UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

ASSESSING CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL

ORGANISATIONS TO THE EDUCATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN THE

ACCRA METROPOLIS, GHANA

BY

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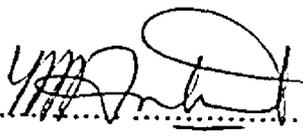JUNE, 2008

DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own original research and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this University or elsewhere

Candidate's Signature.. Date..20/06/08

Name: Wisdom Kwame Abotsikumah

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the dissertation was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of dissertation laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of streetism is becoming a growing concern in Africa and Ghana in particular. The urbanization and industrialization processes being undertaken have focused on the cities and towns to the exclusion of rural communities and settlements. Unfortunately however, this is rather compelling many children to abandon their education and relocate in city centres without deep concern and assessment of the consequences.

This research therefore assesses the contributions of Non – Governmental Organizations to the education of street children in the Accra metropolis. It deals with commitment of NGOs to the plight of street children in the Accra metropolis.

The study population was made up of NGOs working with street children in the study area. The NGOs were selected by purposive sampling because they satisfied all conditions therein to merit the selection. Secondly, subjects within the NGOs were picked by virtue of their position. Also, 100 rescued street children were interviewed from four NGOs. Data from these subjects were gathered by the researcher through a self–prepared questionnaire and interview schedule. Initially, 26 NGOs were identified and given copies of the questionnaire. However, only seven NGOs produced data relevant to the research topic.

Based on the results of the data colleted, it was found out that many of the street children being taken care of would have preferred formal education to practical skills training that the NGOs offered them. It is therefore the hope of this researcher that the appropriate steps would be taken to reverse the trend in order that full benefit of NGO programmes offered street children would be realised.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DEDICATION

This treatise is gratefully dedicated to the blessed memory of my father

Bernard Yao Mawulawoe Abotsikumah,

my mother Elizabeth Adzoa Denteh-Abotsikumah,

for planting in me the spirit of discipline, determination, hardwork and the

love for academic laurels.

Finally, to my wife Evelyn, daughters: Eyram and Elormy and brother

Alex for their invaluable support.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Children are born to parents who have to nurture, care and train, as well as educate them. It is parents' primary responsibility to provide focus, direction and guidance for them in life to enable them become responsible and useful adults in order to take over from them when they are gone. However, in the world of some children, it is a different experience all together. Many children forcefully become their own parents and to a large extent assume parental roles for themselves, their siblings and families. This they do through hustling and roaming the streets in search of money, food and other necessities of life for survival.

It is difficult to categorize children simply as "street children" because often what brings them to the attention of the authorities are other aspects of their lives – crime, drug abuse, ill health etc. Street children are but one group of children who may be said to be "at risk" or in "especially difficult circumstances". Nevertheless, the nature of their experience of living on or off the streets does differentiate them from other children at risk and merits specific attention being paid to their situation (Blanc, 1994).

Two broad definitions can be applied. First, there are those children who can accurately be called "street children" because they actually live on the streets, and their lives generally revolve around their experiences on the streets. Second, there are those children who can be referred to as "children on the streets" who

may be on the streets during school hours' or who spend much of their daily existence on the streets, but who return to their homes and families at night. A third expanded definition offered in a country report from Poland seeks to include all those children and young people who spend time on the streets not because they have no home, but because the emotional support offered at home, in the schools or in the community is very limited and does not meet their needs.

The phenomenon of street children is not a recent one. In most countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as they undergo rapid social and economic transition, the situation of families and children in general, has become particularly difficult. It is not therefore surprising that there is also clear evidence of rising crime rates among children and young people, alcohol and drug abuse, health problems, poor educational attainment, malnutrition and so on. The fact that reference has also been made to the worsening situation of children in Central and Eastern Europe, in a number of health and welfare areas, (for example, increasing mortality rates) does make it clear that, the phenomenon of streetism has to be seen in the context of negative experiences for many children in the midst of major social and economic decline (Gillis & Helbig, 1992).

As commented on in a number of the countries involved, the issue of street children in public consciousness has a rather negative image and there is the general perception that the children are themselves somehow to blame for the situation they find themselves in; or that their behaviour is seen to be more problematic for others. What this ignores are the major factors which propel children into a life on the

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streets- a life that very often puts them at serious risk of abuse, ill health and occasionally loss of life.

According to UNICEF (2000), children under 18 years of age who spend most of their time on the streets, the world over are referred to as "street children". This target group of children and adolescents, together with their offspring are homeless, vulnerable and therefore at very high risks of many dangers. These dangers include physical abuse, psychological trauma, emotional stress, economic hardship and sexual abuse.

Again, the UN has been attributed as estimating the population of street children worldwide at over 150 million, with the number rising daily. These young people are appropriately known as community children, as they are off-springs of our communal world, UNICEF (2000). About 40 % of street children are homeless. This is a percentage unprecedented in the history of civilization. The other 60 % work on the streets to support themselves and their families. By this, they lack access to any form of education and are considered to live in extremely difficult circumstances.

Increasingly, these street children are the victims of brutal violence, sexual exploitation, abject neglect, chemical addiction and human violation. The United Nations International Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF) has identified and defined three categories of street children:

a. Street-Living: This group is made up of children who cut ties completely with
    members of their family and live and work on the streets.

b. Street-Working: This category involves children who spend all their time or most of their time on the streets to generate income for their families and themselves. This group has a home to return to and do not usually sleep on the streets.

c. Street-Families: This category of children live on the street with their families, (parents and siblings) some of whom were once street children themselves but now street adults.

Even though the street is actually not a home or house, the street is their "home". Majority of street-living children sleep on mats, boxes, cardboards, benches or the floor at the sidewalks, street corners, and steps of houses or buildings near the streets, under sloping roofs and dangerous tunnels and some in abandoned and dilapidated structures. However, for the sake of protection, they are normally seen sleeping in groups to avoid intruders. In Africa, many street-living children sleep in market places, lorry parks and frontage of shops and warehouses. Even when the weather gets tough on them: cold, hot, rains and storms; there are no different homes.

The origin of streetism cuts across diverse cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Most of them come originally from the rural countryside, the corners of the hinterlands to the far away streets of the cities. A section of them are urban or sub-urban dwellers and a considerable number of them especially in Africa, migrate from neighbouring countries to the city streets.

There are several factors responsible for streetism across the world. It is difficult to separate social and economic factors from family related factors in

explaining the phenomenon of street children/children in the streets since the wider context of social decline and rapid social transitions undoubtedly affect the experience of families. The family is often considered as the social unit that provides stability to children's lives. Maintenance of this family is thus very important in protecting the well being of the child. It is especially very important to create or maintain a good relationship between parents and children in high-risk families and areas such as those who are poor and hungry, those living in slums and single parent families.

The situation is particularly dire or volatile for families, in which the woman is the breadwinner of the household, struggling under the terrible conditions to feed the family. Invariably, the gender imbalance and lack of economic opportunities put pressure on the child to contribute to the family income. Thus, many children from such backgrounds turn to the streets because of forces of poverty and responsibility to their families. Poverty in the sense that, there is hunger at home because there is little or no food for a growing child whose physiological desire for food and nutritional demand keep shooting daily.

Living in slums is especially a polarize factor, thus removing children physically from the slum to a more safe and clean environment which is found in the city streets. The miserable slums, where they stay, in ghettoes within dust and horrible smelling environment without electricity, water and food are a great source of worry to them and a good reason for them to leave. In many cases, increasing urbanization and industrialization have disrupted rural families, forcing separation of children and parents. In effect, children thus migrate to urban centres in search

of jobs to provide income for themselves and their families back at home. They are deceived into believing that, life is better off on their own in the beautiful city. The capital and cities therefore seem to be the "promised land" and paradise for children of their type, nature and class.

In many country reports, the effects of poverty and unemployment in terms of increasing family strain and conflict are seen to contribute directly to the break up of families, to the divorce of parents, to alcohol and drug abuse, to the lack of adequate care for children, to the abuse and neglect of children by their families, to the need to beg and live off what might be called the "black economy". The absence of an adequate system of social benefits and social assistance merely serves to compound this state of affairs and indeed make it worse for the children and families involved. Families are characterized in country reports as either having no adult in employment or in having both parents out working and still not earn enough to survive adequately. In such circumstances, on the basis of evidence from children themselves, children may be forced by parents to earn money or may simply be left to fend for themselves and be vulnerable to exploitation by other adults or indeed older children (Courier, 1996).

Many country reports also refer to the fact that schools – an important medium of socialization and caring for children – are so lacking in resources and qualified staff, that children are again marginalized from a significant mainstream form of child and family social support. What is also a recurrent feature in the background of street children/children in the streets is that, many of them have also been in state care and have run away from the institutions in which they were

placed – many of them relaying stories of abuse and neglect in the very institutions given the responsibility of looking after them. Thus, where families are unable for whatever reason to look after their children, the state institutions charged with adopting that role may not be able to fulfil it again in the light of a lack of resources and qualified staff.

What has to be appreciated is that for many children, life on the streets in comparison to their experiences at home or in state care, may be despite whatever risks they expose themselves to, a much more attractive proposition. According to The King Bandouin Foundation and The World Bank (1999), 50% of children interviewed in the study "Enfants de la Gare" – Bulgarian study of children in Bucharest, said that they much preferred the street to the daily family violence they experienced at home. Indeed, street children themselves do speak about what they see to be the general positive aspects of living on the streets – surely itself an indictment on the nature of the experiences previously afforded to them in their lives. Fifty percent of them said that they liked their lives on the streets, and 69% said they would never give up their life on the streets because of what it had to offer them in comparison with what they experienced at home.

Another major driving element for children turning to the streets is lack of affection and traces of evil domestic experiences. Many of the street children come from troubled homes, where parents are experiencing marital difficulties in many abusive and violent manners. As a result, the children themselves are abused, thereby leaving emotional and psychological marks on them. In many cases, the children are eventually abandoned to fend for themselves.

Orphanhood is yet another prevailing reason for some children being on the streets. Because there are no parents to cater for them as a result of death, they find no alternate option than to reach the streets to meet their basic physiological need such as food. The situation is even worse in heterogeneous societies, which turn to encourage nuclear family practice. In such cases, the child apparently has no one to turn to other than the streets. The World Bank in its 1991 World Development Report states that the cost of rapid social and economic transition is very high for children. The long-term consequences for them as individuals and for the societies, which depend on their growth and development for the future, have negative implications. For most of the countries involved, the rapid transition from centrally planned economies with predominantly state owned resources and industries, to largely privatised free market systems, has been accompanied by a number of negative conditions affecting families and children. There are a number of indicators which show just how negative the effects are for many children. These include, in rather general terms:

    i.   Extreme poverty

    ii.   Unemployment

    iii.   Divorce and separation

    iv.   Increases in mortality rates

    v.   A decrease in life expectancy, especially for men

    vi.   Homelessness

    vii.   Increase in crime amongst the young

    viii.   Increase in suicide rates

ix. Increasing victimization of children in terms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

x. Displacement

xi. Separation from parents and families

xii. Increase in health related problems

What also has to be appreciated is that not only have children been experiencing the extreme effects of rapid social and economic decline since the late 1980s to the early 1990s, but that this is in the context of a loss of social welfare and health provisions which were previously available, primarily on a universal basis – under former political regimes. When countries gained independence and moved from a socialist political system, in some cases this also meant the loss of well-respected and appreciated health and social welfare systems. In contrast, children and families in many countries in the region, in the face of extreme poverty and lack of resources, find themselves in need of basic social and welfare assistance now more than ever. The low levels of state support available to children and families at a time of high unemployment, soaring food prices, increasing disintegration of the family, growth of youth-related problem behaviours, deterioration of health levels all means that children in the region are more vulnerable than ever before.

Clearly, those countries which are either in a situation of conflict or border disputes will have a number of displaced or refugee families – especially those countries in the Balkan region where the current conflict may well contribute to an increased refugee flow into countries where material and social resources are

already overstretched. In such a situation, the impact of displacement in a situation of exceptionally difficult circumstances coupled with low levels of available support inevitably put children at greater risk of having to develop alternative life styles.

It is in this general context, that many children find themselves forced on to the streets either to assist in supporting their families or indeed to support and look after themselves. A greater understanding of the social, economic and political factors which propel children into living on the streets is an important element in the search for means of both preventing children from living on the streets and in assisting them when they are in that situation. The adoption of a repressive and negative perspective on such children both ignores the true nature of their circumstances and will not in the long run assist either the children or the societies in which they live. A recurrent theme in all reports available on street children/children in the streets is a need for greater knowledge of their circumstances and the significant causes of their problems.

The peer pressure mechanism undoubtedly is a rising phenomenon. Ignorance and lack of awareness of the dangers of streetism is very high in families where there is little or no education. In such cases, children are easily manipulated and influenced by their peers into street gangsters, drug injection and other forms of social vices. To an appreciable extent, some parents themselves encourage and push children unto the streets to fetch or generate some income for the family.

The life and problems experienced by street children is rather complex and pathetic, given the situations and circumstances under which they live. The life of

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the street child is basically characterized by daily and hourly "battle of survival". Their type of work mainly includes: portage, begging, construction work, hawking, prostitution, car cleaning, running errands at markets and workshops to mention but a few.

Once on the streets, children form gangs and groups, which are strictly hierarchical, girls and boys, hang out in separate gangs, except at night. The girls tend to have a boyfriend who protects them from other boys. In the boys' gang, the older ones may sexually abuse smaller boys. In spite of all these, the children prefer to stick to their chosen "families" as the affection and care they receive from each other is often more than what they received from their parents. This makes rehabilitation very difficult.

Struggling to find food, making money to buy their needs and finding a suitable shelter by night characterize the phenomenon. Often, they feel the need to avoid the authorities as opposed to turning to them for help. These children lack access to basic necessities of life from their families, society and the economy, as well as basic health service. They do not have education and basic skills needed to deal with the risk factors and various problems facing them in their world. A large number of them smoke, use drugs, steal and do robbery.

The increasing violence towards street children has only recently been documented. Although there are now more statistics and reports on the issue, the extent of the problem can never be under-estimated. Sleeping on the pavement unprotected and forced to beg or steal for survival, street children are constantly exposed to the risk of violence and exploitation. Not only do they have to protect

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themselves from other street children, youth and criminals, but also from adults, including the police, security guards and ordinary citizens, who regularly beat them up. In Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, killing squads have been known to "clean up" the streets by shooting sleeping street children.

All street children are vulnerable. Nevertheless, girls are more vulnerable than boys are and the most vulnerable girls on the streets are those who are pregnant and those girls with babies. Needless to say, girls are even more at risk of violence and exploitation. They not only are beaten, adults as well as street boys also sexually assault them. Many take to drugs or sniffing chemical substances to help them cope with the brutality of their lives. Street kids are prone especially to face the lure of child prostitution. Despite strong reluctance, young girls and boys living or working on the streets enter sexual services in response to poverty and a growing consumerism in many countries across the globe.

Children on the streets of cities in the world today are reported as being at higher risk of HIV infection for many reasons. Firstly, they often do not have access to basic sex and health education and therefore lack the skills necessary for effective HIV protection and prevention. Secondly, their environment often forces them into risking behaviours. The boys use drug to cope with their situation. This really increases the likelihood of infection to a critical level.

According to Blumendrantz (1994), during the last two decades, Africa as a whole has experienced the largest urban population growth of 4.3 % in the world. The continent's urban population grew from two percent in 1975 to 31 % in 1995, and it is expected that by 2025 street children will form the majority population of

54 %. The most urbanised country is Zambia, where in 1998 this statistics of 54 % had already been reached. The largest cities of Africa are expected to be more than double their population during the next 20 years. This rapid urban growth is projected to continue for at least three decades. In fact, Africa will be the most urbanised continent in the world. Due to this unprecedented rapid urbanization, combined with disastrous economic conditions, the rate and number of absolute poverty in urban areas are increasing much faster than those in rural areas. Moreover, urban poverty has more complicated conceptual foundations than simply measurement of income poverty in urban areas. It includes concepts such as access to and the availability of housing, urban utilities and infrastructure. Urban citizens have to face higher living costs, and they are more vulnerable to price increases and income decreases. Urban areas are less effective in providing support networks based on family, kinship and neighbourhood, and urban dwellers have greater vulnerability of many kinds of contaminated and contagious diseases.

As Africa's urban poor population multiplies, the problems of urban poor children are becoming increasingly urgent. Children cannot be allowed to be a casualty of slow-paced development. The children of the marginalised areas are one of the most segregated and deprived social sectors. Poverty gives rise to other problems such as malnutrition and low food security, health problems, deficient water and sanitation provisions, inadequate adult care for the infant and pre-school child, working and street children, single parent heads of households and unhealthy physical and unhealthy physical environments for children. The African urban poor

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child struggles daily with these conditions of human deprivation also, which consists of other more qualitative, and at times subjective dimensions.

The most vulnerable African urban poor child is the street child. Categorically, there are two original types of children on the streets of most capital cities in Africa. There are those born in and around the city that have close relatives there or at least have recognised family friends in the area. They go onto the streets every day and are known as "children on the street". They do not go to school. They struggle like everyone else in the market places to earn enough for the day. But at night they go back to a recognised dwelling place. The second category of street children is known as "children of the street". This category of children live, work, sleep and carry on with their own social intercourse actually on the streets. At least 50 % of the street children in Africa are in this category (UNICEF, 2000).

Accra is the capital city of the Republic of Ghana. It is more than just the political centre of Ghana. It is a commercial, industrial, business, educational and cultural centre with a projected metropolitan population of four million in 2010 (Otabil, 1997). Accra is not an unmanageable city. However, in terms of economic, political and demographic factors, the processes driving urban growth of Accra are similar to those in much larger cities around the world. It is currently facing many of the common problems or rapidly urbanising areas, such as over-extended infrastructure and social services, unemployment, poverty and street children.

In Ghana and Accra in particular, the trend is not different from the global one. The situation is quite volatile and alarming. Similarly, the reasons for

streetism in Accra are mostly related to poverty and breakdown of the family structure, abuse and disharmony in families. In general, there is lack of love, support, care, negligence, and death on the part of parents, guardians and relatives. Ironically, some parents encourage their children onto the street to help augment the family income. In any case, urbanization, peer pressure and lack of basic infrastructure in the rural areas are good reasons that account for this menace (CAS, 1999).

In Accra, most of the street children do not beg for money. They rather try to make a living by engaging in all sorts of mean jobs. The boys shine shoes, push trucks, hawk and clean cars mostly, while the girls carry loads "kaya yee" for people especially around market places. The little ones sell polythene bags, candies and mainly iced water.

The income of street children is not constant but subject to daily fluctuation. They have no minimum wages, no holidays and no maximum number of hours that can be worked out. The age, gender and the particular street corner on which they currently find themselves influence what children do on the streets for money. In contrast, major occupations that they engage in are carrying load in the markets, selling petty items, iced water and iced cream, cleaning and sweeping market places. This is what draws the attention of many non-political groups and agencies.

A Non-Governmental Organization or NGO is an independent, non-profit voluntary association of people acting together on a continuous basis, for some common goal or purpose, other than achieving government office or illegal activities (Willets, 1990). Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) started in 1910

but gained currency in 1945 because of the need for the United Nations to differentiate in its charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialised agencies and those private organisations.

Globally, it has been the priority of International agencies to ensure the survival, growth and protection of children. For instance, among its plan of action, the UN General Assembly declared 1979 as the International Year of the Child and adopted the Convention on the Rights of Child in 1989 (UNICEF,2000). In the convention, both governmental and non-governmental organizations have specifically been asked to study street children's situation and intervene with programmes that would meet their needs. Interventional programmes should aim at providing them with education, vocational training, physical development and psychological development among others for their rehabilitation and social integration (ILO, 1993).

In recent times, as stated in NGO Forum (1987), more NGOs are actively helping to keep the street children off the streets. Their activities include the provision of food, clothing, recreational and health services, education and informal training as specified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Many international and local NGOs are providing similar programmes to salvage the child in the Accra Metropolis. Some NGOs provide and assist in family reunification and shelter to those who can be accommodated.

Agyeman (1995) reveals that, the incidence of street children is on the ascendancy particularly in the Accra metropolis. In the same vein, many NGOs are springing up in the metropolitan area of Accra with diverse interventional

programmes such as family reintegration, provision of shelter, food and clothing and education in form of vocational skills and handicraft.

Statement of the Problem

Education is viewed as an investment in human productive capacity and it is the bedrock of economic and social development. It thus provides basic skills that are required for meaningful production of goods and services needed by the economy. In recent times, the need to develop a qualitative skilled human capital has been given prominence in educational planning by the state. By this, there is increased access to education and training in order to provide adequate manpower needs for the challenges of the time. In addition, the legislation on Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) has gained impetus, thereby compelling many parents to send their children to school.

However, streetism has been a major setback in achieving the FCUBE goals. While many children are in school preparing for the national task ahead, street children roam and engage in all sorts of indecent activities at the expense of their education for the future. They lack access to education, which will accelerate their development in achieving their ambitions. The increasing number of children of school going age, who roam the streets, market places, beaches, video centres and recreational grounds during school hours, has generated a lot of concern on the part of the government and all who care about child welfare and development (Agyeman, 1995).

In the eyes of the public, street children are viewed with suspicion and are associated with societal vices such as hooliganism and vandalism, chemical abuse,

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theft and robbery and other forms of criminal behaviour, Manfred (2000). Yet these children are the future leaders of tomorrow and have the right to education, survival, protection and development as enshrined in Article 28 of the 1992 Constitution of the Fourth Republic of Ghana.

In order to help prevent wasting the human resources of this category of children, a number of NGOs are engaged in "rescuing" and "rehabilitating" street children in the Accra metropolis to reintegrate them into normal society. Examples are, the Catholic Action for Street Children, Street Academy, Street Girls Aid, and Children In Need, Ghana Statistical Service (1995).

Nevertheless, estimates from "Ghana Living Standards Survey" by the GSS and frequent media reference to the menace of late, concerning the high incidence of streetism in the capital city of Accra, is worrying. Does the situation give a signal that measures and programmes of NGOs in the metropolis are not providing the specific needs outlined by the UN Convention, thus bringing most children back to the streets of Accra? What strategies are the NGOs employing to track and avert the situation? Is the education element of their policies and objectives, perhaps the most important, being implemented and achieved by these "save the children" groups? These and other questions call for an in-depth study into the contributions of NGOs to the education of street children in the Accra metropolis.

Purpose of Study

This study is to generally assess the contributions of NGOs to the educational development of street children in the Accra metropolitan area.

The specific objectives of this study are to:

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1. Find out if NGOs indeed draw and execute policies and programmes for the benefit of street children in Accra metropolis.

2. Examine the extent to which NGOs have contributed to the education of street children in the Accra metropolis.

3. Find out the relevance of NGOs' educational policies in relation to the educational goals and aspirations of street children in the Accra metropolis.

4. Assess the significance of interventional programmes of NGOs towards street children in the Accra metropolis.

Research Questions

The research questions that guided the study are:

1. What programmes are drawn by NGOs to benefit street children in the Accra metropolitan area?

2. To what extent are the objectives, policies and contributions of NGOs in the Accra metropolis addressing the educational needs of street children in the capital city?

3. How relevant are the interventional programmes of NGOs to the rehabilitation, reintegration and development of street children in the Accra metropolitan area?

4. What challenges do NGOs face in providing the interventional programmes and policies to the street children?

Significance of the Study

Article 28 (c) of Ghana's 1992 constitution and Article 27, principle 7 of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, UNICEF(2000), stipulate that every child has the right to maintenance and assistance, including survival, health and education necessary for his or her development. Since NGOs helping street children are committed to providing specific needs for their development, it is obvious that this study will actually state and indicate the extent to which NGOs in the city of Accra have achieved the educational provision enshrined in the Article. This is because many children including street children have benefited from programmes of NGOs across the length and breath of this country. For example, in the Daily Graphic of July 8 2006, it has been explicitly stated how World Vision Ghana has helped numerous children in the field of education. Dennis Agyiri Boateng, a former sponsored child has been able to make it to the university as a result of assistance from World Vision Ghana.

This research will also sensitise, awaken and guide the recently established NGOs in and outside the metropolis to emulate the examples of the well established, and endowed ones to commit them to fulfil their commitments to enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration of street children into society. A research of this kind revealing the performing NGOs certainly will push the non-performing ones to live up to expectation.

Furthermore, the study will serve as a reading material to the general public, informing and educating them on the phenomenon of street children in general and specifically on current trends of NGOs and the education of street children in

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Accra. Finally, the study will contribute to the body of knowledge or academia. Research Institutions and Agencies working on the promotion of street children will find this study useful. Libraries and universities will benefit immensely from this study.

Delimitation

The study is to find out the extent to which Non-Governmental Organizations are helping street children in the area of education in the Accra metropolitan area. The geographical location of the study was therefore the Accra metropolis and its environs. Specific areas were the Government Ministries, Cantonments, Accra North, Adabraka, North Industrial Area, and Ridge where many of the NGOs are currently located.

Accra was primarily chosen because it is the city in Ghana where the highest numbers of street children are located. Secondly, due to the high incidence of street children in Accra, many NGOs have sprung up to the challenge in the city, hence concentration of NGO activities, making it easy for the researcher to identify his population. In this study therefore, the study area was restricted to the Accra city and its environs.

Limitations

Every educational research undoubtedly has some weaknesses, which may be inherent or developmental. These limitations invariably impact negatively on the findings of the study. In this study, it was realised that a few NGOs refused to accept the questionnaire because they thought it was a study to reveal their

operations to the public. Therefore vital information that might be useful to the study was withheld.

Secondly, the researcher found it rather difficult to identify as many NGOs as possible to collect data from them for the study. This is because even though there were many NGOs in the metropolis, only a few of them are really working with street children. This does not represent a number that is considered fairly appropriate.

Some key governmental agencies, departments and units such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Department of Social Welfare and orphanages could not be included in the study. This was not part of the original plan of the researcher even though it could have improved on the assessment.

Definition of Terms

The study made use of a number of words that are defined according to the way they were used in the study.

"Kaya Yees" - These are teenage girls and street children who serve as head porters for people for a fee.

Street Children - Children under eighteen years of age, who spend most of their time working and living on the streets.

Street Living - These are children, who completely cut ties with their families to live on the streets.

Street Working - These are street children who spend all their time or most of their time working on the streets but return to their families almost daily.

Street Families - It is a phenomenon where children live and work on the streets with their families (parents) some of whom were once street children but now adults.

Streetism - It is a phenomenon of children living or working on the street to fend for themselves or their families.

Gangs - It is a kind of grouping male or female street children, whose primary aim is to seek the welfare of one another or engage in illegal activities.

Interventional Programmes - Operational plans, policies and activities put in place by NGOs to promote the welfare of street children.

Rescuing - It is the act of saving street children from their predicament.

Rehabilitating - Interventional programmes put in place by NGOs to rescue and stabilize the condition of street children to become useful individuals.

Reintegrate - To help street children with resources to enable them settle for normal life with their families and society.

Organisation of the Study

The study basically comprises five chapters with preliminary pages such as declaration, abstract, acknowledgments, dedication, table of contents and list of tables. Chapter one of this study introduces the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study. research questions, significance of the study. delimitations. limitations. definition of terms and the organisation of the study.

Chapter two presents a review of relevant literature associated with the problem addressed in this study. It deals with the theoretical and empirical aspects of the study.

Chapter three is the methodology. It looks at the research design, population, procedures used for data collection, and analysis of data among others.

The fourth chapter contains the analysis of the data and presentation of the results and discussion. Chapter five presents the final chapter and covers the overview, summary and discussion of findings, conclusions. recommendations and suggestions for further reading.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The phenomenon of street children is global, alarming and escalating. No country and virtually no city anywhere in the world today is without street children. It is a problem with both developed and developing countries, but it is more prevalent in the poor nations and continents of Latin America, Asia and Africa. Poverty, family disintegration due to ill health, death of parents, neglect, abuse or abandonment by parents and social unrest are all contributors to children living on the streets.

This chapter reviews related literature on specific pertinent areas of the study. These include: The Child Education Concept, Child Rights-UN Convention, World-Wide Issues on Street Children, The Situation in Africa, The Phenomenon in Accra, NGOs Responsibilities and Interventions, Discussion and Summary.

The Child Education Concept

The early years of a child are critical in the formation of intelligence, personality and social behaviour. Problems in these critical years affect individuals throughout their lives, sometimes causing irreversible damages.

In view of the above concept, UNICEF (2000) urges that the home and community should provide a range of services that will promote conditions of care, socialization and education for the child's total development. Education is the key to progress for individuals, communities and countries. Yet, nearly a quarter of the world's population is illiterate and millions of the world's children (more girls than

boys) never went to school. Pathetically, street children form the bulk of these children, who do not go to school (UNICEF, 1995).

Educating the child is very important because "education is the key to creating, adopting and spreading knowledge. It is fundamental to enhancing the quality of human life and ensuring social and economic progress", Todaro (2000, p.216). Education makes it easier for the individual to learn new skills throughout their lives and this facilitates their participation in modern economies and societies. In order for a country to exploit fruitfully its natural resources, it is essential that its manpower is equipped with skills and knowledge, which can be achieved through education (Todaro, 2000).

Education thus helps in developing the child's personality, talents, mental and physical abilities to the fullest apogee, thereby preparing him for an active, meaningful and responsible adult life in the society. The World Bank (1991) confirms the usefulness of formal education by indicating that, one-year increase in school can increase wages by more that 10 % after allowing for other factors.

The 1995 UNICEF Education Progress Report reveals that, about 90 % of children in developing countries begin primary school but only 68 % of them complete four years of basic education. The situation of educating the child has become a primary concern to many individuals, groups and organizations who are fighting for the rights of the child in all aspects, because without these rights there will be no future for them and society at large. The world will shrink back into its dark era of under civilization.

Child Rights-UN Convention

Children are seen as the very foundation on which every society is built. They are invaluable assets; very promising, active and full of hope but are also vulnerable, innocent and dependent. It is therefore the responsibility of parents, adults and the community to see to all aspects of their human development for them to become fully functional members of the society.

According to UNICEF (1997), the idea that children have special needs has given way to the conviction that children have rights, the same full spectrum of rights as adults, civil and political, social, cultural and economic, education and life. In view of this, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was unanimously adopted by the 44 UN General Assembly on 20th November, 1989. The International Community took a major step towards recognizing and ensuring the basic ability and rights of children in all parts of the world, indicating their rights to survival, protection, education and development. This universal treaty is based on the principle that each child has the right to benefit from the provisions, aimed at securing his or her well-being and development into an active and responsible member of society.

The treaty is thus an encouraging sign of humanity's ability to provide the needs of children and future generations. As such, governments in all countries should take the necessary measures to ratify the convention and impart its provisions with the support of the media, local communities, non-government organizations as well as international organizations and individuals.

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Enshrined in this convention are various articles and principles concerning the various aspects of the child. Among these is the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Principle Seven (7) which is clearly stated below:

The child is entitled to receive education which

shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages.

He shall be given an education, which will promote

his general culture, and enable him on a basis of equal

opportunity to develop his abilities, his individual

judgment and his sense of moral and social responsibility

and to become useful member of the society. The best interests of

the child shall be the guiding principles of those responsible for his education and

guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with

his parents. The child shall have full opportunity for play and

recreation, which should be directed to the same purpose

as education; society and the public authorities

shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right (UN 1989,p. 7).

Based on the above UN Convention on the Rights of the Child education framework, some governments including the Republic of Ghana, International groups and organizations, communities and individuals have internalized and integrated it in their mission, goals and operational activities and interventional programmes. This is to help save the world by helping and saving the children through education.

Worldwide Issues on Street Children

The existence of street children in almost every city around the world is the most staggering testament to the human consequences of economic inequality, rapid industrialization, run-to-urban migration, civil strife and the disintegration of traditional cultural values throughout the post-colonial developing world. At its highest risk, street children face murder, consistent abuse and inhumane treatment as though those were the "norm". They often resort to all forms of vices to survive; they increase in number with world population growth (Connors-Flynn, 1989).

UNICEF (1988), cited in Connors-Flynn (1989), reported that there might be up to 100 million children surviving on the streets of the world's major big cities. The UN has been attributed as estimating the current population of street children worldwide at more than 150 million with the number rising daily. Majority of these children are emerging in developing countries.

"Mcasa Alianza", a worldwide statistics website on street children and child labour has it that, UNICEF estimates over 30 million street children in Asia alone. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, there are 10,000 girls living in the streets. There are 5,000 to 10,000 street children just in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, says World Vision International. In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development estimated in 1991 1.2 million street children. In addition, Action International Ministries cited in Mcasa Alianza (2000) says 50,000 to 70,000 street children live in Manila alone. UNICEF (2004) estimates that there are 16,000 street children in Vietnam, 20,000 child victims of prostitution and 4,300 child drug users.

India's Ministry of Social Welfare estimated that of the 10.9 million people residing in Calcutta in 1992, there were 75,000 to 200,000 children living in the streets. These Agencies agree that, the number is much higher now, and deaths of parents from HIV/AIDS are likely to cause the number to rise more rapidly. However, other causes of the menace do exist, Mcasa Alianza (2000).

Again in 1998, an estimated 10 million street children were declared in Africa. Africa today has 10.7 million of orphans living in towns and villages. This is as a result of AIDS and the numbers are growing. With fewer and fewer family members left to care for them, many if not most of these children will join the street children who are already there because of poverty, wars and ethnic conflicts. In Latin America in 1996, the Inter-American Development Bank and UNICEF estimated that, there were 40 million street children there. In Central America, the majority of street children are aged 10-17; approximately 25 % are girls. And the Government of Mexico has estimated that the country has 2 million street children. According to WHO (1994) cited on the website, in Brazil, 7 million children were abandoned or homeless. From 1990 to 1994, about 4,600 street children were killed in that region. Street children are targets of death squads in Colombia. In 1993, 2,190 street children were murdered as reported in Los Angeles Times, (1996) and Ottawa, (1996) on the website of "Mcasa Alianza" (2000).

Europe and North America seem to have the least figures. The Council of Europe estimates 7,000 street children in the Netherlands, 10,000 in France, 500 to 1,000 in Ireland, 6,000 to 7,000 in Turkey and 1,000 in Bucharest, Romania. The BBC reported that 5,000 children and young people are abandoned on the streets

every year in the United States of America. In addition, the United States federal government reported there were 500,000 under-age "run-a ways" and "throw-a ways" by their parents, Courier (1996).

In one study of homeless adolescents in Hollywood-California Roberts, (1989) cited in Courier (1996) estimated that, over 57 % of homeless children were reported to have nothing to eat on some days in the past. This shows the difficulty street children go through in search of their physiological needs such as food to survive. The issue of no fixed accommodation or residence has forced many of them to seek refuge in areas that are dangerous and dehumanizing to their lives and health. For example, in the 1996 BBC World News Report, two million street children were reported to be living in tunnels in Mexico City, while about one million live in tunnels and sewers in Romania. Such stressful conditions of living without decent shelter, lower resistance to diseases, improper rationing of nutritious food, among others leave these youngsters at risk for a wide variety of medical conditions (p.16).

It is in the light of predicaments of this nature that Gillis and Helbig (1992) write: "It is the right of the child to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and to get access to health facilities for the treatment of illness. Good health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well being which can be determined through clinical examination by a qualified health professional" (p.108). It is assumed that perhaps, the greatest secondary need, yet the ultimate dream of all street children is education, which they yearn for but lack as a result of no fault on their part. The growing population of street boys and girls worldwide is an

indication of the socio-economic malaises facing the world's youth at the onset of the twenty first century. As population growth soars, children especially boys are quickly becoming the most vulnerable and hard-hit victims.

According to Ayako, Kariuki, Ojwana, Onyango, and Orwa (1991), the dilemma of street children poses a grandiose problem for both their future and the future of society at large. Street children grow up feeling totally insecure and bitter of their future as they are faced with the daily challenges of providing for their food, shelter and clothing needs and thus constantly fall prey to harassment, abuse and arrest by the authorities whose responsibility it is to protect them.

Again, because boys and girls on the streets are vulnerable to diseases, poverty and exploitation, they often adopt survival strategies, which can be harmful to their health, safety and mental well-being. Petty theft, drug abuse and prostitution are usual characteristics of the street child, Blumendrantz (1994). Ayako (1991) agrees with Blumendrantz (1994), "many street children who grow up without parental care may develop various psycho-social problems such as faulty socialization, hunger, mental torture and child abuse and neglect" (p.107). This is the state of the future of the world as it manifests in the children of the street, whose legitimate rights it is, to live and enjoy life in its true sense and totality.

The Situation in Africa

The situation in Africa is not too far fetched from what pertains in other countries and continents. The O.A.U. has estimated that children on and of the streets could easily represent some 10 to 20 % of Africa's urban child population, UNICEF (1994). ILO (1999) has it that Harare City alone has 3,000 of the 10,000

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street children in Zimbabwe; Kenya has an estimated 50,000 street children in Nairobi alone, while Dar Es Salem in Tanzania has 4,500 street children.

According to figures provided by UNICEF (2001), 15,000 children try to make a living on the streets of Kinshasa. Most of them end up around the market after being abandoned by their families. Often they are accused of being sorcerers. In fact, because some parents do not have the means to feed their children anymore, they often use sorcery as a pretext to get rid of them. Street children in Kinshasa represent a social force which authorities find difficult to contain. Once in the street, most of the children, some as young as four years old, embrace its rules and become immune to the old-fashioned discipline of most Congolese schools. They become Congolese singers' icons and the targets of soldiers in recruiting campaigns. For them, the real struggle is just to live another day. If they manage, it is good, if not that is it. According to Ayako, et al. (1991), the magnitude of the challenges faced by this population is evident. Young boys and girls dwell on the streets with the purpose of making a living for themselves and their families.

"In 1993, there were an estimated 25,000 street children in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city, up from 16,000 four years before. The figure today is close to 60,000", UNICEF (1995, p.34). The rapid increase in the number of street children in Kenya can be attributed to economic depression, widespread poverty, natural and human-made disasters and diseases such as AIDS. Orphans who lost their parents to AIDS or natural disasters and runaway children escaping violence or abuse in their homes, as well as abandoned children constitute a large percentage of street

children in Nairobi. Many are children of single mothers who were once street children themselves.

Those who do have a home somewhere, avoid it for good reasons. Being "at home" for them often means being beaten or sexually abused by family members. It can also mean being neglected or living with alcoholism or some other traumatizing experience on a daily basis. Their mothers sell some girls into prostitution at an early age. Therefore street life, rough and harsh as it may be, often seems a better choice to the children. However, should this really be?

In a survey, of 634 street children throughout Kenya, the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) determined that: Twenty percent of the children claimed to have no alternatives for a better way of life. Sixteen percent wanted to help support their families with their income. Ten percent had run away from their parents; 10 % were victims of hunger. Ten percent had been influenced by their peers to join the street life. In addition, two percent had been born on the streets, Ayako, et al. (1991).

It is also true that, there are more boys on the streets than girls are. This is due to easy adaptability, cultural practices and other factors. Approximately, 90 % of street children in South Africa are boys. This is because, it is still observed as a girl's responsibility to stay at home and look after the smaller children in the family. Again, about 60 % of street children in South Africa have not been in formal institution, Ayako, et al. (1991).

Courier (1996) attributes one of the major factors of street children in Africa to armed conflicts, especially in the sub-Saharan regions like Congo, Sudan and

Liberia where there are conflicts. "African's Child", an article in The Progress of Nations (1997) by UNICEF, also has it that armed conflicts in Sudan has driven over 20,000 children to the streets of Khartoum where they are often involved in petty crime and drug abuse and are subject to sexual assault. All these are serious adverse reports, revealing the true nature of the situation in Africa. Who assumes the task?

The Phenomenon in Accra Ghana

Just like the world trend, the phenomenon in Ghana is not new. Many researches and physical observation are enough evidence to show that the situation is quite alarming. East Maamobi, Chorkor, Accra New Town, Makola, Accra Central and Kantamanto are the endemic areas where street children in Accra are mostly found.

A report from the U.S. Information Service in 1996 cited in Otabil (1997), estimated that there were 50, 000 street children in Ghana. In 1996, there were an estimated 11,000 street children in Accra, ranging in age from five to 17 years. About 50 % of them being children live and work on the street, CAS (1996). In the same month, it was estimated that there were 3,000 street babies in Accra alone. Half of these are actually living on the streets.

In gender distribution of street children in Ghana, Esubonteng (1998) and Sam (1999) revealed in two separate street children surveys conducted in Tema and Takoradi that, there were 55 % boys: 45 % girls and 65 % boys: 35 % girls respectively. The results indicate that one is likely to find more street boys than girls in the streets of Accra.

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Contrary to the above survey result, another research conducted by RESPONSE (1997) a local NGO in Accra, the city capital and study area of this study has a different statistics. The survey indicated more street girls than boys. In addition, most of the children, 65 % live with their families and therefore go back home at the end of the day's work. With no place to call a home, the remaining 35 % make their home and sleep around the Accra Central Railway, Kaneshie Market, Kantamanto, Makola, Agbogbloshie and Lorry stations.

Another survey conducted by ILO on street children in 1996 in Accra, reveals that 88 % of street children were school drop outs in the 10 to 14 years group with a few of them as school leavers. In the report, only a small number of them were orphans, but 80 % had both parents living separately. Again, most of them came from low socio-economic background where most of their needs could not be met and therefore attributed their status to poverty.

In a similar survey in the Capital Accra, Wumbee (1990) reported that, though 80 % of fathers and 88 % of mothers of street children were alive, only eight percent of fathers live with their children, while 24 % of mothers also live with them. The University of Ghana carried out a study in 1992 to find out more about street children in Accra. The study revealed that the growing number of children on the streets of Accra live or work in the streets. Some were born in and around Accra, but a lot of them came from different parts of Ghana and even from other countries. It was also estimated that, about 15, 000 children were on the streets of Accra, Otabil (1997). In 1996, Catholic Action for Street Children conducted a head

count over a period of three weeks. During the exercise, 10,400 children were counted, of which 50 % were boys and 50 % were girls, CAS (1996).

Street children in the Accra metropolis, like any other environment of street children worldwide, face many dangers. A study conducted by the Sociology Department of the University of Ghana and Save the Children Fund and cited in Otabil (1997) revealed that children face hazardous existence in the street as they are vulnerable to the environment and occupational hazards; more importantly, street children greatly miss educational opportunity, a vital element and constructive way of developing their talents and skills.

The increasing number of street children of school going age who roam the streets, market places, lorry parks, beaches and video centres at the neglect of their parents or otherwise has generated and drawn concern of groups, individual and especially non-governmental groups to save the children. In fact, many of them are compelled beyond their heart to work just to survive. Ironically, one of the reasons which make them turn to the street is to be able to afford school, a burning and ultimate desire indeed. Incidentally however, those with such motive fail to raise the necessary funds to go to school, thereby staying permanently on the streets to live. For many families especially around the city, the grinding burden of poverty has made reliance on their children's economic contribution an essential part of survival, Agyeman (1995).

According to Anarfi and Antwi (1995), most of the youth who are street children do not have any fixed schedules. The porters for example can spend the whole night around waiting and expecting cargo trucks to arrive. Almost all street

children are compelled to wake up early, sometimes as early as four a.m. before owners of shops and sheds come to work. These unavoidable and unpleasant situations make them fall foul to the law quite often as they usually encounter police on patrol. It is obvious how children, instead of automobile now occupy the Accra city streets to make ends meet. Who cares and whose responsibility is it to save, protect and educate the child on the streets for the sake of the future. Certainly it is the responsibility of all.

NGOs Responsibilities and Interventions

The legal framework that established NGOs in Ghana came in 1963 and backed by the 1992 constitution, which among other legal responsibilities gave power to NGOs that are duly registered to function in Ghana. The companies' code /act is as follows: "The Companies Code/Act 179 (1963), Chapters 5 (21) and 6 (37) (1) (2) (3) of the constitution of the Fourth Republic (1992), defines the legal institutional framework (1) Within which NGOs and other CSOs operate in Ghana", Government of Ghana (1992, p.17-20).

By the above legal framework, registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), variously known as Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) but also called "NPOs" (Non-Profit Organizations) are on the increase in Ghana. According to the BBC Africa Live Report by Adam, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment of Ghana, there are 3,000 registered non-governmental organizations in the country, Ministry of Information (2004).

NGOs play roles that go far beyond political activism. Many are important deliverers of services especially in the rural areas of the country. They tend to be more sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the poor communities, minorities, women and children, thus commanding more legitimacy in their eyes than even the government. NGOs in Ghana are also humanitarian aid providers. Most of them are devoted to the alleviation of poverty, a concept so big and broad. Similarly, NGOs come from different facets with different intentions and different action areas such as health, education and income generation. A great number of NGOs in Ghana provide efficient, innovative and cost effective approaches to difficult social and economic problems, Fisher (1998).

Some of the renowned agencies/development partners that are working seriously into social, educational and economic projects include World Vision Ghana, CARE, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Catholic Action for Street Children (CAS). Others are Plan Ghana and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The responsibilities and commitment of NGOs toward street children is mandatory as it is enshrined in the UN General Assembly Declaration of 1979 as the International Year of the Child and consequent adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. In the convention both governmental and non-governmental organizations have been urged to specifically study street children's situations and provide interventional programmes aimed at educating them, providing vocational training, physical and psychological development among others, for their rehabilitation and social integration, UNICEF (2000).

Many NGOs in Accra have such defined interventional programmes for street children. Some street children have been educated and equipped with various vocational and technical skills. Others have employable skills to earn income, and are no longer on the streets. Michael Edwards of Save the Children in a radio programme report said, "NGOs have long provided services in health and education, but this was usually by default rather than design as governments in Asia and Africa lack the resources to provide universal coverage".

CAS, Street Girls Aid and others in Accra have been seriously involved in the action of providing education and other services to street children.

Summary

Following the numerous problems confronting street children in the world and Accra in particular, concerns have been raised by various agencies and bodies, national, local and at international levels. The World Summit on children also set specific goals and parameters for the protection of children's right in 1990. The goals among other things included the right of the child to education, shelter, food and health. In line with this, Ghana has had the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) in place since 1979 with the objectives reflecting those specified by the UN, Ghana National Commission on Children (1997).

A publication titled "A house of refugee for street children", states that the issue of street children which reveals just one aspect of poverty in Ghana continues to be a difficult problem as the number of kids resorting to the streets is on the increase, especially Accra where in 1996, it was estimated at 10,000 as against 5,000 in 1995, Kwao-Nyarku (1997). It also reported of the case study of CAS and

the Sociology Department of the University of Ghana which proved the number of street children in Accra to be doubling and which needed intervention.

From the above review of available literature, it is evident that street children are not handled in any humanly manner with dignity and respect for their rights. Both developing and developed worlds are faced with the calamity. The phenomenon is not given the most serious deserving attention that it requires. Many researches have been conducted as a way of ascertaining the magnitude of the problem. However, with all these available information on street children, very little is done to combat the problem.

Governments and rich nations spend billions of dollars on conflicts and wars, which create some of these atrocities. In Ghana, several NGOs exist and plan programmes to curtail part of the huge incidence of streetism in the Accra metropolitan area especially. To some extent, the resources of these agencies and NGOs who rescue and cater for the needs of these children have been overstretched. Even though NGOs strive to reach street children, their resources have limitations, as they may not provide their needs in totality. Many, perhaps have taken the initiative to empower street children for a better future.

Overall, there is general lack of focus or inadequate cohesion on related matters of education to street children in the Accra metropolis. This study is limited to street children and NGOs' contributions to their education in the capital city. This research intends to reach many concerned NGOs whose interventional programmes are directed towards street children and their commitment in the provision of education and other forms of welfare services to them. Findings of this research will

unfold the contributions of NGOs to the education of street children in the capital city of Ghana. It will certainly provide reliable statistics for planners and urge policy makers on and also inform the general public on the state of affairs of the street child with regard to education. Education is a vital tool in the development of every child and the street child as well.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

The study is aimed at assessing the contributions of non-governmental organizations to the educational development of street children in the Accra metropolis. The chapter deals with the methodology of the research and thus focuses on the research design, the population, sampling and sampling techniques, instruments for data collection, pilot testing of instruments, data collection procedure and analysis of data.

Research Design

The research design that was employed in this study was the descriptive sample survey, which according to Gray (1987) involves collecting data in order to answer questions. This particular case concerns contributions of non-governmental organizations towards the educational development of street children in the Accra metropolis of Ghana. A study of this nature determines or reports the reality of the situation on the ground. Thus it is simply reporting things the way they actually are.

The descriptive design was primarily chosen because it has the advantage of producing good amount of responses from a wide range of subjects. At the same time, it provides a meaningful and accurate picture of events and seeks to explain people's perceptions and behaviour on the basis of data gathered at a point in time. It also links abstract and stylized concepts and questions with the empirical world's complexities and challenges; hence it makes it expansive enough to adapt these

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very complexities while still pointing the researcher towards relevant data. It is also an extension of the researcher's substantive technique and epistemological orientation.

On the contrary, there is the difficulty of ensuring that the questionnaire to be answered is clear and not misleading. Equally vital is the problem of getting sufficient number of copies of the questionnaires duly completed and returned so that meaningful analysis can be made for accurate report to be written. These disadvantages notwithstanding, the descriptive design is considered the most appropriate since the study is basically to report the way things are as far as the contributions of NGOs to the education of street children is concerned.

Population

This consists of the identifiable groups of people as potential source of information out of which data producing samples are derived. The target population for this particular study was all registered non-governmental organizations both local and international, which operate in the Accra metropolitan area. The population in this research helped produce the relevant and needed data for the research because it was the population that was used for the data-producing subjects.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample involves an invited representation of the population from whom data was collected. In this study, a combination of purposive selection and simple random sampling techniques were used. The purposive or deliberate selection was

employed basically because, as an evaluative study, certain NGOs who have been operating in the city of Accra for more than five years have tremendous experience in managing street children in diverse ways. Therefore, they have the information needed to carry out this study. In addition, this criterion is also based on the World Bank's assertion that for effective programme evaluation of any NGO, the organization must have been operating in an area for a minimum of five years (The World Bank, 1991).

Another factor that was considered in the choice of NGOs for this study was the type of activities they are engaged in. There are some NGOs for example exclusively working to save street children. Many NGOs are involved in different activities with regard to children's welfare and development. The researcher focused on NGOs that are actually involved with interventional programmes for the education of street children in the Accra metropolis.

Again, consideration was given to NGOs with the above criteria but which are in close proximity to allow for easy access at the same time. Each of the NGOs had the chance of being selected or sampled once they satisfy the conditions stated above. In all seven NGOs were selected for the study. They included Action Aid, Catholic Action for Street Children, Care International, Plan Ghana, Children In Need, Street Academy and Street Girls Aid. These NGOs met the standard criteria stated above. In all these organisations, all directors in addition to one senior staff were selected to respond to the questionnaire. With regard to the street children interviewed, the number varied from NGO to NGO depending on the numerical strength of each organisation. The number was between 45 and 150.

Instruments for Data Collection

In order to collect relevant data for the study two sets of questionnaires were developed by the researcher in consultation with the research supervisor. One set was designed for the NGOs and the other an interview schedule for the rescued street children under the care of the NGOs. Again the research supervisor finally vetted the questionnaires for evidence of how face, content and construct validities were determined and established. Indeed the instruments proved reliable.

The questionnaires for the NGOs and street children were divided into three sections: background information, interventional programmes (objectives, policies and content) and outcome of interventional programmes administered. The questionnaires were made up of both close-ended and open-ended items. The questionnaire for the NGOs consisted of 27 major items while the interview schedule for the street children consisted of 20 items. In most items, respondents were expected to express their opinion about the issue raised or tick an option that best expressed their views.

Pilot Testing

Pilot testing involves administering of questionnaires on a chosen sample population on trial or experimental basis to test the reliability and validity of the selected or designed instrument. Since the researcher himself designed the instruments for data collection, there was the need to subject the instruments to ensure their reliability and validity for data collection. The pilot test was also aimed at ensuring that the instructions in the questionnaire (s) were clear enough to enable

respondents understand them. The pilot testing was conducted on "Friends of Children", a local NGO based in the Airport Residential area in the Accra metropolis. A few street children along the Airport residential area answered that of the street children with the NGO mobilising them because they knew them.

Further to the above, the researcher interacted with the above NGO to enable him identify ambiguities from either overloading of questions, clarity of expressions or inclusion of too many items. These were carried out and instruments compiled for the main study. In addition, the pilot testing helped in thorough check on the planned statistical and analytical procedures, thus allowing for the appraisal of their adequacy in treating the data. To ensure face validity of the questionnaires, the opinion of the researcher's supervisor and colleagues were sought and their suggestions were incorporated. Reliability of the instruments was established to check internal consistency.

Data Collection Procedure

In the first place, introductory letters from the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration and another from the researcher were distributed to the sampled and selected NGOs informing them of the researcher's intention to collect data in their organizations, and seeking their consent to collect the data for the purpose of academic research. Three days after the distribution of introductory letters, the researcher and his field assistant followed up with copies of the questionnaires to the respective and sampled NGOs and the rescued street children. This phase took two days because some of the personnel to respond to the questionnaire were not available at the scheduled time. In each organization, key or

prospective respondents were identified and requested to raise any clarification that might be needed to answer the questionnaires accurately after going through them.

The duration for data collection was between five and eight working days. For the sake of convenience a few respondents were advised to deposit the completed questionnaire with identified personnel because they would be out of town at the time of collection. Also, the time and day of collection of the data were pre-arranged at the time of distribution. The researcher kept a checklist for this purpose. The interview for the rescued street children was conducted along side the distribution and collection of the questionnaire in the various NGOs selected. On the whole, the researcher used approximately a maximum of three weeks for the distribution and data collection for the study.

Finally, questionnaires were administered to the NGOs in English because they were able to read, understand and respond to the questions in English. However, the researcher's assistant who could speak Ga, Dagare, Hausa and Akan played the role of an interpreter for the researcher and the street children who could not speak or express themselves in English.

Analysis of Data

In the first place, the raw data obtained were checked, sorted out and described and compared to standard criteria of NGOs interventional programmes in respect of street children's education in the city of Accra. These standard criteria constituted the framework of analysis from which the case descriptions of individual NGO's activities have been carried out.

After that descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and content analysis were used to process the data. Further to the above, percentages were used in almost all cases to clarify and support some discussions on the findings.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study was aimed at assessing the contributions of NGOs to the education

of street children in the Accra metropolitan area. The chapter is divided into two

sections. Section A deals with responses on research questions and section B deals

with characteristics and related issues on street children and NGOs. For the purpose

of results, simple frequency tables of percentages have been used in the analysis of

the data. In addition, most of the data for the NGOs have been expressed in essay

form for better understanding.

Responses on Research Questions

The research questions that guided the study are:

1. What programmes are drawn by NGOs to benefit street children in the

    Accra metropolitan area?

The following were the responses presented by the NGOs regarding the

needs of the street children. These include: education, heath care, parental guidance,

food, shelter and clothing. Even though the NGOs think the above needs constitute

the critical things street children need, some of the children think otherwise.

The various interventional strategies adopted by the NGOs include:

education, health care, shelter, parental guidance, settlement, food, clothing and

apprenticeship. These strategies have indeed helped most of the children if not all

who embraced or accessed the services for a better life.

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2. To what extent are the objectives, policies and contributions of NGOs in the Accra metropolis addressing the educational needs of street children in the capital city?

According to the responses received, the major educational programmes the NGOs offered the street children were formal education and vocational education. The rest include non-formal functional literacy and Agriculture. One can say that the programmes offered by the NGOs will definitely improve the horizons of the beneficiaries.

From the responses received, the NGOs basically pay for or provide the children's school fees, school uniforms, textbooks and stationery. Indeed these are essential educational items needed by any child to go to school. However, two of the NGOs pay for only school fees and school uniform.

From the responses presented by the NGOs on the level of education, one out of seven NGO is responsible up to the basic level. Three are responsible for up to secondary and another three are responsible up to the tertiary level. This is an indication that majority of the NGOs sponsor the street children up to the secondary and tertiary level.

From the data received, it is clear that four out of the seven respondents said Yes while the remaining three responded No. This is a clear indication that some of the NGOs do have physical structures to carry out their programmes or collaborate with other institutions for their programmes to be implemented. Again, it can be said that a greater number of NGOs do have structures in place to carry out their programmes.

3. How relevant are the interventional programmes of NGOs to the rehabilitation, reintegration and development of street children in the Accra metropolitan area?

From the responses provided, it shows that the NGOs provide nine trades to the street children. Masonry, hairdressing, catering, leatherworks, batik making, carving, carpentry, auto mechanic, ceramic works were the various trades provided by the NGOs for the street children.

According to the data collected on performance rating of the NGOs, seven NGOs responded to the item. Out of the seven responses, three rated for Very Good, another three for Good and one for Average. The details are as follows: Action Aid, Children In Need and Street Girls Aid rated Good while Care International, Catholic Action for Street Children and Street Academy rated Very Good. It was only Plan Ghana which rated Average. This undoubtedly indicates that, there is fair assessment in the performance of their work.

From the data gathered on the proportion of children who stay to complete their programmes seven NGOs responded accordingly. This is presented in percentages (score) ranging between 85 and 97. Assessment provided by Street Girls Aid and Plan Ghana was 97, Children In Need 95, Street Academy 92, Action Aid 90, Catholic Action for Street Children 89 and Care International 85.Out of this number, two NGOs indicated that 97 of their children stay to complete their programmes. The remaining five indicated 95, 92, 90, 89 and 85 of children stay to complete their programmes.

The responses received on the academic strength of the street children NGOs provide with education are presented as follows. Care International, Catholic Action for Street Children and Street Academy rated their children Good. Children In Need, Plan Ghana and Street Girls Aid rated Very good whiles Action Aid rated theirs excellent. Out of the seven respondents, only one rated their children excellent. Three assessed their children to be very good while the other three rated their children as Good.

Various monitoring mechanisms were adopted by the NGOs who cater for rescued street children to ensure successful completion of their programmes. Four NGOs adopted similar and different approaches to help the children stay on their programmes. These were: following team, use of individual supervisors, and collective responsibility from all staff. Each child is assigned a supervisor to monitor the attendance and progress. Each centre monitors the attendance book. We collaborate with sister institutions for social activities, reports from trainers and reports on projects. Supervisors are in the homes and training centres of the street children. Management paying regular visits to the training facilities. Regular counselling for street children. Code of conduct in place to monitor them.

4.   What challenges do NGOs face in providing the interventional

programmes and policies to the street children and possible solutions?

The views of the respondents on the challenges were as follows:

There is negative perception by the public about street children as bad. There is stigmatization on the children. There is lack of support from the parents, financial support is inadequate, children are very stubborn and there is lack of material

resources. There is also problem with personnel, huge donor fatigue experience and lack of adequate facilities.

The following were measures adopted by the NGOs to control the challenges: Volunteers and internship programme, fund raising innovations, seeking for more donors, educate the public on the issue of street children for better understanding and accepting to educate children, sourcing for donor funding for projects, education on discipline, volunteer assistance and identifying potential donors and writing proposals for assistance, appealing for funds, soliciting assistance from the Sports Council for coaches and equipment.

Characteristics and Related Issues on Street Children and NGOs

The following were the views expressed by the NGOs about who a street child is: A child between the ages of five to sixteen years who is not at school and stays in the streets to make a living. Another said, a child of school-going age roaming in the streets to earn a living due to parental problems. A child who lives and works in the street. A child, who lives, sleeps and works on the street. Another response was any person below the age of 18 years who lives on the streets without support from the family.

The following were the responses of how the NGOs identified street children. Firstly, by observing them and looking for signs of streetism. Also, by following and acting on complaints. By how the street children look and appear. By the type of work the street children do. By their physical condition.

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According to the NGOs, the street children got into their care by various means. In the first place it was through their Field Officers and staff. Secondly, it was through referrals from agencies such as the Legal Aid Board, the Social Welfare Department and Orphanages. Others said they got the street children through their old clients and sister NGOs.

From the responses received, seven NGOs responded to the item. Out of the seven, five responded Yes, indicating they have exclusive polices for street children while two responded No, indicating they do not have any policy for street children. The details are as follows: Action Aid indicated No, Care International said No, Catholic Action for Street Children responded Yes, Children In Need, Street Academy, Plan Ghana and Street Girls Aid all responded Yes. It is therefore clear from the responses that majority of the NGOs do have policies exclusively for street children in the study area.

The objectives of the various NGOs who responded to the questionnaire are presented below: Provide education and counselling, help poor families to solve their pressing problems. The rest include the provision of education to support street children, empowering the poor people to live a life of dignity. Helping children on the streets develop talents and finally to provide the wellbeing of street pregnant girls by offering them pre and post parental care.

Other objectives are advocating for children's right, fighting global poverty and promoting development, assisting street children to unite with their families, unearthing talents of street children through recreational and cultural activities, advocating for just and equitable distribution of resources.

The final set of objectives include encouraging and assisting children on the streets, who are school dropouts to continue their education or apprenticeship, providing health care and education, free educational opportunities to street children in order to change their perception of life.

The data shows the human and material capability of the NGOs with regard to policies and programmes. The record provided shows that Action Aid, Care International, Plan Ghana and Catholic Action for Street Children responded No. Only Street Girls Aid responded in the affirmative. In effect out of the total number of seven NGOs, who responded to the item, six responded No and only one responded Yes. This is a clear manifestation of the fact that the NGOs do not rely on themselves for their operations.

The data received clearly indicate that three out of the total of seven responded Yes. Four however responded No. The responses were as follows: Action Aid Care International, Children In Need and Street Academy responded No. Responses for Yes included Catholic Action for Street Children, Plan Ghana and Street Girls Aid. In effect, it could be deduced that these is a sharp contrast.

Number of Street Children under the Sponsorship of NGOs

The number of children being sponsored by the NGOs is presented in Table 1. The NGOs involved in the sponsorship include Action Aid, CAS, Children In Need, Street Academy and Street Girls Aid. This is presented in order of significance.

Table 1

Children under the sponsorship of NGOs

NGO	No.	%
Action Aid	150	33.0
CAS	139	30.6
Children In Need	66	14.5
Street Academy	54	11.8
Street Girls Aid	45	9.9
Total	454	100

Table 1 presents results for the number of children under the sponsorship of the NGOs. From the table it is clear that five NGOs are involved. Action Aid had 150 representing 33%; CAS had 139 representing 30.6% while Children In Need had a total number of 66 representing 14.5%. Street Academy and Street Girls Aid had 54 and 45 representing 11.8% and 9.9% respectively.

Sex distribution of the former street children

The sex distribution of the street children in the various NGOs is presented in Table 2. This involves male and female street children under the care of the NGOs. All the children sampled for the exercise responded to the interview schedule.

Table 2

Gender distribution of children involved in the study

Response	No.	%
Male	55	55.0
Female	45	45.0
Total	100	100.0

Table 2 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of responses on the gender of the street children. There were 100 children who responded to the interview schedule. A frequency of 55 representing 55% was recorded for the male street children, while 45 responses representing 45% was recorded for the female street children.

Age distribution of the rescued street children

The result of the age distribution of the children has been presented in the frequency Table 3. The age distribution ranges between 18 and 23 years. It covers both male and female street children in the study.

It could be deduced from Table 3 that the ages of the respondents range from 14 years to 23 years. Out of the 100 respondents, eight were 14 years, nine were 15years, 22 were 16 years, 14 were 17 years, 33 were 18 years, eight were 19 years and two each were 20 years, 21 years and 23 years. Accordingly, the

percentage distribution recorded eight percent, nine percent, 22%, 14%, 33%, eight percent and two percent concurrently.

Table 3

Age distribution of the street children

Response	No.	%
14 yrs	8	8.0
15 yrs	9	9.0
16 yrs	22	22.0
17 yrs	14	14.0
18 yrs	33	33.0
19 yrs	8	8.0
20 yrs	2	2.0
21 yrs	2	2.0
23 yrs	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Means by which children got into contact with NGOs

Table 4 shows the means by which the street children got into contact with the NGOs. It presents six various agents through which street children in the Accra metropolitan area got into contact with the NGOs. The percentage rating is between 3% percent and 50 %.

Table 4

How street children got into contact with NGOs

Response	No.	%
Field Officers	50	50.0
Friend	24	24.0
Old Client	10	10.0
Referral (Legal Aid Board)	3	3.0
Sister NGO	6	6.0
Social Welfare	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0

It is evidently clear from the table that there were six various means by which the children got into the NGOs' care. The first which is field officers had a frequency of 50 representing 50%, friend with a frequency of 24 representing 24%. Old Clients had 10 responses representing 10% and Referral from Legal Aid Board with a frequency of three, representing three percent. The rest were Sister NGOs with six representing six percent and Social Welfare with seven responses representing seven percent. It can therefore be deduced from the table that the NGOs' own field officers top the list. This is obviously so because they go out to hunt for stranded street children to cater for. This is followed by friends who have benefited from their programmes. The least is from the Legal Aid Board referral.

Number of years street children have been with the NGOs

The following data give responses of number of years the street children have stayed with the NGO. This is presented in Table 5. The length of time the children have been with the NGOs ranges between three months and eight years.

Table 5

Length of time street children have been with the NGO

Response	No.	%
3 months	37	37.0
1 year	13	13.0
2 years	17	17.0
4 years	15	15.0
5 years	7	7.0
6 years	6	6.0
8 years	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Result from the table above shows that their time of habitation ranges from three months to eight years. Thirteen responses, representing 13% was recorded for one year; while 17 responses representing 17% was recorded for two years. Seven responses and 37 responses, representing seven percent and 37% were recorded for five years and three months respectively.

For four years, 15 responses, representing 15% was recorded whiles seven responses representing seven percent was recorded for five years. Six responses, representing six percent was finally recorded for six years. This shows the diversity in duration, children spent with the NGOs. Finally, one response representing one percent was recorded for eight years.

Former street children who have been to school

The following were the responses of the children who attempted schooling before they turned to the streets. The number that responded to the item was seventy nine and this is presented in Table 6. The percentage rating is between 21 and 79.

Table 6

Whether street children have ever been to school

Response	No.	%
Yes	79	79.0
No	17	17.0
Missing	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

Seventy nine out of the total number of 100 respondents representing 79% said Yes indicating they ever went to school. Seventeen responses representing 17% answered in the negative, indicating they never went to school. There was however four missing. From the analysis, it can be said that there is a great difference

between street children who have once had education opportunity and those who never had the opportunity. The difference in percentage wise is 62 %.

Needs of former street children

The responses of the former street children with regard to their needs are presented in the Table 7. This table presents six essential needs of the street children. The number of respondents who attempted the item was 100. The percentage rating was between one percent and 53 %.

Table 7

Responses on what street children would like as their need

Response	No.	%
Clothing	13	13.0
Accommodation	4	4.0
Food	1	1.0
Education	53	53.0
Health care	20	20.0
Money	9	9.0
Total	100	100.0

Analysis of Table 7 had six main categories of needs. For clothing, 13 responses were recorded, representing 13%. Four responses were recorded for accommodation, representing four percent while food had one response,

representing one percent. For education, there were 53 responses, which represent 53%, while health care had a frequency of 20, which represents 20%. Finally, nine responses representing nine percent was recorded for money.

Programmes offered former street children

The rescued children had a variety of programmes to choose from. This is presented in Table 8. Five categories of programmes have been advanced by the children. Among them were formal education, counselling, health care, vocational training etc.

Table 8

Programmes NGOs provide children

Response	No.	%
Formal education, vocation, counselling and accommodation	31	31.0
Formal education, vocation counselling and feeding	28	28.0
Vocation, counselling and feeding	9	9.0
Health care, formal education, feeding	22	22.0
Others	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

From the table, the programmes have been grouped into five categories. For formal education, vocation, counselling and accommodation, 31 responses representing 31% was recorded. 28 responses representing 28% was recorded for education. Vocation, counselling and feeding had nine responses, which also represents nine percent. For health care, formal education and feeding 22 responses representing 22% was recorded while others had a frequency of 10 which represents10%.

What former street children are doing presently with the NGOs

The various areas of learning activities the street children were engaged in at the time this research was conducted is presented in Table 9. The major learning activities include schooling and apprenticeship or both.

Table 9

What children are doing in the organisations

Response	No.	%
In school	17	18.5
In apprenticeship	62	67.4
Both	13	14.1
Total	92	92.0

From the result, it is clear that 17 responses representing 18.5% claimed they were in school while 62 responses representing 67.4% also said they were in

apprenticeship. Thirteen responses representing 14.1% was recorded for those on a combined programme (school and apprenticeship). It can be seen from the responses the percentage of the respondents engaged in vocational training is three times more than those engaged in formal education. However, eight children did not respond to the item. The missing data represents eight percent.

Former street children in apprenticeship

The various trades the street children were taught number up to eight and it is presented in Table 10. These include masonry, hair dressing, catering, batik making and leather works. The rest are ceramics, carpentry and carving. The percentage rating for this item is between 5.3 % and 21.3 %.

Table 10

Trades children are learning

Response	No.	%
Masonry	11	14.7
Hair dressing	16	21.3
Catering	15	20.0
Ceramics	6	8.0
Batik making	9	12.0
Leather work	4	5.3
Carpentry	10	13.3
Carving	4	5.3
Total	75	100.0

Table 10 clearly shows that there were eight different trades entered by the respondents. Masonry had 11 responses representing 14.7%, hairdressing had 16 frequencies, which represent 21.3% .Catering, pulled 15 responses, which represents 20% while ceramics had six responses representing eight percent. For batik making, nine responses representing 12% was recorded while leatherworks and carving recorded four responses each, representing 5.3%. Carpentry recorded 10 responses, which represents 13.3%.

Groups responsible for the upkeep of former street children

Table 11 presents the street children's responses on the people responsible for the upkeep of the children. Two main groups have been identified. These are NGOs and Charity Organisations including religious bodies.

Table 11

Who provides needs of children

Response	No.	%
NGOs	81	95.3
Charity organisations	4	4.7
Total	85	100.0

According to Table 11, the various NGOs and Charity Organizations are the only groups responsible for the children. The NGOs recorded 81 responses representing 95.3% while Charity Organizations recorded four responses

67

representing 4.7%. Fifteen of the children however did not produce any response. It is clear from the table that NGOs are the main providers, care takers and sponsors of the street children in the metropolis.

Former street children who revisit the streets

The responses of the rescued street children who revisit the streets are presented in Table12. A total number of 96 children responded to the item. There is a wide difference in the responses provided.

Table 12

Whether children sometimes revisit the streets

Response	No.	%
Yes	15	15.6
No	81	84.4
Total	96	100.0

The above table recorded 15 responses representing 15.6% for subjects who claimed they do visit the streets even though they are under the care of the NGOs. Of the 100 respondents, four fail to comment on the item while 81 responses, representing 84.4% answered in the negative. By this frequency, it is obvious that most of the children under the care of the NGOs do not revisit the streets. This may be an indication that the children preferred a more decent and responsible life as against life full of misery on the streets.

Services provided by the NGOs to street children

Responses on whether various services provided by the NGOs to the rescued street children are beneficial are presented in Table 13. For this item there were eighty eight children who responded to it. The difference in percentage on the two responses is 79.6. This is considered substantial as it shows the trend of the responses.

Table 13

Whether services provided by the NGOs are beneficial

Response	No.	%
Yes	79	89.8
No	9	10.2
Total	88	100.0

Data from the above table shows that out of the total number of 100 respondents that were interviewed, 12 of them refused to comment on whether the services provided by the NGOs were beneficial to them. It is obvious why they refused, because these were certainly children of CAS–House of Refuge who are yet to gain any substantial benefit from the NGO. Consequently, 79 responses representing 89.8% was recorded for children who claimed they benefit from the services of the NGOs. They certainly are children receiving various attentions. Nine responses were recorded for No, or those who claimed that the services are not beneficial to them and this represent 10.2%. It can be deduced from the figures that

majority of the children liked the services provided them by the various NGOs they stay with.

Rating the interventional programmes of NGOs

The street children were asked to rate the interventional programmes of the NGOs. Their responses are presented in Table 14. There were four rating categories. This includes very good, good, average and below average.

Table 14

Rating of interventional programmes of NGOs

Response	No.	%
Very good	72	72.7
Good	13	13.1
Average	12	12.1
Below average	2	2.0
Total	99	100.0

The above table indicates that 72 out of the 100 children interviewed said that the interventional programmes put in place by the NGOs are very good. This represents 72.7%. Thirteen responses, representing 13.1% said that the programmes were good. Twelve responses representing 12.1% and two responses also representing two percent said the programmes were average and below average respectively. However, one child did not respond to this item at all. Again, it can be

said that the difference in their responses were great and this may be attributed to many factors.

Categories of professions former street children would like to pursue

The street children were asked which categories of professions they would desire to pursue in life. Their responses are found in Table 15. Four categories of professions have been stated. These are labelled A, B, C and D.

Table 15

Which professions children would desire to pursue in life

Response	No.	%
(A)Law, Medicine, Engineering.	38	38.0
(B)Priesthood, Teaching, Nursing	5	5.0
(C)Masonry, Tailoring	26	26.0
(D) Others	31	31
Total	100	100.0

It is obvious from the above table that 38 responses were obtained for category (A) Law, Medicine and Engineering. This represents 38%. For category (B), Priesthood, Nursing and Teaching five responses representing five percent was recorded. The category (C) Masonry and Tailoring recorded 26 representing 26% and the (D) Others category which stands for others was filled for accounting,

banking and business. This attracted 31 responses representing 31%. The classification of the profession was based on the following reasons. Category A requires long period couple with intensive training which society perceive and rate high followed by category B. For C, it is skilled based (artisans) hence that grouping .Category D which is others is business oriented.

Discussion

This section discusses the research results that have been obtained in details. Findings from Table 1 showed that there were a considerable number of street children in Accra. With only five NGOs, who provided figures, the research recorded 454 children under their care. Out of this figure, 262 representing 57.7% were male while 192 representing 42.2% were female street children with the NGOs in the city of Accra.

Findings from Tables 8 and 13 have proved that, majority of the NGOs in Accra, have policies and programmes to benefit street children in the metropolitan area. Opinions of the NGOs have indicated in the affirmative that they have indeed exclusive policies for street children. Also provision of basic social amenities and needs are made available for them as indicated in Table 11. In the light of the above finding, it is apparent that the NGOs in Ghana have embraced the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, principle seven, internalised and integrated it in their mission, goals and operational activities and interventional programmes to save the world by saving the children.

What NGOs consider as critical needs of street children and the various interventional strategies they offer is very crucial in their operations and for the

Street Child. From the results, the NGOs stated education, health care, food, shelter, clothing and parental guidance as critical needs of street children. Similarly, the adopted interventional strategies included education, health care, shelter, food, clothing and parental guidance by the NGOs. It is seemingly evident from this result that the NGOs tailor their interventional programmes along the needs of the street children. As stated in the NGO Forum (1987), the NGOs are actively helping to keep street children off the streets. Their activities include: the provision of food, clothing, recreation and health services, education and informal training as specified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. ILO (1993) has specifically asked NGOs to study needs of Street Children and intervene with programmes that would meet their needs and these should aim at providing education, vocational training, physical and psychological development and social integration.

The type and level of education recorded three categories from the study namely formal education, vocational education (informal) and non-formal functional literacy. For the level in the formal education, basic, secondary and tertiary educations have been outlined by the NGOs. According to the results, a greater percentage of the children were on the vocational training programme than formal education. Most of the children interviewed could not express themselves in English language. Also, it has been discovered from the interview that only a few of them were in formal education institutions. Also from the NGOs opinion, it is clear that few of the children have not been to school before. This trend or practice is an indication that the principle of education as a right, compulsory and free to the

primary level to all children as enshrined in UNICEF (2004) does not hold in this case. In other words streetism remains a major setback in achieving the FCUBE goals as revealed by Agyeman (1995). The World Bank (1991) also confirms the usefulness of formal education by indicating that, one year increase in school can increase wages by more than 10% after allowing for other factors.

Table 12 and opinion (O) investigated whether the children under the care of the NGOs revisit the streets and the proportion of children who stay to complete their programmes. Accordingly, there was a high percentage of children who stay on their programmes. This is a plus to the NGOs because if the lowest proportion is 85% and the highest being 97%, then it can be deduced that very few children go back to the streets, thus abandoning their programme.

Findings from Tables 2 and 3 show gender and age distributions of the street children involved in the study. In table 2, statistical percentages of 55 and 45.0 were recorded for male and female respectively. From Table 3, the result showed the age distribution ranging from 14 years with eight percent being the lowest to 23 years with two percent. From the above results, it is clear that streetism cuts across gender and age lines as described in Agyeman (1995).

Opinion (C) shows how children got into contact with NGOs. The results range from referrals-Legal Aid Board with 3.0% as lowest to field officers with 50% as highest statistics. Indeed there is a reflection of wide range of government agencies and individuals who are engaged in ensuring that the rescue process is not left in the hands of one person. UN (1989) has urged NGOs and governments to

save the world by saving street children. The social Welfare Department and Legal Aid Board as government agencies are doing just that.

Results obtained from Table 5 show the length of time the children have been with the NGOs. This ranges from three months to eight years. Their lengths of habitation with the NGOs depend, to a large extent on the programme chosen or skill training offered. Table 15 shows the professions children desire to pursue in life. It is clear from the table that the highest preferred professions for the children is the A category (law, medicine and engineering).This is followed by category D (others) which the children attribute to accounting, banking and business. It is obvious these are high class professions society respects.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview of the Study

This chapter presents the summary of the study, conclusions drawn from the study and recommendations regarding the contributions of NGOs to the education of street children in the Accra metropolis. The study obtained data from NGOs and their contributions to the education of street children. The study also obtained data from 100 rescued street children who were under the care and sponsorship of the NGOs' regarding the interventional programmes packaged for them.

The population from which the sample was taken was made up of NGOs taking care of street children in the Accra metropolitan area. This included officials and street children themselves who were selected through purposive sampling procedure. They were Catholic Action for Street Children, (CAS), Street Girls Aid, Street Academy, Care International, Action Aid Ghana, and Children In Need. The NGOs were chosen as sample because they are directly in the operations involving care for street children. A pilot testing was conducted to test the reliability of the instrument and to explore the need for revisions before the final version was printed and adopted.

The data gathering devices used for the study included a questionnaire (Appendix C) and an interview schedule (Appendix D). The questionnaire had 10 close ended items and 17 open-ended items, totalling 27. The interview schedule for the street children contained 10 close-ended items and 10 open ended items.

Both devices and instruments were conducted by the researcher in August 2005. The data for this research was analyzed by simple frequency and percentage tables.

Summary of Findings

The analyses of results provide accurate answers to the research questions raised in the study. In the first place, the issue of whether NGOs draw and execute policies and programmes to benefit street children in the area revealed in Table 5 the following findings. From the analysis of the NGOs who provided data, it can be said that most of them do draw and execute policies and programmes exclusively to benefit street children in the Accra metropolis. This is because out of the 7 NGOs who genuinely care for street children in the study area, 4 have policies well structured to benefit the children.

The second research question was, to what extent are the objectives, policies and contributions of NGOs addressing the educational needs of street children in the Accra metropolis. The study revealed in Tables 6 and 8 that many of them have not contributed in the most significant way although they all provided basic needs such as food and shelter to the children. However, when it comes to formal education, only a few of the NGOs send the rescued street children to school. This notwithstanding, the NGOs are making strides in the provision of practical skills training to the children as the data showed very high percentage of the children in apprenticeship as compared to intellectual capacity building in formal education. This is seen in Tables 15 and 17 respectively.

With the issue of the relevance of the interventional programmes offered by the NGOs, Tables 8, 13 and 17 showed that the programmes were relevant hence

they were embraced by the children. With regard to the importance of NGOs' educational policies to the educational goals of street children, it is clear from the interviews conducted and presented in Tables 13, 14, 15 that, a higher percentage of the street children interviewed preferred formal education .What the NGOs offered did not meet their educational aspirations fully. This is because only few rescued street children had the chance to be educated in schools as seen in Table 9.

Conclusions

In view of the findings based on the analysis of data, the following conclusions have been drawn. These are four in number.

1. With the high level of awareness of streetism in the metropolitan area and the emergence of many NGOs, it can be said that most of them do draw and execute policies and programmes exclusively to benefit street children in the Accra metropolis.

2. There was lack of facilities and equipment to carry out the programmes of the NGOs.

3. In spite of the policies and programmes put in place by NGOs to address the needs of street children in the metropolitan area of Accra, Ghana, it can be concluded that many of the NGOs have not contributed in the most significant way in achieving their objectives, because they do not meet the educational needs and aspirations of the street children.

4. Conclusions drawn from the study regarding the relevance of interventional programmes offered to the street children was that there were relevant interventional programmes.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are offered for consideration. They involve areas that need the attention of NGOs, development partners and other bodies that are concerned with the issue of street children.

There should be an established body to ensure that activities of all NGOs are so regulated so that NGOs can be strengthened to achieve set goals and objectives. In the pursuit of the above, there may be a legislative instrument to serve as a guide for all NGOs and such bodies that may be involved in helping street children. By so doing, the non performing NGOs may be challenged to draw and execute standardized policies and programmes to achieve.

Stronger co-operations, co-ordination and collaboration are needed among the NGOs and between the NGOs and the government. These will enable the NGOs to put their expertise together, pull resources together, share ideas and strategies and learn from one another and as a united body. By this they will be able to contribute in the most significant way in the delivery of services to street children. There should be effective participatory monitoring systems with representatives from all the collaborating organizations and the communities to ensure the sustainability of programmes for the children.

In their quest to achieve high standards, NGOs should have research units to study and investigate thoroughly the background of street children and emerging issues of streetism in order to offer very relevant, satisfactory interventional support and strategies to address the need and aspirations of street children.

Suggestions for Further Research

This study was limited to assessing contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to the education of street children in the Accra metropolis of Ghana. It is suggested that other researchers take it beyond the current level to include the involvement of the Ministry of Education Science and Sports, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the Department of Social Welfare.

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APPENDICES

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

TEL.: 042-33824

University Post Office
Cape Coast, Ghana

Our Ref.: EP/90.2/94

July 11, 2005

....

....

....

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Wisdom K. Abotsikumah is a graduate student of the University of Cape Coast. He is collecting data/information in your outfit for the purpose of writing a Dissertation as a requirement of the programme.

I should be grateful if you would help him collect the data/information from your outfit. Kindly give the necessary assistance that Mr. Abotsikumah requires to collect the data.
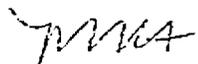
Mr. Y. M. Anhwere
Secretary
for Director

APPENDIX B

Institute for Educational Planning & Administration
University of Cape Coast
University Post Office
Cape Coast, Ghana

15th July, 2005.

Dear Respondent,

ASSESSING CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO THE EDUCATION OF STREET CHILDREN IN THE ACCRA METROPOLIS, GHANA

I am an M.Ed (Administration) student of the above institute conducting a research into the above topic. You have been kindly selected as one of the respondents for the study. I should be very grateful if you could respond to the attached questionnaire within a period of one week.

The study is purposely for academic work and you are assured that information given would be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Your prompt attention to the questionnaire would be very much appreciated.

Thanks for co-operation.

Yours truly,

Signed

Wisdom K. Abotsikumah

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
CAPE COAST, GHANA

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OFFICIALS OF NGOs

Instruction: Please tick or provide information where possible and appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A1. Sex

a. Male   [ ]   b. Female   [ ]

A2.Position/Rank ....

A3. Name of NGO ....

A4.Year of establishment.............................

A5.How long have you been with this organization?

A6.Presently, how many street children do you have under the sponsorship of

your organisation?....... ....

b. How many are boys? ....

c. How many are girls? ....

INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMES (OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND CONTENT)

A7.What do you consider as critical needs of street children. Please state in

order of preference.

a...

b...

c...

d...

A8. What interventional programmes/strategies does your organisation offer street children?

a...

b...

c...

d...

A9. If your programmes/strategies include education, which type of educational programmes do you give the street children?

a. formal education   [ ]   d. vocational training   [ ]
b. non-formal functional [ ]
c. both {Formal & voc.}   [ ]

A10.If formal, please specify items that your NGO pay for?

a. school fees   [ ]   d. food   [ ]
b. school uniforms   [ ]   e. others   [ ]
c. books   [ ]   specify ....

A11.To what formal educational level is your organisation responsible for the street children.

a. basic level   [ ]   b. secondary level   [ ]   c. tertiary level [   ]

d. others   [ ]   specify...

A12. Does your organisation have the physical structures (classrooms, workshops) in place to carry out your programmes or you collaborate with other institutions?

a. Yes   [ ]   b. No   [ ]

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A13.If no, indicate the institutions that your organisation collaborate with and state the form of collaboration.

NAME OF INSTITUTION	FORM OF COLLABORATION
1.	
2.	
3.	

A14.Here is a list of vocations or trades. If you provide the street children with vocational training, please indicate the types.

a. Masonry   [ ]

b. hair dressing [ ]

c. catering   [ ]

d. ceramics   [ ]

e. batik making   [ ]

f. leather work   [ ]

g. sewing   [ ]

h. wood carving   [ ]

i. Others   [ ]
   specify...............................

A15. How would you rate your performance in relation to your organisation goals for the education of street children?

a. very good   [ ]

b. good   [ ]

c. average   [ ]

d. unsatisfactory [ ]

OUTCOME OF INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMES ADMINISTERED

A16.Do you have some of the children revisiting the streets whilst under your care?

Yes   [ ]   No   [ ]

b. If yes, please give two reasons

1...

2...

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A17. In percentage terms, how many children stay to complete their programmes?

....

A18. How would you rate the academic strength of the street children you give formal education sponsorship?

a. Excellent   [ ]   d. average   [ ]

b. very good   [ ]   e. below average [ ]

c. good   [ ]

A19. What kind of monitory supervisory mechanism does your organisation put in place to ensure that the children embrace the programmes?

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

A20. What challenges do you face as an organisation in the pursuit of your programmes?

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

A21. What solutions or preventive measures do you put in place to address the problems mentioned above?

a. ....

b. ....

OTHER RELATED ISSUES

A22. Who in your opinion is a street child?

....

....

A23. How do you identify a street child?... ... .

....

A24.How does a street child get into your organisation's care?

....

....

A25. Does your organisation have a policy document exclusively for street children?

a. Yes   [ ]   b. No   [ ]

A26.Please mention three objectives of your organisation.

a...

b..

c..

A27.Do you have adequate materials and personnel to enable you carry out your policies and programmes.

a.   Yes   [ ]   b. No   [ ]

APPENDIX D

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

CAPE COAST, GHANA

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR STREET CHILDREN UNDER THE
CARE OF THE NGOs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

B1. Sex

Male [ ]   Female [ ]

B2. Age ....

B3. Where do you originally come from?..

B4. What is the name of the NGO that takes care of you?.....................................

....

B5. How did you get into contact with this NGO?...

B6. For how long have you been with the NGO?...

B7. Have you ever been to school?   Yes [ ]   No   [ ]

    b. If yes, at what stage did you stop?..

B9. Which of these would you like as your need?

a. clothing   [ ]   e. health care [ ]

b. accommodation   [ ]   f. money   [ ]

c. food   [ ]   g. others   [ ]

d. education   [ ]   specify ....

NGO INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMES

10. What programmes are you offered in this organization?

a. formal education [ ]   d. counseling   [ ]   g. recreation [ ]

b. vocational training [ ]   e. accommodation [ ]   h. others   [ ]

c. health care/educ [ ]   f. feeding [ ]   specify.........................

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B11. Presently, what are you doing in this organization?

a. in school   [ ]   b .in apprenticeship [ ]   c. both   [ ]

B12. If in school what stage...

B13. If in apprenticeship, which trade are you learning?

a. masonry   [ ]   b. hairdressing [ ] c. catering   [ ]

d. ceramics   [ ]   e. batik making [ ] f. leatherwork [ ]

g. carpentry   [ ]   h. carving   [ ] i. others [ ]specify.....................

B14. Who buys your uniforms, books; tools and pays for your up keep and school fees?

a. Self [ ]   b. NGO   [ ]   c. Others   [ ]   specify..............

B15. Are you sponsored by another organization apart from this NGO?

a. Yes [ ]   No [ ]

b. If yes state the

source...

OUTCOME OF INTERVENTIONAL PROGRAMMES

B16. Do you sometimes revisit the streets? Yes   [ ]   No   [ ]

b. If yes why..

B17. What would you do after schooling or training is over with this NGO?

....

B18. Are the services provided by the NGO beneficial to you?

a. Yes [ ] No   [ ]

b. If no, state reason..

....

B19. How would you rate the interventional programmes of this NGO?

a. Very good [ ] b. good [ ] c. average [ ] d. below average [ ]

B20. Which of these categories of professions would you desire to pursue in life?

A		B		C	
Law	[ ]	Priesthood	[ ]	Masonry	[ ]
Medicine	[ ]	Teaching	[ ]	Carpentry	[ ]
Engineering	[ ]	Nursing	[ ]	Tailoring	[ ]