for the two parties and not to meet with them separately”.

Both respondents share the sentiments that more still have to be done for the strategies of intervention to bear more results and communities to enjoy maximum project benefits. From the respondents it is evident that Simukai is meeting the immediate need of the participants but not meeting the long term goals and ambitions of the children. An example given was that of the deprivation of the right to education for these children, where a child may come to Simukai for such a long time and have no opportunity at all of going to school. The question raised was, “*what will be the future of such a child?*” YAZim respondents expressed concern on the strategy that seems not to be there children who may not want to be reunified with their families for unknown.

“There are some children you have seen since 2009, attending sessions and one may wonder why, but some would have experienced violence that they choose not to see the perpetrators any more. At the same time they do not have anywhere to go”.

The approach and design of the program

The respondents strongly felt that there was a top down approach in trying to address the needs of the children living and working on the street. There was need for a needs assessment to be conducted before implementing strategies as well as having the key lessons learnt to inform the present day programming, they argued. This seemed not to be the case at Simukai. One respondent mentioned that, the “*Simukai has failed to make an impact in the lives of these children by not identifying the real needs of the children. They need love and care,*

protection, shelter and education”. The key strategies that were employed did not profoundly address these substantial and higher order needs. Simukai may need to consider seriously the development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills for the children to address self-reliance and future sustenance. The stakeholders highlighted that case management may help the organisation to yield greater results. Since children are not the same and they come from different backgrounds, Simukai has to treat each case uniquely, they suggested.

INTERVIEW WITH STAFF AT SIMUKAI

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

All the four respondents from Simukai articulated the programmes and activities that the organization offers. Services offered by Simukai are rehabilitation and psycho –social support programmes for the children living and working on the street, family reunification, placements of children in formal school and training, remedial programmes and psycho-social support for former street children and public awareness on child care and protection. The current interventions being run by Simukai are a drop in centre for street children, a support centre for former street children in Sakubva Township, and an emergency care shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children. One of the staff members from the contact department, Owen, stated that *‘there is a high uptake of these services, this is evidenced by the fact that street children are also referred to the centre’*

PROJECT DESIGN

The Programmes Manager revealed that most of their activities and strategies were donor driven. She noted that ‘all our activities are aligned to the objectives of the project, in most cases are donor specific.’ The programs implemented are also dependent on the funding that is available.

Funding partner	Current disbursements
HOPE HIV	US \$18 116.47
Plan International	US\$3110.00
OAK Foundation	US\$ 7500.00
ZOE Ministry	US\$88 929.50
Action Aid International	US\$24 704.23

(Source: Finance And Administration Report Jan-March 2014)

Success Stories

Several children have been reunified with their families in the last five years. Some have started to stay on their own in the surrounding high density suburbs. Simukai is proud to talk about Webster who is now married and is a very good preacher in one of the Pentecostal churches in Mutare. Staff from the contact department highlighted that from January to march of this year ten children had been reunited with their families. Susan, from the contact department stated that;

“One girl, Mellissa was reunified with her family in Chimanimani. This was a case of child delinquency and she had run away from home because her aunt had not been able to raise the full amount of school fees. She was counselled so that she would realise the importance of school and staying within the home environment”

Simukai staff also noted that they had been able to house nine children in the house of safety. The following is a table detailing the cases of the children placed in the house of safety:

Children's cases	Male	Female	Total
Delinquency	3	1	4
Sexual abuse	0	3	3
Abandonment	1	0	1
Gender based violence	0	1	1
Total	4	5	9

(Source: Contact Department Statistics)

The organisation had also managed to give material assistance constituting of cooking oil, laundry soap, “matemba” and second hand clothing to three families in Garikai and Chishakwe. The assistance was given to boost the food security in the families ensuring that they had something to eat to improve their nutritional status. The Contact Department also stated that *‘in January we assisted the Matsvai family with repatriation packages when they were reunified with their son.’* The staff also established that they had assisted three females

and one male with uniforms while stationery was given to two girls and four boys. Owen, a staff member at Simukai noted that they were working hard to improve the socio-economic status of the families of children living and working on the street. He stated that *'we have managed to carry out one family visit in Dream House, Chikanga as a means to support the families of beneficiaries. Nine families were visited and received support in their income generating activities'* Simukai administration staff noted that their main goal as an organization was to mould children living and working on the street with life skills so that they could become responsible and productive members of the society. Therefore in a bid to fulfil this goal a total of thirty life skills sessions were done and these included gardening, cooking, bathing and washing dishes.

Challenges

The main challenge that the organisation is facing is funding. The respondents cited Simukai's standards of programming that have not been maintained because of the lack of financial resources to conduct activities effectively. The other challenge highlighted was that of dealing with difficult and deviant children. The staff noted that there was one case of relapse and three children that ran away from the place of safety. This had been exacerbated by the lack of security structures in the place of safety such as a dura wall, broken window panels, absence of a day time guard and matron. *"These children are very difficult to deal with because they are unpredictable, you can never understand what they want", they complained.* Owen from the contact department highlighted that there has been an increase in the number of cases involving thefts in town and the street children ended up being rounded up by the police as suspects. At times the children end up spending nights at the police station with no food.

9.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

9.1 Project Design

Findings of this research revealed that the children living and working on the streets were not considered in the project design, implementation and evaluation. This is in line with the submission of Bourdillion (2001) who notes that in Zimbabwe planners do not plan for street children. The children living and working on the streets are not considered in anyway, they seem not to be wanted even though they are supposed to benefit from the projects. It is evident therefore that there is been a top down approach in programming for street children where the organisation has already designed implementation strategies and activities based on former experiences or with no basis at all. This situation at Simukai concurs with Hecht (1998) who postulate that all work on street children is shaped by judgements of how childhood ought to be. There has been no serious consideration of the intended beneficiary of the project. This however violates the right of children to participate on the issues that concern them. Nieuwenhuys (2001) notes that children are not heard therefore the intervention has always been top-down and reflect what adults, foreigners, even charity market perceive it is important to address. Hutz and Koller (1999) point out that research conducted with the street children should be used to design public policies and intervention programs. Aptekar (1988) concurs and argues that interventions for children living and working on the street ought to have knowledge about the children, background, characteristics causes and extent of the problems, as well as the needs of the children as well as knowledge about them on the streets. However Simukai staff members admit that this had not been the case with their intervention programs. They had shifted the blame to donor demands hence they did what the donors asked them to do. Therefore the project goal and objectives inform the organisational activities that must be conducted.

9.2 Intervention Programs

Evans (2006) notes that intervention programs for street children are driven by western conceptualisation of childhood which sees good childhood as childhood spent at home, in schools and characterised with play not working and begging on the street. However Phiri (2009) notes that children have good knowledge of what childhood ought to be but they are limited by circumstances they find themselves in hence they continuously reconstruct their own childhood. Adoption of such western driven intervention by Simukai has failed to curb the phenomenon of street children in Mutare urban. This has also been the case with Zambia

where by western notions of childhood remain influential and guide developmental programs for children living and working on the street.

The research findings also established that perceiving childhood and children's experiences as a universal phenomenon leads to the failure of the intervention programs designed. Children are on the street due to a plethora of reasons. The articulation of the causes of the street children phenomenon revealed that there are multiple levels of influence including the family, neighbourhood, economy and social structure. Therefore oversight by Simukai of the individuality of children and local prevailing conditions will not lead to any fruitful intervention.

9.3 Reasons for being on the Street

The research established that children have different reasons for coming on to the streets and need special interventions to realise great impact on each child and the community as a whole. Rafaelli (1999) notes that interventions for impoverished working children should typically aim to help children stay connected to society by providing after school programs, community centres and recreational programs. Tyler (1992) concurs and points out those homeless children need intensive comprehensive care to substitute for families that cannot or will not provide for them. In Zambia humanitarian organizations have adopted intervention based on the children's experiences and problems. The interventions are based on three approaches; the rehabilitative, preventative and correctional approach. Simukai has however lined up a set of activities and offered services for the children living and working in the streets to access during the day. Such activities and services like food handouts, bathing and washing of clothes have been described by Pirot (2004) as sandwich politics. Pirot (2004) notes that the sandwich politics have been heavily criticised for keeping children in an artificial dependency syndrome and even encouraging them to stay on the streets.

9.4 Children as Rational Beings

Using the rational choice theory, street involvement by children is understood in the context of its reward for individual children. Children's involvement in the street fulfils certain needs of the child such as food, money, clothes, freedom which is absent within the home environment. Children come to Simukai on a daily basis because they are assured of a meal and soap to bath while on the street they can beg for food and money. This can be viewed as a rational adaptation to the specific contexts of the child's environment, past experiences and

available courses of action. While children could have surveyed other options available for them to deal with problems at home, street life is chosen as one of a range of available alternatives. One aspect of this decision making process is the street child cognitive representation of decision factors, such as representation of the street compared with the home environment. This is fundamental in conceptualising the reasons why children become involved in street and suggests that more permanent and lasting intervention strategies should be developed by Simukai.

9.5 Understanding the Context

Raffaelli (1997) notes that the phenomenon of children living and working on the street is rooted in structural factors that lie far outside the individual children and their families of origin and that a two pronged approach is necessary. There is an immediate need for programs that help children cope with daily life as well as a long term need that prevents children from being on the street. The challenge for Simukai as an organisation is to look beyond its normal programming. This is evidence by a secondary data review when the organisation conducts street visits in the evening they see children exposing themselves to great vulnerability to abuse by asking for food and money from strangers at beer halls or clubs. The researcher has been informed that in the past years Simukai has recorded cases where children especially boys have been sexually abused by sex workers and others sodomised because of begging for money to strangers. Such scenarios therefore push the organisation to think of institutionalising the children. The biggest challenges in institutionalising the children are funding to build the institutions as well as the fact that some children are not will to stay at institutions they prefer having their freedom in the streets.

9.6 Success Stories

The children testified that Simukai had helped them in a way in terms of hygiene and the provision of the lunch they receive. At least the children are nourished and assured of a meal per day during the working week. They will only be worried of the evening meals.

The life skills sessions that the children undergo had transformed attitudes and behaviour of these children. One child testified a change of behaviour after learning how bad it was to steal. Such anti-social behaviours that have changed have also been confirmed by the police

who testified that nowadays there are minimal instances where children who live in the streets are implicated when there has been a theft or robbery that would have happened in town.

The organisation reunified at least fifteen children in the past three years with their families. The engagement of the family members to cope with the returning of these children was fundamental. This was however not enough because the child exists in the larger community, therefore the involvement and participation of communities has a major role the holistic rehabilitation and integration of children living and working on the streets.

Simukai is proud to talk about Webster who is now married and is a very good preacher in one of the Pentecostal churches in Mutare. According to the organisation Webster was first exposed to spiritual activities at Simukai. These transformed him to be the man he is today. Simukai also talks about Obert and Tendai who have not opted to be reunified with their families but they have started by helping out carrying luggage for vendors now they rent a room in Chikanga and are now having a car wash outlet.

It is evident from these stories and testimonies that children have unique needs and situations. Therefore, Simukai project has to expand and contextual its interventions so as to meet more needs and record greater results.

9.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The study provides insights into the intervention programmes designed for children living and working on the street by Simukai child protection program. Despite the implementation of different intervention programmes by Simukai, there is still resounding evidence of the ever increasing numbers of children living and working on the street. The study has shown that while preventive interventions are essential, these children living and working on the street are facing hardships of life on the street hence they need immediate opportunities for human development via special protection programmes.

The study pointed out that most programmes and interventions lack follow ups and professional interventions, most staff at Simukai are volunteers or students on attachment. The programmes are also based and designed on the general basis of the Convention on Children's Rights without a localized realisation of the problem. This is mainly due to the fact that Simukai is reliant on outside donors for funding hence the sustainability of such interventions is put at great risk. There is lack of an integrated approach and programming for social development on a contextual basis. The children living and working on the street have largely been ignored in the programming and designing of the intervention programs and this has resulted in the ineffectiveness of the programmes and the children becoming major losses of human capital.

The study established that intervention programmes for children living and working on the street being implemented by Simukai do not look at the contextual and cultural background. They are more interested in family reunifications and providing them with food and support while they are on the street. In other instances the children living and working on the street are collected from the street and locked up in the houses of safety at Simukai without them questioning the children's motivation to be on the street and their interest to be in the place of safety. The group case handling approach that they adopt is marred with loopholes as each individual child has a different story to tell. The informal conversations conducted with the children revealed that most children are disgruntled with the top down approach that is implemented by the organization. The children felt ignored and excluded in issues that affect them on a day to day basis and that concern their future.

The study also brought out interesting insights that, though Simukai has been operating alone in Manicaland and for a long time without any competitors, it has not been able to fully provide protection and find a solution to the street children phenomenon at a city level. The problem is due to the way they address the street children phenomenon and the methodological tools they have developed to resolve the phenomenon. In the conversations that took place with the children most children complained about the facilities that they accessed from Simukai. They felt more could be done for them by Simukai. Their major concern was the need to acquire education and become independent and self-sufficient since they are growing older by the day. However this is in sharp contrast with the priorities of Simukai that is mainly concerned with placing children in the house of safety and reuniting them with their families without looking at the background factors of the problem.

The street children phenomenon as established by the study has various facets, starting from the individual and family to the community and these construct and shape the basic element of human kind (socialization). Hence it is imperative that the context based approach is adopted where the concepts, characteristics, trends in the increasing number of street children is based on the local, cultural, economic, political context and not relying on the global definitions. From the findings of this research it is important that intervention strategies respond to the needs of the particular group and the behaviour patterns of the children living and working on the street favouring accordingly, preventive, protective or rehabilitative measures.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is need for Simukai to rethink and recheck the philosophy of their programming and to recognise that the active participation of children living and working on the street is essential in producing better results in social support programmes. The phenomenon of children living and working on the street must not be seen as an isolated problem; rather it should be approached from the context in which it is located. Programming at Simukai should adapt interventions that are specific to the characteristics of the children in Mutare and the diverse contexts in which these children live and work.
- The fact that programming at Simukai is aimed at reintegration, there is need to recognise that reintegration is not an end and that it does not wholly solve the problem at stake. Rather , there is need to define adopted integrated policies that will help resolve the situations of deep poverty, as well as other issues such as lack of understanding of children's rights, domestic violence and the socio-cultural background of these children. Programming of interventions should be comprehensive and integrated creating a multi-component network, instead of a uni-modal approach to the children's problems.
- Programme design and implementation should include the families and communities of the children living and working on the street. Important stakeholders such as the city fathers, police and government officials need to be brought into action as well.
- There is need for Simukai to adopt flexible approaches for dealing with the wide range of problems that children living and working on the street face. It is not possible for Simukai to handle the phenomenon of street children alone. There is need to develop strong partnership and networking links with possible supporting organisations

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Appendices

Appendice 1 Interview guide for children living and working on the street

Simukai child protection program

My name is Joannah Mwaurayeni (R 077513D).Iam a masters student at the university of Zimbabwe studying towards a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology. Iam carrying out research on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street, a case study of Simukai child protection program.

Therefore I am kindly is asking for your assistance in answering the following questions. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. I promise to observe confidentiality.

1. How long have you been staying on the street (wave ne nguva yakadii uchigara mugwagwa)
2. Why are you on the street (nei uchigara mugwagwa)
3. Would you welcome the opportunity to go home (ungade here kudzokera kumba)
4. How long have you been coming to Simukai (wane nguva yakareba sei uchiuya kusimukai)
5. How did you know about Simukai (wakaziva sei nezvekusimukai)
6. What facilities do you access at Simukai (zvii zvamunoitirwa ne Simukai pano)
7. How do they help you (vanokubatsirai nei pano pasimukai)
8. How does the staff treat you (vashandi vepano vanokubatai zvakaita sei)?
9. What assistance have you been given by Simukai(makapihwa rubetsero rwakaita sei ne Simukai)?
10. Has coming to Simukai helped you in any way (kuuya kusimuka kwakakubetsera here)?
11. What has changed about you ever since you came to Simukai (chii chakashanduka paupenyu hwako kubva pawakatanga kuuya kusimukai)?

12. Would you recommend other children on the street to come to Simukai (ungakurudzira vamwe vana vari mugwagwa kuti vauye kuno kusimukai)?
13. What do you think Simukai should do to help children living and working on the street (unofunga kuti Simukai ingaitai kuti ibetsere vana vari mugwagwa)?
14. What challenges do you face when you come here (ndeapi matambudziko amuri kusangana nawo pamunouya pano)?
15. What do you enjoy most about Simukai (chii chinonyanyakukunakidzai pano pasimukai)?
16. How do you feel about their programs (unonzwa sei nekuda kwemaprograms epano)?
17. Are the programs addressing your needs (maprograms esimukai anonyatsobatsirai here pane zvinokunetsai muupenyu hwenyu)?
18. If you became part of the staff of Simukai what would you change or improve (Dai waipihwa mukana wekushanda pano chii chaungade kushandura kana kugadzirisa)?

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendice 2: Interview guide for staff working with children living and working on the street at Simukai

My name is Joannah Mwaurayeni (R 077513D).Iam a masters student at the university of Zimbabwe studying towards a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology. Iam carrying out research on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street, a case study of Simukai child protection program.

Therefore I am kindly asking for your assistance in answering the following questions. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. I promise to observe confidentiality.

1. What is your role here at Simukai
2. Why are children on the streets of Mutare
3. How many children do you work with here at Simukai and
4. What is the age range of the children you work with?
5. What services do you offer to the children?
6. Generally how is the uptake of these services?
7. What success have you made?
8. What challenges have you met in implementing the programs?
9. Have you been able to successful reunify children with their families?
10. How do children perceive your interventions?
11. What influenced you to adopt the interventions that you have
12. How do your staff relate with the children
13. How do you think children feel about the various interventions that you have?
14. Any outstanding achievements?
15. What problem do you face with the children when you intervene in their lives?
16. Where do you think efforts should be directed at in order to successful curb the street children phenomenon?

17. What do you think is the best intervention approach

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendice 3: Interview guide for former beneficiaries of Simukai

My name is Joannah Mwaurayeni (R 077513D). I am a Masters student at the University Of Zimbabwe studying towards a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology. I am carrying out research on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street, a case study of Simukai child protection program.

Therefore I am kindly asking for your assistance in answering the following questions. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. I promise to observe confidentiality

1. For how long have you been off the streets (wave nenguva yakareba sei wabva mugwagwa)
2. How long did you live on the streets (wakambogara mugwagwa kwenguva yakareba sei)?
3. What made you leave the streets (chii chakaita kuti ubve mugwagwa)
4. How has Simukai helped you (Simukai yakakubatsira nenzira yakaita sei)
5. What services did they render to you (ndezvipi zvawakabatsirwa nazvo ne Simukai)
6. How did the services address your needs (zvinhu zvawakaitirwa ne Simukai zvakakubatsira here kupedza matambudziko awakange uinawo)
7. What do you think is outstanding about their programs (chii chaunofunga kuti chinonyatsogonekwa ne vanhu vepasimukai)
8. What do you think about their staff (unofungei nekuda kwevashandi vepano pasimukai)
9. What is your view about way they implement their programs (ungati chii nekuda kwemaitiro awo ebasa)
10. Do you think Simukai is doing enough to address the needs of children living and working on the street (unofunga kuti Simukai iri kunyatsoita basa here rekubatsira vana vemumugwagwa)
11. What were the challenges that you faced when you were in touch with Simukai (ndeapi matambudziko amakasangana nawo pamai enda kusimukai)?

12. What benefits did you gain from Simukai (ndezipi zvamakabatsirwa nazvo nesimukai)
13. Where do you think Simukai needs to improve (unofunga kuti Simukai inoda kugadzirisa chii pakushanda kwayo)
14. What do you think Simukai should continue with (ndezipi zvaunofunga kuti Simukai inofanira kuramba ichiita)
15. Anything that you may want to say about Simukai and its programs based on your experience with them (pane zvamungade kutaura here pamusoro pesimukai zvichibva mukushanda kwamaita nawo)

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendice 4: Interview guide for stakeholders

My name is Joannah Mwaurayeni (R 077513D).I am a masters student at the university of Zimbabwe studying towards a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology. I am carrying out research on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street, a case study of Simukai child protection program.

Therefore I am kindly asking for your assistance in answering the following questions. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. I promise to observe confidentiality

1. What partnership do you have with Simukai child protection program?
2. For how long have you been working with Simukai?
3. What can you say about Simukai as an organization?
4. Are you aware of the interventions they conduct?
5. Do you think Simukai is doing its duty with regards to children living and working on the street?
6. Is Simukai meeting the needs of children living and working on the street?
7. Where do you think Simukai is missing it?
8. What do you think should be done to help the children living and working on the street?
9. What are the strengths of Simukai intervention program?
10. Do you think Simukai is making an impact in the lives of children living and working on the street?
11. What do you think is outstanding about Simukai's intervention programs?
12. Any recommendations for Simukai

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendice 5 : Interview guide for the Zimbabwe Republic Police

My name is Joannah Mwaurayeni (R 077513D). I am a masters student at the university of Zimbabwe studying towards a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Anthropology. I am carrying out research on the intervention programs designed for children living and working on the street, a case study of Simukai child protection program.

Therefore I am kindly asking for your assistance in answering the following questions. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. I promise to observe confidentiality

1. How often do you come into contact with children living and working on the street?
2. What is your relationship like with children living and working on the street?
3. What issues usually come out when you come into contact with these children?
4. How often do you refer them to Simukai
5. What has been Simukai's response when you refer children to them?
6. What sort of partnership do you have with Simukai?
7. What measures do you take when you come into contact with children living and working on the street?
8. Do you think Simukai is doing enough for the children living and working on the street?
9. Where do you think Simukai is lacking in its program implementation?
10. What do you think are the needs of these children?
11. Are there any success story that you know about Simukai?
12. What recommendations can you give Simukai?

Thank you for your cooperation