

EFFECTS OF STREET CHILDREN ON SECURITY IN KENYAN TOWNS

A CASE STUDY OF NAIROBI CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The number of Street children in many developing countries has been on the increase. This can be attributed to poverty, lack of social control and the decline in the societal norms. The menace can also be attributed to the social disorganization within the society primarily. The street children based on the cyclic approach have eventually turned into gangs which consequently affect the security and the measures undertaken by the relevant authorities as well as stakeholders. This study sought to identify factors forcing children to end up in streets, challenges facing street children in Nairobi Central Business District(CBD), strategies by Nairobi City Council to curb street children, and the effects of street children on security in Nairobi CBD. A sample of 100 was selected purposively from approximately 3000 street children. In addition, 20 key informants especially those involved in children affairs and security were interviewed. Questionnaire, interviews, and document analysis were data collection techniques in the study. The study also revealed most children came to streets of Nairobi because they were abused or neglected by their parent(s)/guardians/caregivers that lack of basic needs is the main challenge facing street children, common measure to eliminate street children is setting up children homes, and street children are a threat to security in Nairobi CBD. After data analysis recommendation were made among them include The government and non governmental organizations in Nairobi should provide basic necessities to street children, police and City Council askaris should come up with alternative methods of rehabilitating street children, and hospitals in Nairobi CBD should come up with scheme where street children can access free medication.