

INTRODUCTION

Child labour has existed in Kenya for many years. During the pre-independence days, children were sent by their parents to work in farms and homes of white settlers in order to earn money to pay taxes for their parents. Today, due to high incidences of poverty and the changing family structures and values systems, children are known to work in the commercial agriculture sector, in tourism, stone mining, fishing and salt mining industries, in order to supplement family incomes. In urban areas children are employed in the informal sector as domestic helpers in street begging and hawking. Child prostitution and other forms of child exploitation is known to exist in the major cities of Mombasa, Malindi and Nairobi where young girls of below 18 years are involved as commercial sex workers.

It is estimated that about 305 million children aged between 5-17 years are out of school and are in one way or other believed to be involved in one of form of child labour in either the formal or informal sector. There are no accurate data indicating the actual number of children involved with child labour and its magnitude. However, it is believed that the incidences of child labour, child exploitation and child abuse are high.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

The main purpose of this survey is to provide baseline information on child labour both boys and girls, who are working in the informal sector on the streets of Nairobi and Mombasa with particular emphasis of commercial sex-workers.

Specifically the overall objectives of the survey are:

1. To establish the social and family backgrounds of street children.
2. To establish the educational backgrounds and identify reasons for dropping out of school.
3. To assess the difficulties the street children workers experience in obtaining food and shelter.
4. To understand the views, aspirations and perceptions of street children workers.
5. To formulate viable recommendations based on the findings on the most appropriate rehabilitation mechanism for these children.
6. Identify and quantify different forms hazardous conditions that affect street children.
7. Identify the extent and nature of the diseases suffered by the street children and / or the precautions they take to avoid catching diseases in the street.

The above objectives will provide information on the magnitude of the child labour problem in Kenya. This information will help government policy makers and partners to formulate policies and programmes that will assist in the elimination of child labour.

FORMAT OF THE REPORT

The presentation of this report is divided into twelve sections. Section 1 highlights the statement of the problems and the objectives of the survey. Section 2 provides the methodology of the study, the sample size, area of study and constraints encountered during the completion of the report.

Section 3 gives an analysis of the social backgrounds of the street children, which include their parents' district of origin, whether parents were alive and whether they were living together or separated. Separation of parents includes through death, divorce, or single parenthood. This section also established whether the children knew both parents and whether the parents participated in the caring of the children. The section also analysis the employment sector where the parents were employed.

Section 4 establishes whether the children had any formal education before going to the streets and the highest class attained. The section also explains the reasons for dropping out of school and whether the children in the street could read or write.

Section 5 describes the living conditions of the children i.e. whether they lived in the street full-time or whether they went home after day's work. The section also gives analysis of the number of years the children had been in the street, the kind of job the children were involved in, whether in paid employment or working alone, whether they made money out of their work, how they spent that money and finally the kind of difficulties the children experienced in the street.

Section 6 explains how children obtained their meals in the street, type of meals and the number of meals they ate per day. The section also gives an analysis of where the children slept at night and whether they shared accommodation or slept alone.

Section 7 establishes the health conditions of the street children and explains the type of health problems they experienced and for how long. The section also explores whether the children had received medical attention and the person who took care of the children when they felt sick.

Section 8 explores whether the children had been involved with children offences, the type of offence and what actions the authorities took after arrest.

Section 9 establishes whether the children had been involved in substance abuse, the type of drug abused, the reasons they abused the drugs and where they obtained the drug from.

Section 10 examines the knowledge the children have on HIV/AIDS and how the disease was transmitted. The section also explores whether children were aware about the risk of contacting the disease through their street work and what type of precautions they took to prevent being infected.

Section 11 establishes the views and perceptions of children in general regarding the street life. The reasons why children disliked street life, what people thought of them, the programmes they liked to undertake and the agency or organisation they thought would best provide them. The section also examines whether the children had been involved in any development programme and the reasons for dropping from the programme. Finally the section examines the existing relationship between children and their parents/guardians and whether that relationship was maintained by visits.

Section 12 provides general recommendations and programs which would benefit the children in the street in an effort to rehabilitate and re-integrate them in their community and finally a copy of the questionnaire used is produced as Appendix A

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Various agencies dealing with children continue to indicate that children in the informal work on the streets and especially those involved with commercial sex are exposed to hazardous and abusive environments including living in unsafe conditions. They lack shelter, food, clean drinking water, and clothing and are denied basic child's rights like education and health care. Sometimes these children are exposed to dangerous bodily injuries through assaults and sexual exploitation, which results to contracting HIV/AIDS virus, unwanted pregnancies and sometimes death.

These children sometimes find themselves in conflict with law for being found engaged in illegal trafficking of drugs or other contrabands. Sometimes these children find themselves being engaged in unlicensed business or simply being found in *need of care and protection* in accordance to the children law. They become victims of regular police swoops and after arrest they are taken to overcrowded police-cells where they are mixed with adult criminals, as there are no separate facilities in police stations to cater for children needs.

Some of these children end up being committed to juvenile correctional institutions, which are over- crowded, and lack adequate facilities for the children. Street life for these children is very harsh as they face all types of abuses and neglect. Majority of them often result to take glue as a way of life in order to blot out the violent scorn, despise and harassment they have to live with daily in the streets.

In recent years, new crimes of child prostitution, pornography and child trafficking have emerged both in number and magnitude. The local dailies and electronic media have effectively exposed these social problems as and when they appear.

These media houses continue to play an important role of raising public awareness on the plight of street children.

Child Welfare Society of Kenya along with other local children organisations dealing with children have designed appropriate programmes that provide alternative education both formal / and informal. These organisations have also developed skill training programs and counselling sessions to those children who are removed from these abusive and unsafe environment and re integrate them back into their families within their community settings.

Child Welfare Society of Kenya, which is a membership organisation, runs 21 branches countrywide. It also caters for institutional care of destitute children and currently it runs 8 children Homes with a population of 800 children. Some of the children in Child Welfare Society homes include those who are found abandoned and neglected, those sexually exploited and abused, those affected by HIV/AIDS, children who are involved in child labour either in the informal sector on the streets and those involved in the commercial sex work in the cities of Nairobi and Mombasa.

Studies carried out on the children working on the street indicate that some of these children are driven to the streets due to neglect and abuse, both physically and sometimes sexually by those charged with responsibilities of caring for them at home or in the neighbourhood.

Children are forced to involve themselves in working environment due to many social problems at homes. Poverty within the family is one of the root causes of child labour in Kenya. It is estimated that 65% of the Kenyan population, live below the poverty line. The capacity of these poor families to provide their children with basic entitlements like food, clothing, shelter, education, health care [etc.](#) is dwindling at an alarming rate.

The situation is aggravated by single female - headed households whose level of income is unstable, irregular and inadequate. Those children who come from large family households are also adversely deprived of the basic needs and are sometimes forced to engage in informal sector on the street and in child prostitution to support their families. Poverty levels amongst many families is compounded by the high rate of unemployment due to economic-bad times the country is experiencing, rural/urban migration, HIV and AIDS, low wages and the inability of government to adequately provide education and health care due to constant deterioration of these services as a result of poor funding.

As a result of the above factors and the overwhelming poor social economic situation in the country the number of children entering the labour market have steadily increased. This is forcing children to work in order to fend themselves or to supplement family income.

Reliable statistics are not available to determine the level and incidences of sexual exploitation of street working children but observations seem to indicate that a lot of children are involved in child prostitution and child abuses in the slums of both Nairobi and Mombasa. This can be witnessed in some street corners in Nairobi and Mombasa where young girls are visibly noticed soliciting clients for prostitution. The Children Department in their reports approximate about 15,000 children as being in the streets of Mombasa alone and another 10,000 children being engaged in commercial sex work countrywide.

The Children Act (2002), which became law this year protects children from employments, hawking, commercial sexual work, and participation in manufacture, distribution and use of narcotic and psychotropic substances. The law also protects, children from sexual exploitation including prostitution and pornography. It outlaws any form of neglect by parents including excessive beating or any form of physical or mental abuse in the juvenile justice and penal systems. It is hoped that the implementation of this law will help the elimination of all forms of abuse including child labour.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection: A number of methods were used, including focus group discussion and social observations for data collection. However, questions are with open-ended question were administered where interviews were held on one to one between street children and Child Welfare Society of Kenya Social Workers.

Questionnaires were designed and administered by Child Welfare Society of Kenya social workers who interviewed the identified children to gather information of their social backgrounds:

Issues that were examined included:-

- Family back round
- Education
- Health
- Street experiences, occupation and major difficulties
- How the children obtain food and accommodation
- Use of substance abuse and type
- Conflict with the law and its magnitude
- Knowledge in HIV/AIDS causes / precautions
- Views, aspirations and perceptions etc.

TARGET GROUP AND SAMPLE SIZE

A total of 206 Street Children i.e 107 boys (51.9%) and 89 girls (43.2%) were identified through show balling method.

The sample comprised of 101 Children in Nairobi and 105 in Mombasa. The sample was found capable of capturing the child labour phenomenon in both Nairobi and Mombasa.

This survey targeted children of between 6-18 years of age (both boys and girls) who are working in the informal sector on the streets as hawkers, garbage collectors, directing cars, those found begging etc. and those children who are involved with commercial sex in both Nairobi and Mombasa.

LOCATION OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out in the slums of Nairobi in i.e Lunga Lunga, Sinai, Korogocho, Donholm (Kwa Njenga), Mukuru, Mitumba, Fuata Nyayo, Kayaba , Nairobi South C and Nairobi West. In Mombasa , where children are involved in commercial sex in the street, children were identified through youth groups and other community based mechanism.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot of research has been carried out to determine the root causes of child labour. Both UNICEF and ILO have funded a number of studies, which have come up with findings that indicate a number of factors. Poverty among others is indicated as one of the major factors, which is related to child labour. Others include HIV/AIDS, family dysfunctions, and high unemployment etc.

The United Nations Convention on rights of the child had given an analysis of child rights and has asked members countries to incorporate these rights in their country Children Laws. Kenya ratified the United Nations Convention on rights of the child in 1992. The new Children Act (2002) has incorporated the rights of the child as stipulated in both the United Nations Convention and the African charter on the rights of the child. Other relevant local literature on child labour includes studies by ANPPCAN, Child Welfare Society etc. The following are some of their findings:-

The situation of analysis children in Kenya as presented during a professional workshop on child rights and a child protection for school inspectors on 14th to 15th May 1998, in Nakuru indicates that children as young as six years are continuously doing back-breaking work and for long hours. It was also revealed that children provide about 25% of labour in agriculture sector while unknown number of working children are involved in domestic work in the country.

During the same workshop it was stated, through UNICEF statistics, that about 3.6 million children who are between 6-14 years are not in school and are estimated to be involved in working and hence denying them the right to education. UNICEF estimated that there are about 100,000 children (1998) in the streets who were living in extremely difficult circumstances and who are continuously being abused by adults including sexual exploitation.

Due to structural adjustments, which demand cost sharing in public hospitals, thousands of children are unable to access health facilities and education. It was further stated that thousands of children are living in slums where there is terrible overcrowding and no planning is done since these are illegal structures. Educational statistics, which are confirmed by UNICEF, indicate that since 1989 enrolment in primary schools in Kenya declined by 19% and in secondary schools enrolment decreased by 5% (from 31% in 1989 to 26% in 1996) in six years.

In a report on situational analysis on children and women in Kenya (1997) indicated that four million children in Kenya are absent from the national educational statistics. These children are said to have become, street children, child workers, adolescent mothers, child bride, abandoned and neglected children, child prostitutes or are in places they are not supposed to be as children.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as any person who is under 18 years. Kenya ratified the Convention on 2nd November 1990 and the country has already incorporated many of the Conventions' provisions into the Children Act (2002). The Children Act protects children from:

- Employment e.g. in picking coffee, hawking, commercial sexual work etc.
- Participation in manufacture, distribution and use of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- Sexual exploitation including prostitution and pornography.
- Neglect and wicked treatment such as excessive beatings / and all forms of physical or mental abuses in the juvenile justice and penal systems.
- Arbitrary separation from families.
- Abduction and sale in any form.

CHILD LABOUR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Labour Organisation (ILO) was founded with the main purposes of ensuring just and humane utilisation of humane labour. Protection of children and indeed abolition of child labour is an essential element of social justice of the ILO policy.

During the international year of the child (1979), ILO made a special contribution by studying child labour. The study revealed that tens of millions of children are working both in developed and developing countries. The ILO in 1990 created an international programme on the elimination of child labour (IPEC) with the German Government offering both moral and material support for the programme. IPEC programmes started in Kenya in 1991 along with other countries like India, Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil and Turkey. These ILO/IPEC programmes are carried out by government ministries, employers, workers' union, NGO's and religious bodies. Many of the programmes aim at removing those children from their working places by rehabilitating educating them in an effort to prepare them for purposeful and productive adults.

In Kenya, child labour has been given several definitions such as:

The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) defines child labour as any work done by a child during school time.

ANPPCAN views child labour as a form of child abuse because the child is supposed to be in school and not working.

The African Charter on the Rights of the Child defines child labour as any form of economic exploitation or any form of exploitation or any work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with a child's mental, spiritual or social development.

Ministry of labour and Manpower Development , (Kenya) defines, child labour as a situation where a person who is fifteen (15) or below enters into some agreement or contract either written or verbal with an employment agent for payment. The basis of this definition is the employment Act (Cap 226 of the laws of Kenya).

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Culture and Social Services (Children Department) view child labourer as one who works for payment and is below eighteen (18) years of age. Despite lack of statistics, there can be no doubt that commercial sexual exploitation of children in Kenya and particularly in the coastal town is increasing. Commercial sexual exploitation of children remains largely a street children phenomenon or opposed to other non-commercial aspects of sexual exploitation. In Kenya, poverty remains the major driving force behind child prostitution. It is an issue of survival, where children sell sex in an exchange of money, for food, clothing or school fees.

In majority of cases, children drop out of school due to lack of schools fees. However, additional factors such as physical, verbal or sexual abuses force children to drop out of school. Beatings by teachers as a form of punishment, fetching water, or cleaning the school compound/teachers house force children to drop out of school even after the school fees have been paid. It is also said that some children and particularly girls are forced to provide sexual services to teachers to avoid repeated punishments and harassment. Those who resist completely often bow out of school if these harassments persist (UNICEF 2001).

According to the Ministry of Labour the increasing numbers of child labourers has contributed to sexual exploitation of children and particularly on coffee and tea plantations. Between 1995-1998, it was estimated that 17,000 children were engaged in contractual employment on various plantations in contravention of national labour laws. In the absence of any clear employment criteria, most of these children, especially girls, were employed after providing sexual favours to the plantation managers. According to Okumu (1992) some of these children have ended up in the sex trade especially when such types of sexual abuses have persisted.

It is also known that some children get themselves into the sex industry through relatives, neighbours, and friends. The perpetrators are local people, migrant workers, expatriates, child workers, school boys and boyfriends, tourists and adults who think that young girls are safe from HIV/AIDS. The age range of children who are sexually exploited is from 9-17 years with the average age being 15 years. Most of the children who are exploited are school girls, but sometimes boys, young migrant girls, domestic servants, girls whose mothers are prostitutes, beach boys and girls and school drop outs. Okumu (1992) and Chissim (1998) the spread of the disease and its deadly consequences has led to the dangerous myth that sex with a virgin or young girls will either cure or prevent AIDS, which in turn has stimulated child prostitution. The growing number of sexually exploited children has also contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Several United Nations meetings have expressed a lot of concern regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children and on HIV/AIDS. The Yokohama Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in December 2001 (Japan) called for a reinforced action against such rights violations as trafficking, genital mutilation, early marriages, sexual abuse as a weapon of war, and abuse in the home.

The Congress asked member states to ratify all international instruments that relate to the sexual exploitation of children and for a reinforcement of efforts to address the root causes that put children at risk of exploitation including, poverty, inequality, discrimination, persecution, violence, armed conflicts HIV/AIDS, dysfunctional families and criminality.

A report of a United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (June 2001) made a declaration which noted that people in developing countries are most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly women, young adults, and children, especially girls. The declaration provisions include the implementation of strategies to strengthen community-based-care and health care systems and the provisions of increased support to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Particular focus was put on reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring their access to primary and secondary education, expanding good quality, youth, friendly, information and strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes. The declaration made specific commitment to the many orphans who have lost families through HIV/AIDS.

The United Nations, during their forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development Conference to be held in South Africa from 26th August - 4th September 2002, plan to include topics on poverty eradication, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, sustainable management of natural resources, and the need to make globalisation promote sustainable development. Participants in the conference will include representative from business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous people, local authorities, NGOs, scientific and technological communities, women and workers and trade unions in addition to governments. It is anticipated that there will be active participation during the conferences as all sectors of society have a role to play to protect global resources, which would enhance economic growth and reduce poverty.

According to Global Overview of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (published by ANPPCAN in November 2001). The major causes of commercial sexual exploitation of children include poverty, war and natural disasters, economic injustices, disputes between rich and poor and large-scale migration and urbanisation. Other factors include lack of education, disintegration of families and social values, social attitudes, lack of protection to children at risk and under funding or failure of social services.

Poor systems of governance and inadequate legal systems also fail to prevent injustices towards children or protect them from criminal acts. Gender discrimination, gender gaps in education and a double standard of morality for men and women also contribute to the persistence of inequality and exploitation.

In general, it is the poor in society who are most vulnerable to sexual exploitation because they lack both resource and political power. In this hierarchy in both developed and developing countries, children are at the bottom. The continued spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic will greatly increase poverty.

Kenya National AIDS Council estimated that there were 860,000 AIDS orphans in 1999. AIDS forces children into labour market, but not only the orphans as the disease ravages the entire economy. Currently an estimated 3.5 million children, aged between 6-15 are working. This constitutes approximately 10% of the entire population or 27% of all the children in Kenya as working. The Ministry of Labour recognises that poverty and HIV/AIDS are key constraints to the elimination of child labour. Other factors include inadequate legislation and poor enforcement of existing labour laws and the breakdown of family units.

It has also been established by various studies that there is a high level of substance abuse by children involved in prostitution. Drugs are often used to ensure that children taken into prostitution remain submissive. Drugs are also a means of self-medication to numb the pains of anger or despair (CWKS 1989)

According to Child Labour Report (1998/1999) by the Central Bureau of Statistics - Ministry of Finance and Planning - Primary School enrollment rate at the national level declined from 105 in 1989 to 90 in 1999. The drop was attributed to the rising incidence of poverty and harsh effects of structural adjustment programmes (SAPS) and especially the introduction of cost-sharing in public health and educational services. It is further indicated that North Eastern Province has the lowest Secondary enrollment rate followed by Nairobi and Coast Provinces. Further, majority of school age children in Kenya stop schooling at the primary school level.

During the 1999 Population Census, the same report indicates that there were 10.9 million children who were aged between 5-17 years. Of these children, 8.6 million were in the rural areas. About 7.4 children aged between 5-17 years were in school while 3.5 million were out of school. It was further reported that 1.9 million children were involved in either part-time work or full time. The same report also confirms that children living in large households were more likely to be working compared to children living in smaller households.

Further, 10.9 million children aged 5-17 years were from these female-headed households with (32.7%) of children from female-headed households being out of school majority of them (52.6%) being girls.

The same report also indicates that that majority of working children (76.8%) had attained primary school education while (3.2%) had attained secondary school education and (12.7%) had never attended any formal education.

The survey also indicates that an estimated (38.4%) of the working children worked for more than 14 hours in a week, while (25.6%) worked for between 25 and 41 hours in a week.

It was also indicated that the working children were engaged in risky occupations such as fishing, building and construction, further, most of the working children were grossly underpaid, as their monthly pay fell below the statutory minimum wage guidelines. This is confirmed as a serious form of child exploitations.

Working hours varied by employment with those doing their own businesses and domestic workers, undertake long hours. In terms of savings and contribution to household income, the report confirms that working children made substantial savings from their earnings to supplement their family's low incomes.

TABLE: 2 ORIGIN OF PARENTS BY DISTRICT
NAIROBI MOMBASA

District of Origin	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Nyeri	9	1		1
Nairobi	4	2	7	
Kiambu	10	4		
Kisumu	2	1	8	17
Murang'a	10	3		1
Machakos	12	4	2	1
Kakamega	6	5	6	5
Siaya	1			
Nakuru	1		2	1
Vihinga	2			
Narok	1			
Taita Taveta	1			3
Mombasa	/		9	12
Nyandarua	1	1		
Isiolo	1	2		
Kajiado	1	2		
Bungoma		2		
Eldoret		2		
Kuria		2		
Koibatek	1			
Marsabit	1			
Migori	1			
Busia			2	3
Lamu				1
Moyale				2
Kwale				3
Hola				2
Kirinyaga			2	
Kilifi			1	1
Kitui			3	6
Total	73	28	44	61

Foreigners					
Tanzania			2	2	4
Ethiopia	1				1
Uganda	1				1
Total	2	=	2	2	6

SUMMARY						
Provinces	Boys		Girls		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	
Nairobi	12	10.4			14	6.8
Central	33	28.7			44	(21.4)
Nyanza	12	10.4	20	21.9		
Western	16	13.9	15	16.5	31	15.0
Coast	11	9.9	22	24.2	33	16.0
RVP	8	6.7	6	6.6	14	6.8
Eastern	19	16.5	13	14.3	32	15.3
Foreigners	4	3.6	2	2.2	6	(2.9)
Total	115	(100)	91	(100)	206	(100)

Majority of - 44 respondents came from Central Province (21.4 %) followed by coast Province 33 children (16.0%) Nyanza Province 32 children - 15.5% and Eastern Province 32 - (15.5%). There were 6 foreigners (2.9 %) from Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda. Girls were however fewer than boys in each province except those from Nyanza and Coast Province respectively.

TABLE 4 BACKGROUNDS OF THE CHILDREN'S FAMILY

The survey established the backgrounds of the children's parents and whether they were alive.

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	To	
Living parents										
Both	38	(52.0)	11	29.3	22	(50.0)	34	(55.7)	105	50.9
Father only	3	4.1	1	3.6	3	13.6	1	1.6	8	(3.9)
Mother	21	28.7	16	57.1)	11	25.0	14	22.9	62	(30.1)
Orphaned	11	15.1	/	/	8	18.2	12	19.7	31	15.0
Total	73	100	28	100	44	100	61	100	206	100

A total number of children 105 - respondents (50%) had their both parents alive. There were 62 children - (30.1%) whose mothers were while alive 31 children - (15.0) were orphaned. According to the table only 8 respondents (3.9%) had their fathers alive out of a total sample of 206 respondents.

TABLE: 3 ORIGIN OF PARENTS BY PROVINCE

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Nairobi	5	2	7	-	14
Central Province					
Nyeri	9	1	/	1	11
Kiambu	10	4	/	/	14
Murang 'a	10	3	/	1	14
Nyandarua	1	1			2
Kirinyaga	1		2	/	2
Total	31	9	2	2	44
Nyanza Province					
Kisumu	2	1	8	17	28
Siaya	1				1
Migori	1				1
Kuria	-	2			2
Total	4	3	8	17	32
Coast Province					
Mombasa	1		9	12	21
Taita Taveta			/	3	4
Lamu				1	1
Kilifi			1	1	2
Kwale				3	3
Hola				2	2
Total	1		10	22	33
Eastern Province					
Machakos	12	4	2	1	19
Kitui			3	6	9
Isiolo	1				1
Marsabit	1				1
Mo ale				2	2
Total	14	4	5	9	32
Western Province					
Kakamega	6	5	6	5	22
Bun oma		2			2
Vihi a	2				2
Busia			2	3	5
Total	8	7	8	8	31
RNT Province					
Nakuru	1		2	1	4
Narok	1				1
Kajiado	1	2			3
Eldoret	2	2	1		2
Koibatek	1				1
Total	6	4	3	1	14

This indicates that majority of these children do not receive the fatherly love and material support such as school fees, food and shelter from their fathers.

TABLE 5 WHETHER PARENTS LIVING TOGETHER OR SEPARATED

	NAIROBI		MOMBASA		Total					
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls						
Responses	N	%	N	%	To					
Living together	30	(41.1)	9	(32.1)	4	(9.1)	12	(19.7)	55	(26.7)
Separated	43	58.9	19	67.9	40	90.9	49	80.3	151	73.3
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	(100)	206	(100)

Majority of children are living in single families 151 - respondents (73.3%) This separation may be caused by death of one of the spouse-divorce or single motherhood. Single parenthood increases the poverty level in families, as incomes from single mothers may not be adequate to cater for the family needs.

TABLE 6 WHETHER CHILDREN KNOW BOTH PARENTS

Responses	NAIROBI		MOMBASA		N					
	N	%	N	%						
Yes	43	58.9	21	75.0	28	(63.6)	43	70.5	135	(65.5)
No	30	41.1	7	25.0	16	36.4	18	29.5	71	34.5
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	(100)	206	(100)

A total of 135 children (65.5%) claimed they know both the parents while 71 children (34.5%) claimed they do not know their biological fathers.

**TABLE 7 WHO BROUGHT UP THE CHILDREN?
NAIROBI MOMBASA**

Responses	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Both parents	19	(26.0)	10	35.7	11	25.0	5	8.2	45	21.8
Mother alone	35	47.9	15	53.6	16	36.4	33	54.1	99	48.1
Father alone	6	8.2)			2	(4.5	3	4.9	11	5.3
Grand Parents	7	(9.6)	3	(10.6)	7	(15.9)	8	(13.1)	25	(12.1)
Relative / Friends	6	(8.2)			8	(18.9)	12	(19.7)	26	(12.6)
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	(100)	206	(100)

The majority of the children 99 - respondents (48.1%) lived with their mothers alone while 45 children (21.8%) lived with both parents and 11 children (5.3%) with father alone. Children who are brought up without the care of both parents may suffer from parental love.

TABLE 8 WHO TOOK CARE OF THE CHILDREN AS THEY WERE GROWING UP

Responses	NAIROBI		MOMBASA		Total			
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	N	%		
Both parents	25	(34.2)	6	(21.4)	2	(4.5)	34	(16.5)
Mother alone	22	(30.1)	15	(53.6)	11	(25.0)	30	(49.2)
Father alone	2	(2.7)	1	(3.6)	2	(4.5)	1	(1.6)
Grand Parents	4	(5.5)	4	(5.5)	6	(13.6)	10	(6.4)
Relative	1	(1.4)	1	(3.6)	7	(15.9)	19	(31.1)
Friends	3	(4.1)	/		3	(6.8)	/	/
Self	16	(21.9)	1	(3.6)	13	(29.5)	/	/
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	(100)

Majority of 78 - respondents (37.9%) were cared for by the mothers alone while only 34 children - (16.5%) were cared for by both parents. However, a total of 30 children (14.6%) stayed alone and took care of their basic needs. These children are usually exposed to very difficult conditions as they struggle to get food.

TABLE 9 OCCUPATION OF THE PARENTS

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hawking food stuff	11	(15.1)	3	(10.7)	4	(9.1)	14	(22.9)	32	(15.5)
Sells mitumba	2	(2.7)	/	/	/	/	/	/	2	(0.9)
Collects bone paper	1	(1.4)	2	(7.1)	/	/	/	/	3	(1.5)
General street hawking	3	(4.1)	1	(3.6)	1	(2.3)	5	(8.2)	10	(4.9)
Housewife	3	(4.1)	4	(14.3)	4	(9.1)	9	(14.8)	20	(9.7)
Sells chang'aa	2	(2.7)	2	(7.1)	/	/	/	/	4	(1.9)
Un employed / unknown	51	(69.9)	16	(92.8)	35	(79.5)	33	54.1	135	(65.5)
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	100	206	(100)

A total of 135 children - (65.5%) claimed that their mothers are not employed and therefore do not earn any income. Mothers who are employed are engaged in hawking food stuff in the streets - 32 respondents - (15.5%) 2 women (0.9%) sell mitumba while 20 respondents - (9.7%) are house-wives. Another 4 respondents - (1.9%) sell chang'aa. Under these circumstances these mothers are unable to provide the parental love to their children because of the problems they experience. Some of these mothers may project their angers to their defenceless children by either neglecting / abandoning or physically abusing them.

SECTION FOUR

EDUCATION

This section establishes whether street children have had any education before entering into the informal sector and the highest level of education attained. The section also discovered the reasons as to why the street child dropped out of school and whether they now can read and write.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

TABLE 11 WHETHER CHILDREN HAVE EVER BEEN IN SCHOOL

	NAIROBI				MOMBASA		Total N	
	Boys		Girl		Boys			Girl
	N	%	N	%	N	%		N
Yes	70 (95.9)		25 (89.3)		34 (77.3)		54 (88.5)	183 (88.8)
No	3 (4.1)		3 (10.7)		10 (22.7)		7 (11.5)	23 (11.2)
Total	73 (100)		28 (100)		44 (100)		61 (100)	206 (100)

Majority of 183 respondents - (88.8%) had enrolled in school while 23 children (11.2%) have never attended school. From the above table it is evident that many children in the street are at least literate.

TABLE 12 HIGHEST CLASS ATTENDED

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girl		Boys		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Nursery	4	(5.7)	2	(8.0)	1	(2.9)	4	(7.4)	11	(6.0)
1 - 4	28	(40.0)	9	(36.0)	15	(44.1)	13	(24.1)	65	(35.5)
4 - 6	21	(30.0)	9	(36.0)	9	(26.5)	5	(14.7)	44	(24.0)
6 - 8	17	(24.3)	4	(16.0)	9	(26.5)	27	(79.4)	57	(31.1)
Form 1 - 4	/		1	(4.0)	/		5	(14.7)	6	(3.2)
Total	70	(100)	25	(100)	34	(34)	54	(100)	183	(100)

A total number of 166 children - (90.6%) have attained classes between Std - 1-8 while 6 children (3.3%) i.e. one girl in Nairobi and 5 girls in Mombasa have attained high school levels of Form 1-4.

TABLE 13 REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girl		Boys		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lack of fees	32	(52.5)	14	(100)	28	(82.4)	50	(92.6)	124	(76.0)
Glue addiction	8	(13.1)	/		/		/		8	(4.9)
Family problems	7	(11.5)	/		4	(11.8)	43	(5.6)	14	(8.6)
Not interested	6	(9.8)	/		1	(2.9)	1	(1.9)	8	(4.6)
chased away	4	(6.6)	/		/		/		4	(2.5)
Sponsor withdraw	4	(6.6)	/		1	(2.9)	/		5	(3.1)
Total	61	(100)	14	(100)	34	(100)	54	(100)	163	(100)

A total number of 124 children (76.0%) dropped out of school due to lack of school fees while 8 children (4.9%) dropped out of school in Nairobi due to glue addiction. The children who drop out of school are denied educational opportunities, which is essential for their future development. Other reasons for school dropout include family problems 14 respondents (8.6%), child not being interested, 8 respondents (4.6%) chased away from school by teachers 4 respondents (2.5%) and sponsor withdraw 5 respondents (3.1%).

TABLE 14 ARE YOU STILL IN SCHOOL

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	16	(22.9)	10	(40)	/		/		26 (14.2)
No	54	(77.1)	15	(60)	34	(100)	54	(100)	157 (85.8)
Total	70	(100)	15	(100)	31	(100)	54	(100)	183 (100)

Out of the total of 183 children who had started school only 26 children (14.2%) are still in school while 157 children (85.8%) dropped for one reason or other and especially in Mombasa where at the children dropped. The high cost of schooling i.e. tuition, uniforms, books, meals and other miscellaneous requirements had made it difficult for most children from low-income families to stay in school.

TABLE 15 CAN YOU READ OR WRITE

NAIROBI

MOMBASA

Responses	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	44	(60.2)	23	(82.1)	25	(56.8)	40	(65.6)	132 (64.1)
No	29	(39.8)	5	(17.9)	19	(43.2)	21	(34.4)	74 (35.9)
Total	73	(100)	28	(100)	44	(100)	61	(100)	206 (100)

A total number of 132 children (64.1%) can read while 74 children (35.9%) cannot read because they either did not go to school or they dropped school very early in their lives. The children however, have a lot of potential, which need to be developed.