

Promoting Socioeconomic Status of Street Youth: Assessing the Rehabilitation Efforts of Addis
Ababa Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BoLSA)

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November 22, 2016
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Ababa Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BoLSA)

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university, and that all source of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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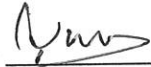
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**PROMOTING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF STREET YOUTH: ASSESSING THE
REHABILITATION EFFORTS OF A.A BOLSA**

BY: HAIMANOT SETEGN

APPROVED BY THE EXAMINING BOARD

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Abstract

This study was conducted with the purpose of examining the BoLSAs' rehabilitation efforts on enhancing the life of the street youth to become economically productive, eventually self-supporting, psychologically adjusted and socially integrated. The research used a qualitative design to collect data. In line with qualitative design this study employed a descriptive approach since descriptive research is aimed at capturing the lived and told rehabilitated youth stories of the participant. The primary data was collected through conducting semi structured in-depth interviews with the BoLSA street youth project staffs and focus group discussions with the rehabilitated street youth and analyzed qualitatively by descriptive statements. The study results has indicated that because of the organizations intervention, the youth left behind the street life, involved in various small business activities or employed, have better communication with their families and the community. They have also contributed for national development by engaging in productive activities unlike their previous life and discharged their national obligation by raising money for the construction of the Renaissance Dam. On the other hand the findings of the study indicated that the rehabilitated youth have encountered various challenges. Among the mentioned economic challenges: difficulty to earn sufficient income, lack of employment opportunities with the skill incompetency, inadequacy of the start-up loan repayment grace period, the high interest rate of startup loan and lack of follow up, were identified. On the other hand community misconception and self-imposed social isolation are also their social challenges which hamper them to live life. The study findings were also evidenced that BoLSA has faced much challenges in implementing the project and took various mechanism to overcome those challenges. Finally the researcher recommend that the project should look for ways to collaborate further with professionals across the primary care, mental health, social welfare and legal sectors, as well as with colleges/universities, in order to strengthen its' capacity to provide best psychosocial and livelihood support.

Key words: Street Youth, Rehabilitation, Psychosocial, Livelihood, Ethiopia

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	i
Abstract.....	ii
List of Tables.....	vi
List of Acronyms	vii
Chapter One: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Research Questions.....	6
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.4.1 General Objective	6
1.4.2 The Specific Objectives.....	7
1.5. Significance of the Study.....	7
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	7
1.7. Limitations of the Study	8
1.8. Organization of the Study.....	8
Chapter Two: Review of Related Literatures.....	9
2.1. Classification of Street Youth.....	9
2.2. On the Streets.....	10
2.3. Street Youth Rehabilitation	12
2.4. Service Components	14
Friendly Approach towards the Youth.....	14
Participation in Decisions	16
Psychosocial Rehabilitation	16
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship.....	19

Empowerment	20
2.5. Perspectives for Interventions Aimed at Serving Street Youth.....	22
2.6. Challenges and Possibilities When Working with Street Youth	25
Trust in Service Provider	25
Youth Run Away	26
Difficult To Leave Drugs and Friends.....	27
Welfare Institutions Rules	28
2.7. Youth for the Development of One’s Country	29
2.2 Empirical Literature Review	31
2.2.1. Street Youth &Children Realities Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	31
2.2.2. Child and Youth Welfare State in Ethiopian.....	32
Chapter Three: Methodology	34
3.1. Research Design	34
3.2 Data Sources and Data Gathering Tools.....	35
3.3 Selection of Research Participants	36
3.4. The Study Participants.....	37
3.5. Procedure of Data Collection	37
3.6 Instrument Validation.....	38
3.7 Methods of Data Analysis	39
3.8. Ethical Consideration	40
Chapter Four: Findings	41
4.1 Demographic and General Characteristics of the Participants	41
4.2. Youth Lived Experiences Prior to Rehabilitation.....	44
4.3 Key Services Components.....	48
4.3.1 Psychosocial Support	49

4.3.2. Skill Development Training	51
4.3.3. Link with Micro-Finance Institutions or Search Employment	54
4.4. Current Livelihood Situation	55
4.5. Current Psychosocial Situation.....	59
4.6. The Project Challenges and Strategies to Overcome.....	64
4.7. Rehabilitated Youth Contributions for Their Country Development.....	68
Chapter Five: Discussion	71
Chapter Six: Conclusion and Implications of the Study	82
6.1. Conclusions	82
6.2 Implications of the Study.....	84
Implications for Social Work Education	84
Implications for Social Work Intervention.....	84
Implications for Future Research	85
Implications for Policy	85
Reference	87
Appendix A: Interview Guide for the Key Informant	96
Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Points for Rehabilitated Youth.....	98
Appendix C: Observation Check List.....	100

List of Tables

Table 1: Age and Education Status of Participants

List of Acronyms

A.A.COC	Addis Ababa Center of Competency
A.A.R.T.A	Addis Ababa Road and Transport Authority
A.A.CMO	Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Office
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMF	Addis Micro Finance
BOLSA	Bureau of Labor & Social Affairs
BOMSED	Bureau of Micro & Small Enterprises Development
CSA	Ethiopia's Central Statistical Agency
ERDA	Elshaday Relief and Development Association
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
KII	Key Informant Interview
METK	Metal Engineering Corporation
MOLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MSEs	Micro and Small Enterprises
NGO	Non Governmental
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Aid for International Development

Chapter One: Introduction

This study is an assessment on the BoLSA rehabilitation program effort on promoting the socio-economic status of street youth. This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, general objective of the study, specific objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In her February (2012) “Youth Rising” remarks earlier this year in Tunisia, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said: “Young people are at the heart of today’s great strategic opportunities and challenges, from rebuilding the global economy to combating violent extremism to building sustainable democracies.” Certainly development can be accelerated when the majority of youth in any country are able to make significant contributions to economic, social, and political life in a way that lifts countries out of poverty, ensures greater stability and promotes healthier societies. Alternatively, peace, progress and prosperity are held back when countries are unable to meet the basic needs of their youth.

As per Ethiopia’s Central Statistical Agency 2014 (CSA), over half of Ethiopia’s population consists of young people between the ages of 15-24 years. Many of the youth face diverse problems and live with constant life challenges: lack the basic necessities of food, health care and a safe place to stay and finally they are exposed to street life. Especially the increasing number of street youth is one of the most serious urban social problems facing Ethiopia today. According to United Nations Children's Emergency Fund 2005 (UNICEF) and other actively engaged Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), there are approximately 500,000-700,000 street children and youth nationally, and according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

(MoLSA) 2014, an additional 1 million are at risk for streetism. In Addis Ababa alone it is believed that there are over 100,000 people living on the streets, and more than half of these are young people. This number is increasing every day due to poverty and migration of people from the rural to urban areas in search of a better life. It is also due to losing parents to AIDS and other causes. These young people are often involved in socially undesirable practices, such as frequenting drug and alcohol abuse. Many youth commit crimes such as robbery and other offenses (Karabanow, 2003).

Considering the aforementioned real facts the BoLSAs' has carried out various activities geared towards ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of street youth in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Youth Program implements interventions that address the plight of street youth already on the streets, and its core function is rehabilitation and reintegration/integration of street working youth into families/communities. It involves working more with youths on the streets through transformation of the existing groupings known as "Gangs," into self regulating associations for street working youth for positive change. The goal of the program is to improve the quality of livelihood for street working youth.

This project is part of a broader government program on improving street youth conditions in Addis Ababa, which aims at supporting the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) in improving street youth livelihood and psychological level. Hence, starting 2003 Ethiopian Calendar BoLSA is working on street youth rehabilitation intervention having the organization's overall objective: *“Enable street youth to be equipped in different vocational trainings like knowledge, skill, attitude and psychologically readiness to be free of economical and social problem and be citizen of Nation-loving.”*

To achieve the vision, since 2003 to date, street youth have been gathered from the entire 10 sub-cities and 116 Woredas (Districts) in Addis Ababa. The total number of those street youth gathered and rehabilitated reached around 6000. Youth were/are collected and enrolled from various sub-cities mostly at night since they are not stable and easily found during the day.

Therefore, the researcher believes that to a large extent, the quality of life for the next generation and society will depend on how today's young people manage their transition to economic independence in difficult environments. Moreover, street youth are resilient, creative individuals who have a great capacity to contribute to their communities and to the future development of their country (Ang in Bourn, 2008). Simultaneously this serious issue needs great attention and assessment is imperative so as to pinpoint challenges of the programme for further improvement and to give recognition for the concrete efforts of the BoLSA youth rehabilitation program. Moreover, I (the researcher) personally very interested in conducting study on youth related affairs as well reviewing the apparent available literature on the subject matter motivated me to uncover the subject.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The increasing phenomenon of street youth have been linked with several related factors like economic recession, poverty, unemployment, rural to urban migration, war, political instability, natural calamities, family breakdown and violence including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and AIDS pandemic (D'Souza, Castelino, 2007; WHO, 2000). Likewise, the aforementioned problems seem very serious in Addis Ababa and many youth are now living on street begging and working for mere survival. Street youth face complex living situations and social factors, such as poverty, family violence and unstable living conditions. Previous research found that compared with the parents of in-school youth, parents of street youth were more likely

to be employed in lower status jobs. Poor relationships with parents were also reported by more street youth than general population youth (King, et al.1989; Radford JL, 1989). As a result, those youths who particularly come from low income parents often become hopeless and involved in prostitution and end up contracting HIV/AIDS. Frustrated by the challenges of getting reliable means of subsistence, some young people seem to have lost faith and a vision of tomorrow's world.

As clearly observed, here in Addis Ababa street youth's potentials are often not fully realized and for most street youth, there are limited opportunities to explore potential careers and fewer career options, due to curtailed education and a lack of formal skill training. Casual, unskilled employment often does not provide enough income for street youth to afford stable accommodation (Begin, 1999; Raffaelli, 2005). Limited education, a lack of marketable job skills and the generalized emotional and cognitive instability associated with homelessness itself contribute to these youth's dependency on the "street economy" (e.g. sex trade, drug running) as their primary source of income to meet their basic needs for food, clothing and shelter (Clatts MC, 1998). Given their family difficulties, their lack of educational and economic opportunities and their living conditions, as per several studies to confront their situation, street youth use various survival strategies such as staying with friends, trading sex or prostitution, and committing offences when living on the streets (King, 1989; Begin 1999). The longer they live on the street, the more likely they are to use these strategies. This is exactly the same what Addis Ababa street youth are exercised.

Like in many other cities, Addis Ababa's street youth are unable to afford an education, and they miss out on the important life skills that are usually learned in the home and they face the constant prospect of physical, verbal and sexual abuse from peers and adults on a daily basis.

In Ethiopian development plan youth employment policy has started to receive attention since 2005 called a “Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP).” In this development plan addressing youth unemployment was much focused on education and training, particularly improving quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), providing skill training for unemployed youth, enhancing job creation through private sector participations, and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) development (MoFED, 2010). To implement this BoLSA is one of the governmental responsible organs to eradicate the worst situation of street youth through rehabilitation, reunification and reintegration. As per BoLSA 2007 report, since the program’s commencement 2003 E.C to date 6000 street youths gathered from different directions within five rounds and rehabilitated.

The BoLSA street youth rehabilitation project is also liable to promote the street youth skill development and adjust their psychosocial status through various trainings. Accordingly, street youth were sent to Afar Amibara Rehabilitation Center where they rehabilitated and offered vocational trainings to acquire marketable skills and psychosocial support. The BoLSA 2007 report has also underlined that efforts have been exerted to enhance the rehabilitated street youth psychosocial and economic status via training and in linking with business opportunities. However, still access to education/skill training & unemployment is a main problem for Addis Ababa street youth and it restrains the contribution of the larger segment of the population to the economy, which in turn has social and economic consequences for our country, (Denu et al 2005).

Moreover, even though. BoLSA reports have indicated that efforts have been exerted to promote the livelihood status of the street youth, concrete evidence is essential to support this statement. Besides assessment has never been done to examine how those rehabilitated street

youth have benefited from the project and to what extent their socio-economic status have been improved. In this sense this study has planned for searching concrete evidence on the BoLSA rehabilitation efforts on promoting socio- economic status of the rehabilitated street youth.

1.3 Research Questions

The main purpose of this study is to explore and gain an understanding of how the rehabilitation efforts of BoLSA contributed for enhancing the economic engagement and self supportiveness, the psychologically adjustment, and social integration of the street youth.

In line with the problem under consideration, this study attempted to answer the following research questions:

- What were the street youth's prior experiences before joining the rehabilitation center?
- What are the BoLSA's youth rehabilitation program service components?
- How is the rehabilitated youth livelihood status described?
- How far the youth psychosocial situation changes as a result of the rehabilitation?
- What are the challenges faced by the street youth after rehabilitation?
- What are the project challenges and the strategies used by BoLSA to overcome those challenges?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the BoLSAs' rehabilitation efforts on enhancing the life of the street youth to become economically productive, eventually self-supporting, psychologically adjusted and socially integrated.

1.4.2 The Specific Objectives

- To understand the street youth's prior experiences before joining the rehabilitation center.
- To identify the BoLSA youth rehabilitation program service components which contribute for psychosocial and economical development of street youth.
- To investigate the rehabilitated youth current livelihood status.
- To describe if there are changes on the psychosocial wellbeing of the rehabilitated youth.
- To identify challenges faced by the youth after rehabilitation.
- To investigate the project challenges and what strategies BoLSA used to overcome challenges.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This particular study would serve among others, as an input for policy formulation and implementation on the BoLSA side, as a reference to be consulted in the academic arena, as a gap indicating tool for the intervention of service providers already engaged or for those interested potential practitioners and at the same time, it would also serve as a stepping-stone for the much anticipated further studies on such researched subjects.

1.6 Scope of the Study

Conceptual Scope

This study conceptually delimited on assessing the BoLSAs' rehabilitation engagement on how to manage the street youth to become economically productive, eventually self-supporting, psychological adjusted and socially integrated.

Geographical Scope

The assessment has been made based on the data obtained from the BoLSA Street Youth Rehabilitation Project staff and the rehabilitated street youth situated in Addis Ababa. The reason why this study geographically delimited to Addis Ababa is that, due to various pulling and pushing factors street youth are mushrooming more in Addis Ababa than other cities as well the BoLSA which has the mandate to gather, organize and manage those street youth is found in Addis Ababa. Moreover the street youth who completed the rehabilitation and returned to Addis Ababa could be found easily thorough the help of BoLSA.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

Since the study is qualitative in nature it cannot be generalized; yet it does give important information about the needs of street youth, their socio economic situation and the service gaps.

1.8. Organization of the Study

This study has structured in five chapters: - *Chapter One* deals with the background information, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. *Chapter Two* contains a review of the related literature. *Chapter Three* focused on the methodology and procedures used for data collection and analysis. *Chapter Four* present the findings of the study which obtained through the instruments. *Chapter Five* present discussion of the major findings. Finally, *Chapter Six* stated on conclusions and the study implications.

Chapter Two: Review of Related Literatures

This chapter presents the literature review which is divided into two sections. The first section reviews literature about; the theoretical ground of this study and perspectives while the second section discover about a review of the empirical literature.

2.1. Classification of Street Youth

Each youth has a different story as to the circumstances that lead to their eventual homelessness and they are not a homogeneous group. Some youth are homeless in an absolute sense while others are relatively homeless and have some place to stay, some of the time (Kelly & Caputo, 2007). In the literature the definition of street-youth varies widely and classifying who street youth are as a study population is complicated. Some researchers define street youth under a broad definition of youth who are living or working on the streets (Boivin et al., 2005); while others use specific definitions, such as youth who have spent more than two consecutive nights from home either having been told to leave or without their caregivers knowledge of their whereabouts (Mallett et al., 2004). Other studies have left the definition up to youth who participate in their study to self identify as homeless (Christiani, Hudson, Nyamathi, Mutere, Sweat, 2008), and others have categorized youth into newly homeless (homeless for less than six months) or chronically homeless (homeless for longer than 12 months) (Rew, Grady, Whittaker, Bowman, 2008).

Previous researchers have made attempts at classifying the experiences of homeless youth, and studies often mention a homelessness continuum, along which a youth may find him or herself depending on their prior circumstances.(Ziefert & Brown,1991) outline a continuum that is particular to homeless youth. First are the *situationally* homeless. These youth are

homeless for the first time on account of the loss of a job, the loss of social assistance benefits, or as a result of interpersonal conflict. While they are physically separate from their families, they may continue to have some contact with them. Next along the continuum are the *marginally* homeless. These youth have usually experienced homelessness before, and frequently have had exposure to and experience with substance use and/or mental health issues. They often depend more on other homeless people for support than on family members. If the marginally homeless do not receive support, they may move to the last spot on the continuum and become *chronically* homeless. Here individuals have developed a routine for living on the street, becoming what is often referred to as street entrenched; they begin to identify with street culture and become more accustomed to life on the street than with life in mainstream society.

Identifying street youth according to their age is difficult because of the broad classifications that are used. The UN Secretariat defines the terms youth and young people interchangeable for persons who are found between the ages of 15 and 24. In practice the operationalizing of the term among different societies is contested and it is highly subjected to cultural, social, institutional legal framework and political factors (O'Higgins, 2001). Here in Ethiopia the term youth is defined in the Youth Policy document representing persons between age 15 and 29 while other studies have identified youth as 12-20 years of age (Mallett et al., 2004) and 13-17 years (Flicker & Guta, 2008) and 14-20 (Moss et al., 2004).

2.2. On the Streets

There seems to be no typical unaccompanied youth or a single cause for their homelessness, although most of the reasons given can be grouped into three broad, inter-related categories: family problems (which include the behaviors of both parents and youth), economic problems, and residential instability (National Coalition for the Homeless, 1999; van Wormer,

2003). Once on the street, the youth are often in places where criminal activity occurs (Biehal & Wade, 2002) and so can be either voluntarily involved in violence and crime or become victims of those who are involved. They are ideal targets for offenders because they rarely report crimes committed against them (Baron, 1997) and are at a high risk for victimization, self medication, suicide, and delinquent behavior (Greene, Ringwalt, & Iachan, 1997). Young people on the streets find it very difficult to meet their basic needs, so they may also resort to survival sex to provide for themselves “Survival sex refers to the selling of sex to meet subsistence needs” (Greene, Ennett, & Ringwalt, 1997). This includes exchanging sex for shelter, food, drugs, or money and is one of the most damaging consequences of homelessness. Adopting deviant strategies such as survival sex, selling drugs, and prostitution can place adolescents at an even greater risk for life-threatening victimization (Eugene, 1997).

The abuse continues on the streets as girls are more likely to be raped and boys are more likely to be physically assaulted (Cauce, et al., 2000; MacLean, Embry). Limited job skills and unwillingness to trust social service workers for assistance probably leads them to more involvement in illegal sex and drug activities and other criminal behavior to meet their basic needs. They also tend to be quite a bit older and have more serious alcohol problems (Ringwalt, Greene, & Robertson, 1998). The majority of young people on the street find themselves forced to engage in illegal means such as drug sales, prostitution, theft and gang activities to secure income (Dybic, 2005). Illegal actions are presented as a response to the conditions of being on the street. Even the most occasional young street worker is exposed to drugs, violence and other risky engagements that characterize street culture. (Karabanow, 2003) states that unique to developing countries are the horrific documented accounts of harassment, torture and death of street children & youth at the hands of military officials, local policemen, security guards and

private citizens. A large proportion of youth in street circumstances report high risk exposure to drugs and are in many cases frequent drug users (Torres de Carvalho et al., 2006).

The abuse of inhalants, especially glue sniffing, is increasing principally among youth of low socioeconomic status (Fernandes, & Vaughn, 2008). Substance use is a coping strategy sought by street youth to overcome contextual struggles, such as poverty, histories of abuse and neglect, poor grades and school problems. To many young people, the use of cannabis/inhalants reflects a form of self-medication to overcome hunger, fear and abandonment. While under the influence of these drugs, youth can take higher risks and feel less vulnerable to life-threatening events on the streets. Youth who are detached from their families often associate with other young people on the street, forming groups for the purpose of protection and self-defense. From this perspective, glue sniffing is a peer group activity that strengthens bonds and confirms a sense of belongingness to the group (Fernandes, & Vaughn, 2008) The tough life on the street, however, gives the youth a strong sense of independency and thereby autonomy over their own lives (Dybicz, 2005). This leads to that the youth organize themselves in different groups. These groups are sometimes referred to as the youth's "new family" (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). (Beazley's, 2003) study, describes the process of socialization that occurs when a new youth arrives on the street. This includes for example to inform the newcomer about survival skills. The youth support each other emotionally and financially in addition to the collective identity that life on the street brings. This collective identity arises as a response to the youth's alienation and creates a society within the society.

2.3. Street Youth Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation refers to the concept of restoration to a former state, in this instance to enable the youth to be free from the negative physical, psychological and social impact of the

negative exposure which she/he has been subjected. It also refers to an improvement on the preexisting situation by trying to increase physical well being, elevating self esteem and respect and providing self protection to a level not previously experienced (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Save the Children & FSCE,2008). Rehabilitation includes efforts aimed at restoring the affected persons to reduce disability and prevent relapses and recurrences of a problem. Therefore, rehabilitation of street youth focuses on reducing the effects of street life and the results of this negative experience on the youth (Balachova, Bonner & Levy 2008). These may include school problems, delinquency, sexual behavior problems and post-traumatic stress disorder. Rehabilitation of street youth involves long-term care and management for youth to prevent them from returning to the streets (Balachova, Bonner & Levy, 2008).

There has been the least success in tailoring rehabilitation interventions for street youth in previous times. Residential/rehabilitative care has also been revealed to have serious limitations (Dybicz, 2005). It is claimed to be cost intensive and yield a low success rate in reintegrating the youth back into the community. In addition, some practitioners (Aptekar, 1997 & Bar-On, 2001) as cited in Dybicz have criticized the rehabilitative approach as being highly grounded in western, middle-class values and consequently not being an appropriate fit for street youth of developing countries (2005). Implementing multidimensional approaches driven by social work values at all levels is then the recognized need in programs of street youth (Dybicz, 2005). The most predominant are those of empowerment and self-determination. Political consciousness rising to stimulate calls for social justice also plays an important role in shifting focus away from responsibilities and rehabilitation of the individual towards rights to be demanded from the government (Dybicz, 2005).

2.4. Service Components

Different intervention programs that work to address the problem of street youth exist in many urban areas (Volpi, 2003). Education and health care are most of the time common services provided by these programs. Income generating activities, job training and basic assistances are also very common approaches of intervention among street youth programs (Volpi, 2003). Classification among street youth programs can be made on the ground of their main features. The first division is between programs providing services directed primarily at the youth itself and the other programs are those that involve families, schools and communities through social mobilization, advocacy and lobbying (Volpi, 2003).

Another distinction among these programs is that some of them provide residential services for a few youth even sometimes including their families for a certain amount of time (Volpi, 2003). On the other hand, other street youth programs focus on providing outreach services for relatively larger number of youth on a less permanent base. But still, most residential programs also engage in some outreach work in the street to establish the first contact with their beneficiaries (Volpi, 2003). Interventions as well differ with the given age of the target group. Those street youth programs geared towards young children focuses on basic assistance and school and family reintegration, while activities aimed at adolescent street youth also include job training, legal defense, housing, and sexual health (Volpi, 2003). Therefore, below mentioned services are believed some of the basic service components for successful intervention to cure and develop street youth from dreadful situation.

Friendly Approach towards the Youth

One prerequisite to be able to help a street youth to get off the street is that the environment encourages to stay or to come back depending on what kind of support is offered.

(Kaime- Atterhög and Ahlberg, 2008) suggest that it is important to see the street youth as subjects instead of objects. Their study shows that the place to which the youth went back to was characterized by components as respect and friendliness. It is also essential that they feel they are being seen as humans. This means that by establish a dialog a greater understanding for the youth's life will occur and that feelings of alienation can be prevented. When it comes to rules this approach is also essential. If a youth breaks them, the friendliness needs to maintain anyway, and a reprimand should be soft and gentle in a corrective way. To break rules should result in a friendly discussion about the benefits of keeping them and why they are important. No other punishment is needed. If personnel use this type of friendly approach towards the youth, it could lead to a positive relationship that in turn could lead to that the youth stay or come back to a helping shelter (Kaime-Atterhög & Ahlberg, 2008).

The essential of seeing street youth as humans and treat them with respect. (Karbanow, 2004) discusses that to succeed in the work an anti-oppressive framework should be used. This includes for example recognizing individual strengths and structural constraints. It also includes raising consciousness, where the child gets to explore their own situation in comparison with others, and where they get a chance of letting the self blame go by critical reflections about the society's role. By using this approach together with interventions based on empowerment the youth learn to respect themselves and others as well as gain control over their lives. This brought together indicates that less control and a higher level of youth's autonomy are essential in order to obtain successfully interventions. In (Turnbull, Hernández and Reyes', 2009) study they raise awareness about components that makes cooperation between street youth and their helpers complex. One of these factors is transparency of what is expected of the youth and what the helper can offer. The study problematical youth's attempt to satisfy the helper's wishes, in order

to get something desirable. If the helper wishes a child to come to a shelter, no hidden agenda should arise afterwards, as the study shows the risk of that the youth go back to the street if something is not what expected.

Participation in Decisions

Interventions that include voluntary participation seem to be successful (Dybicz, 2005). Despite this, there are studies that indicate that several organizations exclusively are based on the personnel's view of youth's needs (Kaime-Atterhög & Ahlberg, 2008). The risk of interventions failure increases when youth are not included in defining their own needs (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999; Turnbull, Hernández & Reyes, 2009). Shelters where youth's influence is low are also not appealing, because it is viewed as strict with too much rules. According to (Turnbull, Hernández and Reyes, 2009), this strictness could lead to that youth run away from the shelters and stay on the street. This indicates that, in order to help street youth, their own involvement is necessary. (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999) believe that a bottom-up approach is required in order to implement this. This means that youth's thoughts and experiences should be taken into account, as they should be seen as experts of their own situation and needs. According to (Lugalla and Mbwambo, 1999) it is also important for youth to be a part in the planning of official policies that aims to help and get them off the street. For policies to work in practice, the involvement is essential. (Karabanow's, 2004) study also support that their participation in interventions towards themselves is useful. This approach resulted in building a team spirit, which included feelings of acceptance and of being valuable.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation

The literature consistently called for an integrated and comprehensive approach to service provision that focuses on the individual needs of street youth (Bronstein, 1996; De Rosa et al.,

1999; Robertson & Toro, 1991; Taylor, Brooks, Phanidis, & Rossmo, 1991). Stable and structured social housing is essential so that youth can develop the organizational and social skills necessary to take control of their lives. Once the basic needs of food, shelter and security are met, these young people can benefit from other services or special programs. The social condition which is known as homelessness extinguishes imperative social skills that are essential to maintain housing. Therefore providing supportive housing for the homeless individuals may not be adequate. People who experience the social malady of homelessness need Psychosocial Rehabilitation to enhance and reestablish their social-skills. The WHO defined psychosocial rehabilitation as a process that facilitates for individuals who are impaired, disabled or handicapped by a mental disorder to reach an optimal level of independent functioning in the community (WHO, 1996). (Warren, 2002) is of the view that addressing the broader emotional, social and economic needs of survivors is a critical aspect of the rehabilitation process. Research suggests that subsidized housing combined with mental health services may be an effective intervention for successfully placing individuals who have a mental illness and a history of homelessness into community housing (O'Connell et al., 2008). To offer psychosocial rehabilitation to the homeless youth it is essential to connect with the clients and establish rapport trust and strengthen the therapeutic relationship. Therapeutic relationship that is offered by the housing worker is a growth promotional factor for the client. Many victims have physical and psychological ailments that they received prior to becoming homeless and during the time of homelessness. During the process of psychosocial rehabilitation the efforts should be geared to minimize traumatization.

The homeless victims have fragile mental and physical health. Appropriate long term treatment should be provided without systemic barriers. (Drake et al., 1997) highlight the

importance of integrating treatment for mental illness, substance dependence for the clients while providing housing interventions. The goal of a harm reduction approach is to decrease some of the negative impacts associated with drug and alcohol the person continues to use. Many experts have recommended harm reduction method to address the vicious cycle of mental illness, substance use and homelessness. For instance, (Hass, 2001) emphasizes the successful outcome that was achieved in a harm-reduction initiative in a group of homeless people in Ottawa. (Podymow and colleagues, 2006) are of the view that managed alcohol programs for homeless people with chronic alcoholism can stabilize alcohol intake and significantly decrease hospital emergency visits and police encounters.

Recovery has a prime importance in the psychosocial rehabilitation process. Recovery is a journey of healing and transformation. It helps the homeless individual to move away from the streets and live in a home where he can have a meaningful life. (Anthony et al., 2012) defines recovery as a deeply unique process of changing one's attitudes, values, feelings, goals, skills, and or roles. The culture plays a key role in the recovery process. Culture plays an important role in recovery as sources of strength and enrichment for the person and the services. The adverse events that instigate homelessness and the life experience of homelessness itself have an opposing impact on social skills. Strengthening of the social skills are essential as a part of psychosocial rehabilitation. Social skills play an important part in maintaining housing. In addition strategies should be incorporated to increase the community integration and independence. Skill development, vocational training and income generation help to provide financial stability for the homeless people. Economic empowerment gives a sense of security and self-pride for these underserved population. Providing cost-effective supportive housing is essential to maintain productive lives and psychosocial stability.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Compared to adults, young people are three times as likely to be unemployed, and this “youth-to-adult unemployment ratio has reached a historical peak” (ILO, 2014). Further, the number of young people who are neither employed nor in school or training has significantly increased, meaning many young people are not only unemployed, but increasingly inactive. Decent work can be transformational for youth as it can result in increased earnings and higher self-confidence. Youth entrepreneurship is regarded as an important component of integrating young people into the labour market and reducing poverty. Yet, young people often become entrepreneurs by necessity rather than choice. These young entrepreneurs of necessity face additional constraints towards building successful businesses. Understanding the unique needs of young entrepreneurs and supporting responsible youth entrepreneurship can promote positive risk-taking and opportunistic mind sets, resulting in new income-generating opportunities for vulnerable youth and contributing to overall economic growth. However, many educational and vocational training programs are mismatched against job and income-generating opportunities available in local markets. Often, the skills being taught are “exceedingly general, out-dated or ill-adapted” (Markel & Brand, 2011b). Therefore, improving the relevance of youth workforce development or skills development programs has become an increasing focus of many youth employment interventions.

The Alliance for Youth Development (2013) argues that “effective learning provides individuals with the necessary tools to become productive citizens, pursue education and lifelong learning, engage in meaningful employment, and work toward achieving their life goals.” Youth workforce or skills development and entrepreneurship programs help young people enhance their well-being. Programming varies by agency, target group and context, and may include technical,

business and other transferable skills training. Youth entrepreneurship programs can also include links to social and business networks, mentors, and youth-inclusive financial services. Workforce development trainings tend to focus more on providing technical skills for gainful employment, yet there is growing recognition of the importance of integrating entrepreneurship and other transferable skills, as well as the need for linking trainees to employers and hands-on learning.

Empowerment

Empowerment is a wide concept used both as a theory and a method aiming to free individuals and groups from oppression and to gain control over their lives. Paulo Freire is one major inspiration for empowerment as a theory. He is known for his work in Brazil with poor and oppressed farmers and to change their situation, he stated that awareness about the social, economical and political oppression was necessary (Freire, 1979). In order to influence the individuals' and groups' own situation, an increased critical consciousness regarding the relationship between them and the environment are required (Freire, 1979). They are oppressed by the environment and by themselves since they have incorporated the society's view of them. Liberation from this oppression can be achieved by the use of the present situation as a foundation for dialog. The relationship between the oppressed and the dialog partner needs to be balanced and equal to make it possible to create changes and actions together. (Freire, 1979) calls this consciousness-raising and mean that the individual are being aware about the own situation. This tradition is based on a historical and societal process, which implies that the individual's possession of power can be changed to a greater level (Askheim, 2007).

As one step in the process of reaching a higher level of power, a discussion about attitudes towards oppressed individuals or groups are required. A positive attitude can contribute to emotional energy for the oppressed, specifically feelings of being a part of something good

(Starrin, 2007). This can lead to, for example self trust and ability to act, which are required to create changes. As a contrast, negative attitudes could lead to downhearted and shameful feelings and to low self-confidence, that counteract the ability of own thinking and of initiating changes. Language is one part of this attitude perspective; how to use it can make a big difference on what the responses will be. (Starrin, 2007) states that the “connecting language” is a way of using empowerment. This language should be encouraging, sympathetic and confirmatory to attain its purpose. To be seen, heard, listened to and shown respect to, through the language is encouraging for people with low self-confidence, contributes to the feeling of being able to make a difference. (Tengqvist, 2007) recites a study conducted at ten different projects established as successful in their work with empowerment. Common for the clients are for example low status in society and alienation. The three most essential factors considered for empowerment are: *First*, in an empowerment perspective, everyone got their own strengths if they are given the chance to use them. To trust someone with a specific task is to show believe in that he or she can do it, which leads to a personal development. Although it is important to be aware of that there are limitations; it should not be a goal to achieve what is impossible, but to strive for the reachable (Tengqvist, 2007). *Second*, it is significant to focus on every individual’s equal importance and equal rights. Everyone is different and it is possible to use these differences and take advantage of every unique experiences. *Third*, the weight of power used in a positive manner. Both clients and personnel should be aware of the structures of power, in order to change them for the client’s benefit. Clients often feel powerless and one of empowerment’s most essential components is that people should get the possibility that is needed to recover power over their lives. In order to do that, clients have to be given the opportunity to take charge and make decisions regarding themselves (Tengqvist, 2007). According to the study, these three

factors are necessary for empowerment to succeed. Through this the individual reaches a higher degree of autonomy.

2.5. Perspectives for Interventions Aimed at Serving Street Youth

Consumer, Professional Wisdom and Research Perspectives

The means by which services and programs are offered is inevitably embedded with various moral assumptions about the nature of the problem and the ways in which to deal with it; about the relationship between the “helpers” and the “helped”; and about the organizational setup in which the “help” occurs. (Carizosa & Poertner, 1992) have developed a meaningful framework in which to understand the philosophical underpinnings of service provision. The authors suggest that distinct ideological assumptions are implicit in various community responses to the street youth phenomenon. Some critics believe in correctional and institutional means and view street youth as a threat to community safety. Intervention follows the ideology of street youths’ removal from society and their correction of personal pathologies. This response tends to blame the individual for “being a street youth.” The rehabilitation approach is similar to the correctional approach and views the individual as needing reeducation as well as protection from the horrors of street life. It is a gentler approach than the correctional philosophy, but it nonetheless maintains personal pathology as the root cause of homelessness. The third approach involves street education and assumes ‘that the best way to fight the problem is to educate and empower the children’ (Carizosa & Poertner, 1992). Linked closely to the popular education model of (Freire, 1970), this approach views street youth as “normal” yet forced by societal inequality to survive under difficult circumstances.

Each of the above three perspectives has a distinct stand which requires a due emphasis. Among consumer perspective advocates, a strong consensus emerged in wanting to be able to

make the children and youth attend a real school (rather than informal education classes provided by agencies) (Dybicz, 2005). Economic reasons are the strongest factor recognized in preventing children from achieving this desire; they entered the street due to the need to earn money (Dybicz, 2005). A strong theme among the professional wisdom perspective is its emphasis on income generation in one form or another (job creation or skill development) (Dybicz, 2005). Political consciousness-raising approach as well emerged as prominent component in the research perspective. In this approach, issues were framed in terms of rights of children (to food, safety, education, etc.). This opened up a number of new possibilities in approaching the problem (Dybicz, 2005).

The consumer and research perspective have a clear emphasis of measures that focus on provision of basic needs for the children that serves them both in the short and long term (skill trainings to help individuals earn an income as an adult) and over meeting basic needs in the short term by providing food, clothing, shelter, etc (Dybicz, 2005). On the other hand the importance of assisting street and vulnerable children in establishing and maintaining engagement is emphasized in the professional wisdom and research perspectives. Approaches for achieving this included providing activities that are focused towards increasing income, communicating respect, including clients view in planning and design and providing activities that are entertaining to the youth (Dybicz, 2005). In addition, these two perspectives emphasize on broadly focused approach while working with street children. This usually is implemented in the form of an agency targeting one or two additional needs of street children e.g. health-care services, recreational activities, education on risk issues (Dybicz, 2005).

Concerning effectiveness of services, the importance of communicating with street children respect is a primary point of agreement among these three perspectives (Dybicz, 2005).

These are because of lack of positive attitude and respect from the larger society and sever autonomy and independence that the street life instills in these unsupervised children (Dybicz, 2005). Street and vulnerable youth do not want to be viewed and perceived as victims, but rather want their strength and resiliency recognized. One way this is achieved is through interventions that are greatly empowerment based (Dybicz, 2005). Another way in which respect is communicated with children is through voluntary participation, a dimension that was emphasized across the three perspectives (Dybicz, 2005). Though with research beginning in the 1980s supporting the myth of street children and youth as delinquents, the institutionalization approach has lessened very much, involuntary institutionalization, whether in the form of improvement schools or residential facilities, was the main intervention response by many governments in the past (Dybicz, 2005). As a result, all these three theories agree that successful intervention programs with street children & youth must be voluntary (Dybicz, 2005).

Another unity among these theories is the low confidence that they place in residential/ rehabilitative care as an intervention approach. Since most of these programs institutionalize the children & youth by removing them from community, making reintegration less successful, even successful interventions of residential or rehabilitative care programs of street children are criticized for being highly resource intensive(Dybicz, 2005) . Finally, all three perspectives emphasize community development in one way or another. This often is referred to improving the infrastructure of the slum areas where these youth live (Dybicz, 2005). These includes creating public utilities (drinkable water, sewage treatment), constructing and improving buildings (waterproof housing, stores stocked with basic items), and promoting and providing services for children (recreational activities, day care). All of the above activities are also

intended to build a sense of community by inviting active participation and stimulating interaction among members of a society (Dybiec, 2005).

2.6. Challenges and Possibilities When Working with Street Youth

2.6.1 Trust in Service Provider

It is essential that youth have someone they feel they can trust because it enhances their overall well-being (Dubois, Neville, Pana, & Pugh-Lilly, 2002; McGrath & Pistrang, 2008). Street youth often experienced a lack of trust from authority figures as youth and in some cases felt abandoned or overlooked by individuals who may have been able to help them (e.g., teachers, foster parents, police), street youth find it difficult to trust services and potential friends for fear that they will be hurt again (Brindis, Loo, Adler, Bolan, & Wassherheit, 2005). Research suggests that some of youth's reluctance to engage in service stems from a general lack of trust in formal helping agencies (Karabanow & Clement, 2004; Kidd, 2003) as well as negative first hand experiences (Kidd, 2003). Some youth state that they avoid formal services for fear of subsequent involvement with the police or youth welfare services (DeRosa et al., 1999). However, youth do repeatedly emphasize the significance of services that are tailored to their needs and desire more involvement from service professionals, as long as it is in a manner that is empathic and understanding of their situation and not accusatory (Kidd, 2003; Kurtz, Lindsey, Jarvis, & Nackerud, 2000).

Street youth carefully observe service providers before they are willing to trust them and share with them intimate details about their lives (Ulager, Pearson, Tomescu, Hill, Auerswald, & Ginsberg, 2005). Relationships with service providers are typically built over time and through information from friends regarding which providers can be trusted. The lack of initial trust

homeless youth have in service providers can prevent youth, especially at risk youth, from seeking the supports they need (Ulager et al., 2005; Flicker & Guta, 2008). As a consequence, youth often make themselves invisible to service providers who may contact youth welfare services or police if youth share details about their lives (Kelly & Caputo, 2005). In some cases, street involved youth report feeling as though service providers are not trained to deal with the unique situations in which they are living, cannot speak from lived experience, and often overlook youth-specific developmental needs (Christiani, Hudson, Nyamathi, Mutere, Sweat, 2008). According to (DeRosa et al., 1999), “youth attempting to transition off the streets still reported needing more assistance and better guidance. They wanted more help in planning, advice, support, encouragement, and life skills training from service providers.

2.6.2. Youth Run Away

The problem is though that even when street children and youth are able to move into one various rehabilitation centers it is very common that they leave the centre and go back to the street (Turnbull et al., 2009). The reason the street youth give for leaving the centers are that they are not treated well in the centers. It is a common claim that they often are abused in the centers and that they are not treated with respect. Some of them also make complains regarding food, that they do not get enough and that it is not good (Rurevo & Bourdillon, 2003, Kaime-Atterhög, 2012). When the centre failed to provide security or emotional support the street youth went back to the street (Conticini & Hulme, 2007). Most of the centers for street youth and children are operated as NGOs and many of the countries do not have any regulation or inspections of the centers. Therefore some of the centers are not taking adequate care of them and some of them take advantage of them to earn money and some mistreat them (Ennew, 2000). Research has found that the relationship between the caregiver and the street youth is important in order to be

able to leave the street (Kaime-Atterhög, 2012). Another problem with the fact that most of the centers are run as NGO is that many of them lack staff that is trained for working with difficult youth. The staff persons are in many cases volunteers with no proper education and a high turnover that make it difficult for the street youth to create attachment and confidence in them (Diversi, 2006, Schimmel, 2008).

Physical punishment is common in most of the countries where research about street children & youth have been conducted. The street youth had the opinion that it was not a good idea to give former street youth physical punishment, since they have been experiencing so much violence in the streets. It was believed to just harm them more (von Acker et al, 1999). Problem to get along with either the youth or the staff in the centre can also be a reason for leaving. In the street when they have a disagreement with someone it is common to move along and live in another place, which can make it a natural way to react in the centre as well (Hecht, 1998). However, low quality of the centers or conflict with staff or other youth cannot explain all the youth who run back to the streets. Research shows that there also exist centers and caregivers that are well functioning and treat the youth well (Kaime-Atterhög, 2012, Schimmel, 2008). One explanation for why the street youth still run back to the street is, according to (Kaime-Atterhög, 2012), that their emotional maturity is in many cases delayed due to their upbringing in the streets. This makes some of the street youth less mature than others of the same age, which might lead to misunderstanding of the caregivers' reasons for what they are doing (Kaime-Atterhög, 2012). And other possible reasons are also found below.

2.6.3 Difficult To Leave Drugs and Friends

Also their drug addiction made it difficult for the youth to leave the streets, and it was common that they ran back when the abstinence became too severe (Embleton et al 2013) The

street children also believed that it was hard to abandon their friends in the streets, since they many times had been the only people who loved and understand them (Beasley, 2003, Bordonaro, 2011).

2.6.4. Welfare Institutions Rules

There are some factors that complicate the work with street youth. In (Turnbull, Hernández and Reyes' 2009) study the aim is to explore why street youth do not want to cooperate with helpers, leading to that they stay or go back to the street. One major issue seems to be organizations' control over youth, which is used in terms of official and unofficial rules. According to the study, many programs start with few rules which are gradually tightened. Welfare institutions for youth are often described as bureaucratic with hierarchical relations where influences from clients are low. Studies show that street youth disapprove the strictness that comes as a result of the rules in rehabilitation shelters and some youth even compares it with prison. The control these institutions have over the youth leads to dissatisfaction and that the youth return to the street. A similar but more severe situation is showed in (Lam and Cheng's, 2008) study, which describes the situation on the only institution in Shanghai working with street youth, and what the youth think about it. Once a youth gets to the institution he or she is not allowed to leave as the shelter is responsible for the youth's wellbeing and safety. Because of fear of being accused of not taking care of the youth properly the personnel use a number of preventive rules. Example of such rules is that it is not allowed to roam in the shelter. The youth are locked in the different rooms where they have their activities. In order to prevent escapes there are iron bars on the windows and doors. The study shows the youth's distinct repulsion towards the strict limitations on the institution. Several children & youth want to and try to escape because of too rigorous rules and their limited freedom.

2.6.5 High Staff Turnover

One of the most pressing concerns of welfare agencies is recruiting, training, and retaining competent staff. Ninety percent of state welfare agencies report difficulty in recruiting and retaining workers (Brown and Bailey-Etta., 1999) Exceedingly high numbers of caseloads, poor working conditions, high turnover rates, and a poor public perception of the child welfare system are widely recognized as problems that contribute to the difficulty of attracting high-quality, innovative, and committed staff(Pecora, et al, 1999). Increasingly, the public is demanding better results from beleaguered welfare agencies, and these demands are reflected in policy changes that emphasize measuring outcomes and documenting processes leading to reunification or adoption. As a result, workers are spending an increasing amount of time meeting paperwork requirements rather than providing counseling, support, and encouragement to clients. Recruiting the most skilled social workers to work with the most vulnerable youth and families is difficult under these circumstances. Moreover, only one-third of child and youth welfare workers are trained social workers (Aliom, 2001). Providing adequate training, compensation, and institutional support for social workers could address some of these concerns.

2.7. Youth for the Development of One's Country

The development of country is a dynamic process involving all segments of the locality, including the often-overlooked youth population. Street youth are resilient, creative individuals who have a great capacity to contribute to their communities and to the future development of their countries. However, street youth's potentials are often not fully realized. In light of this, it is imperative to consider the significant numbers of these youth who currently are finding their homes, livelihoods, and social networks on the street (Brennan, Barnett, & Lesmeister, 2006).

There is a need for agents, program developers, and policy planners to better understand the role of youth in the community development process. Equally important, a need exists to better recognize the benefits and opportunities presented through youth involvement in community development activities. If youth are included in programs to meet needs and empower communities, they can become lifelong participants and take on a sense of ownership in development efforts. The merging of community building and youth development has been at the core of recent youth engagement literature (Nitzberg, 2005; Cahn & Gray, 2005; Lynn, 2005). It has identified that youth must be fully engaged and involved in change efforts at the community level if they are to learn to function as effective members of society (Nitzberg, 2005). Community building, for individuals, focuses on building the capacity and empowerment to identify opportunities for change within or outside of the community.

Youth and adults have identified a variety of motivators for volunteering or becoming active in their communities. These have included practical assessments of their activities, such as: to meet school requirements; hopes of getting higher grades in a particular class; improving their chances of getting into college; or as an entry to a desired job (Andolina, Jenkins, Keeter, & Zukin, 2002). Motivations can also be the result of more practical conditions, such as a need to develop job contacts and enhance existing skills. In geographic areas where employment opportunities are limited, voluntary activities can offer a valuable alternative to paid employment (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Independent Sector, 2001).

Youth also report becoming active for self-actualization (recognition, raise self-esteem) and social responsibility (setting an example, public duty) (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Independent Sector, 2001). Feelings of efficacy (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Sherrod,

Flanagan, & Youniss, 2002), having responsibility/leadership (Kubisch, 2005), and the need to be taken seriously (Flanagan & Van Horn, 2001) have all emerged as important reasons why youth pursue community involvement.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

2.2.1. Street Youth & Children Realities Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2003) 81.9% of the population lives below poverty line. Among those most economically vulnerable in Ethiopia are the country's children and youth. More than 150,000 children & youth are estimated to live on the streets of Ethiopia (Forum on Street Children of Ethiopia, 2008). The United Nations estimates that the problem may be far more serious, with nearly 600,000 homeless street youth & children country wide, and over 100,000 of these youth & children in Addis Ababa alone. Some of these youth and children are ostensibly forced into life on the street as way of survival, and others voluntarily seek shelter on the streets as they perceive the streets as an option to earn money and help support their families. Other reasons for the proliferation of street youth in Ethiopia is the breakdown of families as a consequence of the death of spouses, various kinds of abuse- including violence in the homes, and sudden changes in household income. The rise in orphans and in the urgency of their survival needs also serve as contributing factors that result in Ethiopian children's homeless status on the streets (Forum on Street Children of Ethiopia, 2008). Another major factor contributing to the increasing numbers of orphans on Ethiopian streets is the adverse impact of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) on the country and its people. HIV/AIDS has already orphaned over 1.2 million children in Ethiopia, and the United Nations Children's fund suggests that the problem may be getting worse (United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS, 2004)). Anecdotal

information obtained from the leadership of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Ethiopia, indicates that poverty is also fostering the growth of child prostitutes, whose health statuses are complicated by the HIV/AIDS crisis. According to a report distributed by the (UNICEF Office, 2003), many of the child & youth prostitutes have been victims of serious sexual and physical abuse on the streets. Homeless street females in Ethiopia are disproportionately impacted by high levels of poverty, gender-based discrimination, homelessness, rape, other types of violence and illiteracy, and their numbers are increasing (UNICEF).

2.2.2. Child and Youth Welfare State in Ethiopian

Child and youth care institutions as an establishment founded by a governmental, nongovernmental, or faith-based organization to give care to unaccompanied children & youth. This institution may also be referred to as an orphanage, youth & children's home, or village. A typical characteristic of an institution is that it is "a group living arrangement with paid & voluntary caregivers." Such institutions include, but are not limited to, community care, foster placement, and adoption. The child welfare state in Ethiopia is primarily dictated by the "Guidelines on Alternative Childcare Programs," which were prepared and widely disseminated in 2001 by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA). The Guidelines were intended to enhance the protection and well-being of children who were in need of alternative care. In 2008, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the government body presently in charge of children's affairs, conducted a comprehensive assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the Guidelines. The assessment concluded that, seven years after the introduction of these guidelines, revision and updating was essential. Accordingly, the Ethiopian government, in consultation with childcare institutions, professionals, and children, revised the 2001 Alternative Childcare Guidelines in

Chapter Three: Methods

This specific chapter a detailed account has been given to the description of the particular design the research would employ; the data sources and methods of collection; the study participants, the types of instruments, and their development procedure and data processing, analysis and presentation procedures and ethical consideration are described below.

3.1. Research Design

This particular study adopted qualitative research design in the course of undertaking this research. The purpose of using the qualitative method is that it allows the researchers to explain the Participant's view of a phenomenon (Patel & Davidsson, 2003) and create a detailed picture with that information (Bryman, 2008). In line with qualitative design this study employed a descriptive approach since descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exists" with respect to variables or conditions in a situation (Gall & Borg, 1996); it is also appropriate to use descriptive design for this study so as to get perceptions and attitudes of the Participants about their current status. Hence, this study focused on narrating the data obtained from Participants about the overall aspects of the subject matter. Moreover, in order to gather and investigate enough information on the issues under study, the researcher used a qualitative research approach that included observations, semi-structured interview with the service provider (BoLSA's) staffs and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the street youth who were attending rehabilitation program. Thus, using these three (observation, interview and FGD) methods helped the researcher to triangulate the data which was obtained from the entire participants.

3.2 Data Sources and Data Gathering Tools

Both primary and secondary sources of data are used for the purpose of conducting this particular research. The primary data was gathered through observation, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). As Maxwell stated, gathering data from different sources can maximize the trustworthiness of the information and minimize the limitation (2005). The study instruments were designed in a way that enabled to capture all the thematic area of the study. Semi-structured interview were developed to collect data from service provider (BoLSA's) key informants who are actively working on the street youth rehabilitation project. The advantage with semi-structured interviews is that the questions can vary in sequence, and that they are general and flexible allowing supplementary questions to be asked (Bryman, 2008). The interview and FGD instruments started with demographic questions in order to make the Participants comfortable. Following questions were more specific since they were related to the different themes of the study in order to get a deeper understanding and answer for the research questions.

Other data gathering method was Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Focus groups are methods of bringing together specific groups of people to discuss a particular subject under the direction of a facilitator (Rossi, Lipsey & Freeman, 2004). Focus groups can provide wealth of descriptive information about an issue in a short period of time, and give appropriate insights to problems and solutions (Rossi et al., 2004). Therefore, FGD guide questions were developed so as to gather information directly from street youth who have been experiencing street life and attending BoLSAs' rehabilitation program. Accordingly, three focus group discussions were conducted with the aim of obtaining detailed and rich description of the actual experiences of the

rehabilitated youth in a more natural and interactive setting. Observations were also made during focus group discussions.

On the other hand, regarding the secondary data source, journals, books, guidelines, annual reports, internet and other valuable documents which were related to the topic were used to extract any sort of essential information to strengthen the study findings.

3.3 Selection of Research Participants

The study participants have been selected purposely taking into account the participants' relevance towards meeting the objective of the research. Most sampling in qualitative research entails purposive sampling of some kind. Such sampling is essentially strategic and entails an attempt to establish a good correspondence between research questions and sampling (Bryman, 2008). Hence, each of the research participants' inclusion was decided and the following inclusion criteria were deployed for the selection of research participants:

- Youth who experienced street life and completed rehabilitation at BoLSAs' street youth rehabilitation center.
- A youth of an age between 15-29
- A youth who is living in Addis Ababa at the time of his/her participation in this particular research.
- BoLSAs' staff who are directly working on the street youth project.
- BoLSAs' staff who have greater work experience on the street youth project.

Above all, the participants took part in the study voluntarily and based on their informed decisions to be part of the research and share their lived experiences.

3.4. The Study Participants

In consultation with the project manager, the study participants were selected purposefully. The total numbers of the selected participants were 55. Out of which 10 were BoLSA's street youth project staff and 45 were the rehabilitated street youth. The project manager selected personnel that he thought was best able to answer the questions due to their willingness to participate and to the length of their employment. Since the key informants have firsthand knowledge about the overall BOLSAs street youth projects' engagement and the rehabilitated youth situations, key informants were included in the research. However, the two BoLSAs' street project staffs were not part of this study since they were out of office for duty at the time of interviewing. Furthermore 13 youth were not attending the focus group discussion due to various personal inconveniences. Among the remaining 32 youth participants who were involved in this study 18, were employed in various government organizations, seven were organized in various small business generating activities and the remaining seven were waiting an employment opportunity. All youth participants experienced the street life and rehabilitated by BoLSAs' project.

3.5. Procedure of Data Collection

As far as the procedure of data collection is concerned, contacts had been initially made to BoLSA to explain the purpose and nature of the study so as to achieve the desired response rate. Subsequently, an official cooperation requesting letter from the Addis Ababa University School of Social Work was formally submitted to the selected organizations. The whole purpose and objective were duly communicated to the project manager. Then, through the support of the BoLSA street youth rehabilitation project coordinator the researcher managed to get in touch with the project staffs and the rehabilitated street youth. Schedule was made up on the

convenience of the staff and the rehabilitated youth consent. Then, the intended interviews were conducted with the key informants, who were directly working on the project. Since they were not willing to be recorded, during the interview note has been taken.

With regards to the FGD, commencing the discussions, the intention of the study has been clearly explained to the participants. Afterward only the demographic part of the question was distributed to the entire FGD participants to be filled first. After some minute the paper has been collected and discussion has been started. During the discussion a mobile phone was used to record the interviews. According to (Bryman, 2008) a researcher should analyze both what the Participants say and in what way they express it during an interview. In order to manage these things along with focus on ask questions and to take notes the interview should preferably be recorded. A recording makes it possible to focus only on the most important parts during the interviews and take notes later. Other advantages are that the data easily can be transcribed and be listened to a number of times. Furthermore, clear and simple words/language used to construct precise statements that were easily understandable by the study participants. The researcher was also took observation note while focus group discussion held.

3.6 Validity of the Instrument

To maintain validity of the instruments, the interview and the Focus Group Discussion questions were examined and restructured again as per the researcher's advisor suggestion and recommendation. As well, the researcher presented the instrument to one of BoLSAs' Street Youth Project professional who has been serving the project for long period, consequently, on the basis of the comments; some amendments were made to make the items clearer and unambiguous.

3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

In qualitative study, data analysis is not a separate step in the research. As it is rightly pointed out by Kreuger and Neuman, (2006) in qualitative research method, the fact that the data analysis may begin at the time of the data collection could be among the many points of departure between the quantitative and qualitative research methods. On similar account, in this study, the data analysis was started right at the time of the data collection process. Bryman (2008) suggests coding as one possible tool in the analytic process of qualitative research. He recommends certain steps, which are important in the coding process. The first step is to transcribe the recording and get an overview of the collected data by reading the transcription, the observations notes and other documents. Next, coding the data by reading it again and make notes about the important and most common topics. The final step is to concentrate and combine the codes into another level of codes so that there are a reasonable number.

On the same manner as an initial step of the data analysis endeavor, since all interviews and focus group discussions were conducted in Amharic, the audio recordings and notes were translated from Amharic to English. Bryman, (2008) advises to listen to the recording closely to spot the information that is relevant to the study. When spotted, only the relevant information needs to be transcribed, as a lot of the recorded data will be useless. In this manner the transcription was made in listing the relevant points of record audio repeatedly and attentively. Afterwards, the translated version of the data was transcribed into a written form. After going through these transcribed versions of the data many times, the data was summarized into categories then in to major themes. The data was organized according to the similarity of the themes, concepts or features. Consequently, the classified data was repeatedly reviewed in order to get the actual meanings of participant's ideas and expressions. Based on the meanings of the

information, the data was organized into sub-themes based on the study objective and research questions. Tables were also used to summarize parts of the demographic information of the participants. Afterwards, the organized themes were narrated to present the findings of the study. In order to make it easier to read, the quotations are marked with italicized. The inclusion of quotations aim to provided a complete sense of the participants' ways of thinking, the emotions that they want to convey, and the atmospheres they have experienced.

Finally, as part of the selective coding process, 7 major theme categories namely the youth lived experiences prior to rehabilitation, the project key service components, the project efforts in networking with other institution, youth livelihood situation and challenges, youth psychosocial situation and challenges, challenges of the project and strategies to overcome those challenges and youth contribution for their country development were constituted. At last all the transcribed data were assigned in accordance with the predefined thematic areas of the study and brought about the current structure.

3.8. Ethical Consideration

Prior to engagement on the data collection, adequate information and explanation were given to all participants about the whole purpose and intent of the study and the informed consent of each of the participants were secured prior to engaging the participants in the research. All participants were also informed that they had the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage. Furthermore, the entire FGD and interview questions did not contain any degrading, discriminating or any other unacceptable language that could be offensive to any members of the group as well the researcher was not interested for the participants name so as to maintain their freedom.

Chapter Four: Major Findings

This chapter presents the major findings obtained from interview and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The first section commences with the brief portrayal of the research participants' profile and the youth lived experiences prior to rehabilitation. The second section incorporates findings on the key service components which are designed to change the youth psychosocial and livelihood status, the project efforts in networking with other institution, current livelihood and psychosocial status and challenges of the rehabilitated youth, challenges of the project and strategies to overcome those challenges and youth contribution for their country's development.

4.1 Demographic and General Characteristics of the Participants

Description of the characteristics of the target population gives some basic information about the Participants involved in the study. From the data collected, the following significant characteristics of Participants have been obtained. On this section Participants were asked about their gender, age, education status, and relevant qualifications. Data are presented below.

Gender of Participants

The participants of this study were BoLSAs' Street Youth Rehabilitation Project staffs and the rehabilitated street youth themselves. Among the total 8 BoLSAs' Street Youth Project staff participants six were males and two were females.

Regarding to the rehabilitated street youth participants, the number of male and female participants were found 29 and 3 respectively. The numbers of girls' participants were much less than the boys. As pre the interview findings even the total numbers of rehabilitated girls were very few. (FGD02-01) One of the rehabilitated girls said that shelter is more important for the girl and has a higher priority to protect themselves from various risks. (FGD03-01) Other girls

have also mentioned that they are less visible because they are engaged in house work and prostitution. They also informed the researcher that they often forced by brokers and bar-owners since they don't have any other means to survive. Most of the rehabilitated boys also agreed the numbers of street girls are not small: (FGD01-01) one of the boys said *when we were on the street, girls didn't sleep with us but rent room to sleep there. Even though their number seem less on the street if you go to the place where they rent rooms and sleep the number of the girls can be a surprise.* (KII-01) The BoLSA program manager also said that

we give equal chance for both boys and girls to use the service, however, most of the girls are working as prostitutes and will not be identified as street youth while the project gather them, but they would be seen as street girls when they are pregnant and after they give birth to their child because then they can't work as prostitute and will not have anything to eat. He added: We work with girls only when they are visible and volunteer to get support from us or when police refer them to our project."

Age of Participants

Age of the study participants is one of the most important characteristics in understanding their views about the particular problem:

Table 1: Age and Education Status of participants

Age of Key Informant	Frequency
20-30	5
31-40	3
Age of Rehabilitated Youth	
20-30	32
Total	40
Key Informant Level of Education	Frequency
Post Graduate	1
B.A Degree	6
Diploma	1

Rehabilitated Youth Level of Education	
Level of Education	Frequency
High School	5
Primary and Secondary School	24
Illiterate	3
Total	40

The large research participants were found between 20 to 30 ages range. Hence, as per the above table information, great proportion of Participants 35 were in the age range of 20-30 years compared to the Participants whose age range is between 31-40 years 3, 41-50 years 2 respectively. Therefore, the majority of this study Participants was found in the young group.

Education Status of Participants

The above table depicted that among the 32 rehabilitated street youth participants; three were just found illiterate while 24 and five were educated up to primary/secondary and high school respectively. With regards to the staff participants one staff has found with diploma, six of them were having B.A Degree and only one staff participant is educated up to the post graduates level.

Qualification of Participants

Concerning the qualification of the staffs, most of the project staffs were from social science background while few supporting staff members were from business filed. On the other hand, being an important description of the profile of the Participants, years of service under the relevant job positions was also assessed and it has been revealed that those who have served four to seven years dominate the list by taking higher number of participants. Those who have served one to three years on the positions of concern came second on the ladder followed by the category of Participants who have served eight to 10 years and above 10 years.

Parental Situation

Concerning with the family situation of youth participants, only the four participants both parents are alive while sixteen of them indicated to have been raised by a single parent and three raised by a grandmother due to the separation and death of their families while nine of them reported to be double orphan.

4.2. Youth Lived Experiences Prior to Rehabilitation

The Focus Group Discussions findings attempted to investigate the reason why these youth appeared on the street and asked “why they joined the street life?” Almost all participants mentioned similar reasons such as searching for jobs, conflict with family, family poverty, death of parents, pregnancy, and dispute with their parents. Few participants mentioned sexual related reasons like rape attempt, voluntary and involuntary unsafe sex resulted in unwanted pregnancy. In connection to this, (FGD02-02)one participant stated the following:

“My aunt brought me from rural to Addis Ababa by convincing me to send me to school. I started life in Addis serving my aunts family and attending the class. But my aunt’s husband asked me many times for sex .I feel bad when he comes to home from work. One day when my aunt went to market, he came and tried to rape me. I escape and run away and never go back to home, started street life.”

According to the FGD participants’ discussions, no youth wants to be on the street. As they mentioned the above various factors contribute to end up their life on the street. As they stated the situation on the street; life is very hard and their basic needs are not met. They lacked basic necessity such as food and a place to stay. They also lacked protection, which increased the risk of being raped and exposed to violence, and the use of alcohol and drugs increased as well.

In order to afford food some youth informed the researcher that they work, beg, and even steal. Stealing could cause them to get caught and arrested by the police. Since no one is there to help them they are being arrested for a long time, sometimes up to a month before they get released, when the charges are dropped.

As per BoLSA's street youth project professionals, all the BoLSA's rehabilitation project youth come from very difficult situations. Many of them have experienced economic deprivation. Some of the participants don't know where their parents and some have lost their parents to death. Some youth come from some circumstances where alcohol is a big problem or where the parents separated. Most youth come from Addis Ababa and its surroundings, but there are also youth from other parts of the country.

When asked what FGD participants think about their family's financial situation, most of the participants answered that they were facing financial problems due to unemployment of fathers/mothers. Coming from crowded families was another factor in financial difficulties. Much of the focus group participants indicated that they appeared in to the street and begun to work because of economic deficiencies in the first place for the mere survival. Other mentioned reasons from the focus groups were feeling of responsibility among youth towards those problems and their being forced to work on street will be considered. The story taken from the following youth illustrates this point very well: (FGD03-01) A girl participant who came from countryside looking for a job to support herself and her family, because her family is poor and they couldn't fulfill her foods, cloth and school requirements. Contrary to her expectation, she didn't find a job easily and she was forced to beg on the street even though her dream is to get a job. The researcher observed that poverty is the leading factor that exposes youth to street life.

Finding of FGD has also confirmed that their involvement to street life were to support the economy of their families as well as to support themselves.

Another boy left home and came to the street because of conflict with his biological parents. His story is as follows: The boy made a decision to go to the street after being severely beaten by his father. Four days later his parents came to look for him and they took him home but a week later he was beaten for waking up late and he ran away again to the street. His mother came to look for him but he went to hide himself as soon as he heard her presence nearby.

Most of the boys as well as the girls who participated on the FGD recalled the street life and stated the absence of services while they were living on the street but some of them had received help within their communities prior to their street life. (FGD01-02)A boy when explaining about the lack of available services said: *People come and write about our story and just go and never come back. We used to think they are going to help us when they were writing our story but it has never been so. I was supported by an organization that used to help me and my brothers because my mother was a beggar. But the organization was closed.*

(FGD01-04)A boy who has been on the street for two years said: *I don't have a father and mother and was living with my grandmother. When my grandmother died, I became helpless, and because of that, I was out on the street.*" (FGD03-03)Another boy who is 17 years old said: *"I was sleeping in front of one hotel and the employees used to feed me at least two times a day, but since they have a new building with added security I can't go near them and I can't get that support anymore.*

Particularly as per FGD group 3 discussions; youth emphasized that the breakdown of their parents' relationships became an issue for many of them. Several had been abandoned by one of their parents. The absence of that parent placed strain on the relationship between the

remaining parent and the youth. (FGD03-04)One of the participants remembered his story in saying

I hadn't seen my mom in about four years. When I was in grade eight, my dad was doing carpenter. I didn't know at the time what he thought. A lot of tension between me and my dad because he's a single parent and could not manage my feelings and fulfilled my interests. My Mom had abandoned us, and we couldn't get used to the fact that we had to be together. We had a lot of fights and I was like I just left because I couldn't handle the way we were treating each other. We couldn't live with each other so I left and started to live on the street with one group of between 7 and 10 children and youth who survive on the streets. We sleep together around Atklet Tera. Once we are together, we felt protected and safe. Sometimes we fight because we don't have enough blankets or food but the group was a family to me and if an outsider attacks us we were united and will protect each other.he said.

The findings of the FGDs also indicated that, the problems and challenges the girls face on the street are multiple and complex. The biggest problem they face, as told by the girls themselves, is shelter. Most of the time they use their food money for shelter and many girls go hungry because of this pressure to try and stay safe. Using the money they have to improve their life by doing petty trade is also impossible as the money goes to pay their room rent. They are deprived of their basic needs, repeatedly exposed to sexual, physical as well as emotional abuse. All those FGD participants stated that the problems the street girls face are worse than the boys. Similarly, since the community attitude toward the boys is different than the attitude they have for the girls the emotional abuse of the boys is less than the girls. (FGD02-01)One of FGD girl participant witnessed what they have faced on the street in saying “*Most of us end up with a child whom we cannot support physically or emotionally. Knowledge of and ability to use*

contraceptives is minimal among us and, due to our feelings of despair and hopelessness, many girls feel there is no point to use contraceptives. Three of the FGD girl participants believe that the needs of the street girls are not fully addressed by the existing governmental or nongovernmental organizations.

Often the main issue identified by youth in all focus groups was addiction. Both youth and service providers were concerned about the impact that drugs and alcohol are having on them. Many youth in the focus groups identified drugs as the biggest issue affected their life on the street. They shared concern regarding the ease of acquiring drugs, that drugs are everywhere, and that getting into drugs leads to a life on the street. Most of the youth readily acknowledged the prevalence of drugs and the detrimental effect they were having on individuals and families.

4.3 Key Services Components

(KII-01)As of the program manager information, all the three rehabilitation centers which are found in Yeka sub city, Bole sub city and Afar Amibara zone have attempted to provide similar service to all rehabilitated street youth. When massive numbers street youth were gathered from the entire 10 sub city at once, they would automatically sent to Afar Amibara center since the compound is extremely large and easy to manage those street youth there. Most of the time, girls were not sent to Afar center and they would rehabilitated here in Yeka or Bole rehabilitation center. As per the interview findings, all the three rehabilitation centers are outfitted with professionals to implement the rehabilitation program.

(KII-02)Based on the project coordinator interview and the project document reviews, the researcher understands that BoLSAs' Street Youth Rehabilitation Project services components include psychosocial support, skills development (vocational training), create link with Micro-Finance Institutions or search employment opportunities. According to the information obtained

from (KII-03) the project team leader, components of the street youth program has been designed to offer graduation opportunities that will equip members with the necessary vocational, intellectual and communicative skill for successful reintegration into society, allowing them to be free of addictive behaviors. Most of the key informants also mentioned that the main targets of the BoLSAs' Street Youth Rehabilitation Project is to help youth live better lives through effective services, affording youth the opportunity to become law-abiding citizens. The interview findings indicted that the psychosocial support and the vocational training programs were provided based on the centers' schedule by the employed staffs and the stakeholders' arrangement. Personal hygiene items and toiletries were supplied to the entire youth every month. The youth were also responsible for housekeeping duties and expected to maintain appropriate personal hygiene.

Based on the information gathered; the study findings attempted to describe the project key service components separately here under:

4.3.1 Psychosocial Support

The interview findings showed that, under the psychosocial support program, life skill development trainings and counseling has been provided to all rehabilitated youth in group and individually as per situations demand. (KII-04)As per one of the project social worker interviewee statement, the youth come to the project with many psychosocial problems arising from the traumatic life in the streets and abuse therefore, (KII-04)pointed that upon arrival at the project, the youth undergo intensive psychosocial counseling to assist them regain their life-values and self-esteem and to encourage them for change.

(KII-05) Other staffs mentioned that attempt has been made to provide appropriate intervention and support to youth who were experiencing behavioral, emotional, substance abuse

to adjustment their problems. These services include diagnosis, individual and group counseling, substance abuse and HIV education. Especially reproductive health education and contraceptive education has been given for rehabilitated girls since they are the first and the most vulnerable in this regard. As per(KII-01) the project manager explanation, to make this intervention more effective; within the rehabilitation centers experienced social workers and sociologists employed by BoLSA Street Youth Project and they are responsible to perform such activities as per the street youth past history and conditions demanding. KII-05 mentioned that the major challenge for this service is that, since trainees have some specific time to complete the overall trainings, most of the schedules has been occupied by vocational trainings and practices. Moreover, the interviewee informed that the appropriate psychosocial module yet prepared and class has been given as per the professionals own resources/materials.

(KII-06) One of the interview participant also expressed how the youth behaviors may rooted in their pasts and how this psychosocial support and counseling is important for them:

I think the youth sometimes experienced some love in the center being counseled and communicated, not all of them to tell you the truth. They need the love of a mother, a father and friends. I think they experience security and feel safe here at the center. The youth also experienced some difficulties while living in the center. A lot of them re-live their experiences from childhood and they go through some rebellious times, especially the boys. Not all of them, but some. They do not want to adjust to authorities and discipline as they have never experienced it in their pasts. Their adjustment is usually the biggest problem and they need always guidance to do things right. Therefore the concealing session and the counselor showed them the way how to escape from their bad situation. This lesson has also helped them in striving to adjust themselves.

The rehabilitated youth also confirmed that there was a weekly gathering at the counseling hall and depending on the problem that they presented, the social workers would counsel them or contact them in order to solve their problems. Some of the FGD participants' youth also indicated that the social workers were very much concerned and dedicated to support them morally and emotionally. A girl participant expressed that the first and most benefit that she appreciates is the care and moral support that she got from the organization. In addition, she indicated that the social workers of the organization encourage her to express her feelings and problems openly.

Some participants who were rehabilitated at Afar Amibara Center were also mentioned that the mass addiction and other related issue counseling were given once in a week or rarely. *In fact, using any kinds of substance in the center was counted as breaching law and we never dare to do so and it really helped us to be addiction free*, one of the discussant affirmed(FGD01-05).

The FGD participants have also mentioned that they have been counseled when they miss behaved and disobey rules and regulations. The youth also pointed out the absence of continues counseling, however, group counseling were reported to be held especially when the organization receives complains, such as violence and group fights among themselves. As the participant youth indicated, individual and group counseling sessions done rarely depending on the situation. And the rehabilitated youth were also admitted that the way these counseling sessions held are a little bit boring and repetitive.

4.3.2. Skill Development Training

Upon on the project document review and key informant interviews the researcher comprehended that BoLSA Street Youth Project works in collaboration with numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Therefore, the entire vocational and

technical trainings has been provided by Elshaday Relief and Development Association and Metal Engineering Corporation (METK) Professionals (teachers) plus all the necessary materials and equipments of the training have been fulfilled by these two companies. The interview findings indicated that on commencement, youths have been given the opportunity to choose one course among the available vocational trainings from the list as per their interest, then they would grouped upon their choices then pen, pencil, exercise books and other necessary learning materials were provided to the trainees then class would be started.

All interviewee agreed that the youth are learning to become productive and development-oriented through the entrepreneurial skills they have been taught. When skill training coordinator mentioned about the trainings, the youth have been trained different skills such as: Hairdressing, Tailoring, Cookery, Auto-Electric, Auto-Mechanic, Loader Operator, Excavator operator, Dozer operator, Grader operator, Co-Electrician, Fabrication, Motor Mechanic, Construction and Driving cars by certified teachers/professionals. According to the team leader's further explanations, because Afar Amibara Street youth center is suitable for agriculture; plan has been made to teach the coming street youth agricultural production including gardening and animal husbandry.

Furthermore, (KII-08)one of the interviewee said that for some fields, to make them well accustomed with the practical knowledge, youth has been sent for attachments to various organizations (e.g Ambo and Gafat engendering) where they practice the skills they would have acquired during the course of their training at the rehabilitation center. Then youth who completed their training successfully would continue the process of securing the successful skills training by sitting for the Certification of Competence (COC) by the City Government of Addis

Ababa occupational competency assessment and certification center. So, if they pass the exam, youth can have competency certificates which made them qualify for a job. The interview findings were also illustrated, unless for some exceptional training which could take between nine-ten months, the vocational training would be finalized within six months.

FGD participants were also indicated that the skill training that was organized and offered by the government was not as such sufficient to access and compete for other job opportunities. Although certificates were awarded for the various skill trainings delivered at the time was too brief which only stayed for 6 months. However, with such short term vocational and business trainings, some of the youth complained that they faced difficulty to apply and get alternative employment opportunities. At this juncture, the lived experience of one of youth participant who received 5 months Women's Hairdressing was not satisfied with the training and did not manage to get the necessary knowhow which could convince him to immediately start working in the field. (FGD01-03) In his own words he expressed that:

“Normally, it would be difficult to master the hair dressing skill in a short time and particularly, for learning women's hair dressing in a short time is very difficult. One may learn the skill of men's hair dressing or barber's skill for some days but not women's hairdressing.” Thus, due to the skill training's lack of depth, he was forced to attend additional and broader women's hairdressing skill training on his own initiation paying himself. The interview findings were also confirmed that after rehabilitation the office incurred additional cost to train the incompetent youth in sending at various vocational and technical schools to make them competent.

4.3.3. Link with Micro-Finance Institutions or Search Employment

Based on the key informant interview, upon completion of the rehabilitation, if youth need to reintegrate with their parents, staff would follow the necessary procedure to reintegrate those youth. Unless, for the remaining rehabilitated youth the project take the responsibility to find employment opportunities, organizing them in various small business groups and linking them with Micro Finance Institutions. Hence, based on the knowledge and skills gained in skills training, the youth would place in various governmental and non-governmental organizations. For instance, those who have been trained Auto-Electric, Auto-Mechanic, Loader Operator, Excavator operator, Dozer operator, Grader operator, Co-Electrician, Fabrication, Motor Mechanic, Construction and Driving got employment opportunity in various companies while some of the youth were organized in small business activities and begin an entrepreneur job. The mass employer organizations are Elshaday Relief and Development Association, Metal Engineering Corporation (METK) and Tendaho Sugar Factory.

(KII-01)As of the project manager statement, the government has placed youth employment as a core outcome of the national economic development strategy. Therefore, this BoLSAs' Street Youth Project interventions would develop the system that will create job opportunities and livelihoods support through Micro and Small Enterprises run by the youth to match the youth skills-development projects with labour market demand, thereby contributing to the achievement of the government's targets for youth employment.

The team leader also added that, to enable youth to participate more in the development planning and initiatives that directly affect their lives, and to bring better coordination, more focus and better alignment of all youth employment interventions, enabling access to financial

services by youth or attached with employment are the core principles of BoLSA's Street Youth Project. (KII-03)He also added that: *in fact starting a business can be arduous for a street youth due to limited financial and social assets, restricted decision-making abilities and limited social networks, street youth tend to be less able to translate an idea into a business due to various constraints, including limited access to appropriate financial services.* Therefore, (KII-01)the project manager affirmed that the project was/is monitoring the youth towards economic self-reliance and linking the youth with Micro-Finance Institutions to offer them credit facilities with no collateral.

(KII-05)Other staff interviewee added that the intervention also offers job placement opportunities to the rehabilitated and trained youth through partnerships with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Hence, now massive numbers of the rehabilitated street youth were employed by Elshaday Relief and Development Association, Metal Engineering Corporation (METK) and Tendaho Sugar Factory. Moreover, Addis Ababa sub-cities, Kebeles, Ministry Offices and BoLSA itself contributed their part in employing the rehabilitated youth. On the other hand, some of youth who trained similar vocation were organized in small business enterprise and have running their business.

4.4. Current Livelihood Situation

(KII-08)One of the interviewed project staff claim that the large percentages of BoLSAs' rehabilitated youth are able to establish a good life after moving out of the center. Furthermore, she also pointed out that as in anyone, everyone does not succeed. However, she believed that with the guidance the project offers, all youth have given the possibility to shape their own future. While interviewing, most of the participants were mentioned that; when the youth have completed their rehabilitation, the project facilitated things for the youth to involve on income

generating activities like organizing them under small scale enterprises, street vending (selling small items) in creating link with micro finance associations and find job opportunity based on their vocational training.

According to the project team leader (KII-03) and the 2008 project report, out of the 6000 (six thousand) street youth who were rehabilitated within 6 round 4107 (four thousand one hundred seven) youth have got job opportunity at Elshaday Relief and Development Association, Metal Engineering Corporation (METK) Tendaho Sugar Factory, within A.A. 10 sub cities and in various A.A Ministry offices including BoLSA, 165 (one hundred sixty five) youth were involved in small business or income generating activities, 846 (eight hundred forty six) youth were re-united with their families, 628 (six hundred twenty eight) youth had completed the rehabilitation engagement and left the project by their will, 122 (one hundred twenty two) youth terminated the program and returned to street, 32 (thirty two) youth referred to disability center, 94 (ninety four) youth were fired from the center due to their disobedient for the center discipline requirement, 3 (three) youth were referred to mental health hospital (Amanuel Referral Hospital) and the remaining 3 (three) youth have passed away. The project staffs believe that, above all, the BoLSA youth rehabilitation project focuses on creating favorable conditions for the youth to re-start their life, to see their situation and explore the chance to make bright their future.

While discussion almost all the FGD participants has thanked the office to guide them in such pleasant way. Moreover all of the participants were also agreed that the vocational training that the organization providing is very much useful and acquainted them with new knowledge. The rehabilitated youth also highly considered that the fields that they are being trained to be highly marketable, however, they raised various contributory factors for their

economic challenge they are facing now. The major factors as indicated by youth are discussed underneath:

Difficulty to Earn Sufficient Income: Within the context of the economic challenge, all youth participants pointed out that the failure to generate adequate and sustainable income to live on has affected their likelihood situation to a greater extent. In the opinion of the participants, all the other problems being encountered are the derivative of the lack of income which is the source of all the other consequential challenges. As per the confirmation of the participants, for the begging it was difficult for the youth and took times to get employment or engaged on income generation activities soon they returned from rehabilitation center. They also mentioned that the money they obtained from the project for the first 3 months was not adequate enough to rent home and lead their life. However, as per their confirmation currently most of the study participants have got employment opportunity in various organizations and started to earn their monthly income. Some of the participants were also reported that they organized in small business activities and started their own business while few of them are still remaining idle and waiting employment opportunity.

The participants who have been grouped and organized in different income generation activities have also complained about the group's arrangements, the Micro-Finance high interest-rate and the repayment period. Those who have managed to receive the startup loan from the MFI claimed that they were forced to start the repayment of the loan immediately without getting adequate grace period at least until their business begins to generate sufficient income for the repayment. In addition to this, participants indicated the fact that the vast majority of the incomes generated by their business goes to the repayment of the start-up loan and due to this they could not get sufficient income to live on. Some of them asserted that they are living on the

irregular financial support they are getting from various people. Some of them attributed their failure to get regular and adequate personal income to the fact that they gave priority to the repayment of the loan they have received as a startup capital from the micro-finances.

Here, (FGD02-03)one participant who was organized in small business experience would be worth considering, he and his friends after getting skill training in food preparation, they organized to do business borrowing startup loan from the Addis Credit and Finance S.C. But, as per the loan procedure's requirement, they are supposed to regularly pay 4,000.00 (four thousand birr) as a loan repayment every month. But, in the end, after having discharged the challenging loan repayment commitment, they may share from 500 up to a maximum of 600 hundred birr per month if there is any remaining sum to be shared among the members. However, as per their claim, this negligible income could not be in any way sufficient to live on and in most cases, they use the money for transportation to/from, the food on a daily basis, and no more.

Youth Skill Incompetency: Participants have indicated that the various skill trainings delivered at the time of rehabilitation was too short which only stayed for 5-6 months. Therefore, due to the inadequate time allocation for the skill training, participants claimed that it hampered them to access job opportunities. Some of the participants believed that attaining a high skill level is critical in obtaining employment but the youth raised their difficulties to get employment opportunity with the qualification they got. Especially youth who were trained driving cars were not competent enough to access the employment opportunities. That is why some youth drivers are still waiting additional training to improve their skill.

Poor saving Culture: the researcher understand from FGD discussions that, some of the youth who did well in the business initially did not succeed in the long run because they did not have the habit of saving. As they mentioned on the discussions, some participants spent most of their income as soon as they earn it.

Lack of Affordable House: Expect three individuals who are living with their families, all the FGD participants are living life by themselves in different parts of the city renting houses. However, frustrating search for suitable, affordable housing was identified by all focus group participants as one of the most prominent issues facing the rehabilitated youth when they come back to the city. In fact the youth justified that the project gave them 2,500 (two thousand five hundred birr) for the first three months and 800 (eight hundred birr) at the beginning to buy household materials. However, youth identified that the amount they received from the project as insufficient for renting securing safe and affordable housing and lead life. Even they stated that after they employed or organized in small business activities, they remain nothing or little money to cover other living costs after paying the housing fee.

4.5. Current Psychosocial Situation

As per the interview findings, under the psychosocial support program various counseling was provided to help the rehabilitated youth to heal them from psychological wounds and rebuild their social structures. The counseling session services have been provided individually and in group. . (KII-05) One of the project staff has also mentioned that, youths who were disobedient and breach the required project ethical requirements were canceled and drive back from the program. During rehabilitation, the youth are not allowed to use bad language, drugs or fight. They are not allowed to skip classes or leave the center without permission. Those rules were told to the youth upon arrival to the center and attempts were made to adjust their behavior simultaneously. If a youth breaks a rule anyway, the professionals are consistent in how to handle it. Examples of quotations are: (KII-06) *“If the youth fail to fulfill the rules, they get counseling, and we are talking friendly about why they do not follow the rules. No physical punishment. If someone chooses not to do their tasks, we talk to them in order to*

understand why. Not hitting them.” However, if they were found reluctant to accept the rules and advices of the staffs repeatedly, they will automatically be forced to leave the center.

(KII-08) Other staff member has also mentioned that because almost all of the youth came from the street with various addictions behavior, individual and group drug addiction counseling were the major parts of the service. He also added that nobody wants addiction to overtake their life to the point that rehabilitation is the necessary step for them. Understanding what drug addiction entails and how it affects the user is important for healing substance abuse. Therefore, he also believes that these kinds of rehabilitation have positive motivation on the youth by encouraging their successes and discouraging them from relapses. And most of the rehabilitated youths are now healing from addiction through time, he witnessed.

While FGD, youth participants were also sharing their lived experience with the researcher how they are psychologically changed. Most of them would tell different stories about the gloomy life on the streets they used to live and now they believed that they have left everything behind. (FGD03-01) One of the rehabilitated girls said that *“I would really like to acknowledge the government for the turnabout from the wrong path of life we have been through and making us productive and responsible citizens. As you see me I dressed well which is different from I used to dress on the street. I got employment and I did know how to live life. I am really ashamed for what I have done on the street; especially I do wonder why I preferred to beg than working.”*

(FGD01-03) 19 years young boy said *“I learned that I can change my life even though it’s a hard thing to do. I want to get a job, to make a living. I don’t want to go back to drug abuse and dealing. It hurt me a lot. I used to smoke cigarette almost all the day. I used to sniff benzene but*

it didn't give me anything except being unhealthy. What I am waiting now is starting job then I do know how I have to behave and live.

(FGD01-02)The other rehabilitated youth, a graduate with Auto Mechanic, used to live on the streets of Addis which was a life of drug addiction and regret. He remembered that he was from a family with good economic status but he was out on the streets because he had grown bad habits and his family couldn't accept it. While the bad life started to get worse he missed home but couldn't think of going back for he was ashamed of himself. Finally, he got the chance to join the BoLSAs' Afar Youth Rehabilitation center and studied Auto Mechanic for nine months. Comparing his current situation with the previous one, he couldn't help crying when he recalled how his life was bad but now totally different.

(FGD02-02)One 24 years old girl was greatly pleasant on the HIV and contraceptive education she offered while she was in the center. Living on the street exposed her for rape, physical and emotional violence. She confirmed that; such kinds of education at least helped her to protect herself from unnecessary pregnancy and other sexual related health problems.

(FGD02-01)One of the FGD girl participants quit school while she was on 8th grade student and left home, for there was no peace in the family because of economic problems. After leading years of miserable life on the streets of Addis Ababa, the chance she got from Elshaday Relief and Development Association for technical and vocational training became a road to her. Through Elshaday she joined the Center. Now, she got employed. Speaking of her relation with her family, everything is better now. Here attitude to her families are different now with lots of affection and care. She has also a plan to continue her education in the future.

As per the interview information, the staff helps the youth in reaching their dreams and goals by supporting their choice of vocation, and by counseling them in different aspects. (KII-06) One staff says: *“that is why they made a difference, their lives have changed and they have a future. Maybe sometimes they lose hope saying that everything is vanished. So sometimes we encourage them, than they cope. So we think that they are good now.”*

While discussion, apart from their attitudinal changes youth also mentioned some social challenges which make their lives difficult. Some of the FGD youth participants specifically attributed their challenges which originated from the surrounding colleague, community members, institutions and others. The major factors contributing for the social challenges are illustrated under:

Lack of follow up: Most of the youth participants blamed the project with regard to absence of follow up system. The participant remarked that since they are restarting life, they need supervision at least for some period of time. However, after placement of job or linking them with business activities the project totally forgets them. In responding this claim, (KII-01) the manager of the project notes that as similar to any normal family, former rehabilitated youth and staff can stay in contact even after youth move out. However, once they are placed in various working arrangements and left the center due to various reasons, he confirmed that the absence of structured strategies of follow-up work. But he noted that every youth who wants to remain in contact with the project has the possibility to do so. Hence, (KII-01) the manager added that since follow-up is found necessary to check the rehabilitated youth status, the project has already planned to perform such task on the coming rehabilitate youth.

Community Misconception: Community misunderstanding was the other integral component of the social challenges pointed out by the youth participants. The participants

indicated the fact that some of the surrounding community members could not properly understand the youths' real situation, particularly according to the participants' claim, certain community members mostly tend to consider the youth as if they are still in bad conditions and marginalize them. The participants also asserted such kind of community misconception continued to hamper their potential to re-socialize with others. (KII-01) The project manager has also explained that the project efforts in this regard to protect them from such challenges, attempts was/is made to relocate their original place while employment.

Self-Imposed Social Isolation: As the researcher could observed while discussions, some of the participant did not have any interaction with others, it seems that they typically considered themselves to be socially inept or unappealing so they avoid social situations and interactions with others due to fear of being made fun of, humiliated or judged. This condition might happen on those youth due to the absence of proper diagnosis and therapy. Moreover, due to financial constraints, some of the participant youth preferred to isolate themselves from various social interactions. In this regard, (FGD02-03) one participant experience could be worth mentioning. He decided on his own initiation not to join and have even a tea with his friends. As per his own perceptions, since he could not afford to participate into various social affairs thus, decided to distance himself from his friends.

While discussing, the researcher observed that most of the FGD youth participants were using odd words but not offensive, in fact they were not clothing shabby as street youth cloth. They also seemed determine to change their life hearing some vibrant words and their interest to work. Also this could be some of the attributes for their attitude change. However, some of the participants were not strong enough to explain their ideas even some of them were not spoken a single word while discussion. Some of them were hot tempered when they talked and some of

them were exchanging ideas negligently. Most of them were in a hurry, they didn't want sitting and communicating much even some of them were withdraw from the discussion early.

4.6. The Project Challenges and Strategies to Overcome

The interview findings showed that although the project has had a positive impact in the lives of marginalized and vulnerable youth, it has also encountered numerous challenges. Among those challenges the following are revealed:

Scarcity of Finance: -Except the training and food supply costs all the program expenses has been covered by BoLSA itself. However, the total budget had been limited and did not cover the costs for the staff salary, purchase of various office equipment/tools, the entire bills (water, electricity e.t.c.), clothing and difficult to furnish the rehabilitation center as required.

Consequently, recognizing this limitation BoLSA supposed institutional networking at various levels is critical. Especially relevant to economic-strengthening programs with local business sector, governmental and non governmental agencies are the best solution to overcome such problems. Finally the study shows that major actions have taken by the project to conquer finance related challenges in transferring some of the project expenses to other stakeholder and now the project works with 13 stakeholders in various aspects and implementing this youth rehabilitation project in collaboration with various stakeholders. Currently the project owners are:

- Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Office,
- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- A.A. Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs
- Addis Ababa Women, Children and Youth Affairs Bureau

- Metal Engineering Corporation (METK)
- Elshaday Relief and Development Association

The project main stakeholders are: Regional Bureaus of Labour and Social Affairs, Micro and Small Enterprise (MSEs), A.A Certification of Competency (COC), Addis Micro Finance, Addis Capital, A.A. Road and Transport Authority and the entire Sub cities. As per the study findings, agreement has been made with all major stakeholders prior to commencement of any activity and every stakeholder perform its own commitment upon the agreement. Therefore, while youths were found in the rehabilitation center, they got food, water, clothing and every cleanings supplies from Elshaday Relief and Development Association. In fact this association is also amongst the major stakeholders and it also took the responsibility to provide vocational training and employment opportunity for the rehabilitated youth. Metal Engineering Corporation (METK) is also one of the project owners which develops vocational training programs, helps youth in difficult circumstances to acquire skills and employment, and assists with program to reduce juvenile delinquency. Addis Ababa Women Children and Youth Affairs Bureau also ensure the welfare and rights of youth and bring about the participation of women and youth to enable them fairly benefit from the result by creating awareness programs, strengthening mass based associations, organizing mobilization & participation programs, delivering care, support and protection services for youth. Moreover as per the interview findings, every stakeholder were participating in fulfilling their commitments when the situation demanding their collaboration.

Clean Water Problem: - With regards to Afar Amibara Rehabilitation Center, the ambiance is very hot and access to clean water within the center was very difficult. On consequence,

youths were suffering from water-borne disease and yellow fever. (KII -02)As per the project coordinator information, to address these problems, different options were considered. Those options were:

- 1st attempt was made to bring water from nearby city using Bottles car,
- 2nd option was using water guard (Weha Agar) and Aqua taps to treat the existing water in removing contamination from raw water,
- 3rd option was: to have much water supply in the compound, Elshaday Relief and Development Association was engaged in constructing water Wells. Moreover when youth faced health problems they got the necessary treatment in the compound by professionals and if their illnesses need higher treatment, they would send to Gewani Referral and other Hospitals using Addis Raeye ambulance.

Unable to Arrange Various Documents in Soft Copy: - within the rehabilitation centers, the necessary office equipments mainly computers were not available hence, arranging, storing and compiling various work documents with soft copy were found difficult. However, as per the staff explanations, documents were arranged using hard copies.

Time Limitations for Vocational Training: as per the interview findings, the trainees supposed to complete the skills training program on average within six months. This period was too short to enable trainees to effectively acquire practical skills especially in view of the fact that some of them lack the basic and necessary literacy skills. Consequently this situation hampered those youth to get employment. However, as per the project staffs explanations during the interview, the project alleviated such challenge by incurring extra costs resending those youth to different training centers to make them competent.

Absence of Proper Psychosocial Support Manual: - unlike the vocational training, the psychosocial support training did not have proper manual and the training were not given with schedule. However, the program team leader stated that attempt was made to find some individuals training manuals and then group and individual counseling were given based on their common problems and tried to overcome addiction and other related problems.

Micro-Finance Requirement: - As underlined by the participants some of the normal credit procedures and requirements of the micro-finances institutions could be somehow complex to be fully met by the youth whom needs to organize in small business. The youth has been claimed the 20% prior saving requirement was unfavorable for them. As a result, in considering the youth situations the project made an agreement with Elshaday Relief and Development Association to cover them the 20% prior saving requirement and now they are free from such commitments.

Number of Members in a Business: Most of the FGD participants who have been organized in diverse businesses under the Micro & Small Enterprises have raised the issue that the number of youth allowed to be involved in a given business is highly excessive. In other words, the total number of youth assigned to engage in a given business under the same Shed could not commensurate with the maximum income generating capacity of the business. In the opinion of the participant youth, the arrangement has not been taken into account the maximum proceeds to be generated from the business in a situation where all the necessary things are fulfilled. According to the participants, this situation has considerably reduced the income level to be shared among the members and has also led them to think that the likelihood of getting adequate personal income from such business is so minimal. The project manager mentioned

that some of the youth who were uncomfortable with this arrangement withdraw from the organized business and arguing with the project. Therefore, he also emphasized that the project has also strived to establish networking with various huge sectors in order to link the rehabilitated youth with vast employment opportunity. Hence, those youth whom withdraw from the small business group were placed in various organizations. Moreover the project has a plan to limit the number of organized youth 8-10.

Youth Run Away: According to the key informants' interview, youth run away from the center was a major challenge to the project. Especially street youth who were rehabilitated in Addis Ababa rehabilitation centers escaped from the center every time. (KII -01)The project manager suggested that the eagerness to run away might be caused by the strictness and regulations of the center. Unlike the center, the street offers the youth autonomy; that they can make their own decisions and make up their own rules, without anyone interfering. (KII -03)The project team leader declared that since the Yeka and Bole sub cities rehabilitation centers are found in Addis Ababa, it was easy for them to run away and back to the street. He also added that street boys were found in a great record in such condition. Therefore to overcome this problem unless and otherwise especial reasons have found, all street boys rehabilitated in Afar Amibar Center.

4.7. Rehabilitated Youth Contributions for Their Country Development

According to (KII -01) the project manager beliefs although youth are playing very important role in country, family and household economy, still their contributions are not recognized enough. The youth and adolescents are potential to learn for financial and livelihood activities if environments are supportive to them. (KII -02)The project manager also said that "*if we want our country to emerge as a global superpower, then we all need have to join hands and*

help the government in uplifting the country; that is why this big project attempt to contribute its' part through rehabilitation of the marginalized street youth assuming these youth could contribute a lot for their country development using their great potential and skills in anyway."

(KII -03)The interviewed team leader put his idea as follow: *Indeed contributing to the national development is not only all about involving in a great achievement or performing huge tasks but also focusing on one owns' parts to boost up personal achievement and perform better in every single day could be also counted in one of the great contribution for development of once country. On consequence the development of every youth will lead the development of the community and then the country at large.* He also added that if the youth committed to uplift their backward attitude and help their growth and development, the country will progress much faster. One of the staff interviewee(KII -05) were also emphasized his ideas that *"most of the rehabilitated youth are employed in different organization and involved in various businesses generating activities to be independent and help themselves. At least these youth left behind the street life and started the new path for their own development and achievement. Therefore, the sum of every individual youth efforts and achievement will lead to their country development.*

Moreover, (KII -03)the team leader underlined that; our country cannot make progress if the entire youth goes and joins in similar professions be business person or becomes engineers. We need a variety of professionals to make the country progress in various fields and have a sustainable development. That is why this project trained the youth in various vocations to contribute their own parts for the development of their country performing a variety of professional activities as per their engagement demanding.

As per one of the interviewee staff explanation(KII -07), focusing only on oneself and accumulate much money might seem healthy and bring happiness for a bit but the question

always arises as to what you have contributed to the others and to help your country progress. Therefore, the project is highly believing in the above mentioned idea and staffs were consulted with the former 1st and 2nd round rehabilitated youth who were engaged on cobblestone construction and cobblestone wall work to put their stones in order to built their county progress. On consequence youth were convinced and had been purchased 54,700.00 (fifty four thousand seven hundred birr) Bond for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam construction.

Chapter Five: Discussion

This section presents the discussion of the major study finding on the youth lived experiences prior to rehabilitation, the project service components, current livelihood and psychosocial status and challenges of the rehabilitated youth, and youth participation for their country development are discussed in relation to the research objectives and in light of reviewed literatures.

Youth Lived Experiences Prior To Rehabilitation

The study illustrated that all of the rehabilitated youth used to work and/or live on the streets. As a result, these youth were faced with a number of economic and psychosocial difficulties. The long period of time that these youth spent on the street has affected their behavior, their relationship with their families as well as the larger community. As UNICEF stated, after being exposed to the street life, young girls and boys are highly vulnerable to a wide range of abuse, discrimination and exploitation (2003). UNICEF also indicated street youth's access to basic services such as food, health care and education are very much limited (2003). For those youth who were living on the street, not only work, but also being engaged in begging and stealing was a question of survival. UNICEF stated that street children and youth assume and actually engage in the acts of crime, substance abuse, promiscuous behavior and begging (2003). As it depicted on the findings large number of youth Participants do not have positive educational experiences or the opportunity to complete high school. A large body of evidence links poverty with poor educational outcomes (Ansalone, 2001; Blanden and Gregg, 2004) Someone who has not completed high school is four times more likely to be unemployed than a college graduate (American Human Development Project, 2009). Being illiterate limits their employment options and earning potential since lack of high school completion is linked to

unemployment and diminished earnings capacity. Moreover, most the street youth have been off-track educationally for an extended period of time. This includes long periods without school attendance or enrollment. This often culminates in dropping out prior to completion of a high school. The lack of consistency in their educational participation impacts overall skill development. According to consumer perspective economical reasons are the strongest factor recognized in preventing youth from having a normal live. This perspective argues that most street children and youth enter the street life due to the need to earn money (Dybicz, 2005). As a result of the study findings most of the children who used to work on the streets to support their family's income and cover their education coasts have stopped working.

The study finding reveled that girls have often forced by brokers and Bar-owners to engage in house work and prostitution since they don't have any other means to survive. The majority of young people on the street find themselves forced to engage in illegal means such as drug sales, prostitution, theft and gang activities to secure income (Dybicz, 2005). Illegal actions are presented as a response to the conditions of being on the street. Even the most occasional young street worker is exposed to drugs, violence and other risky engagements that characterize street culture (Karabanow, 2003). Substance use is a coping strategy sought by street children and youth to overcome contextual struggles, such as poverty, histories of abuse and neglect, poor grades and school problems.

Service Components

The findings revealed that BoLSAs' street youth rehabilitation project services components include: psychosocial support, skills development (vocational training) and create link with Micro-Finance Institutions or search employment opportunities. (Fernandes & Vaughn 2008) underline how only multidimensional approaches can address the problems of street

youth. Volpi stated education and health care are most of the time common services provided by street children programs (2003). Facilitating income generating activities, job training and basic assistances are also indicated to be common approaches of intervention among street youth programs (Volpi, 2003).

The findings also confirmed that the skill training was organized and offered for about 6 months in various business and vocational fields. The provision of basic needs for the youth that serve them both in the short and long term, skill trainings to help individuals earn an income as an adult and meeting basic needs in the short term by providing food, clothing, shelter, etc (Dybicz, 2005). The rehabilitated youth described the vocational training that the organization provided as very prominent and useful. Providing these youth with marketable skill training opportunity is a good approach in empowering them to support themselves independently in a short run. Approach involves street education and assumes 'that the best way to fight the problem is to educate and empower the youth' (Carizosa & Poertner, 1992). However, most of the youth were also argued the time allotted to vocational trainings was not sufficient enough for both theoretical and practical lessons. Some even complained that they had left the center without having the required knowledge. As per the researcher understanding with regard to vocational training, youth who didn't acquire the required skills might be those youth who trained only theoretical parts of that specific vocation or the time allotted for that specific training might be unplanned. That might be because with such short term vocational and business trainings they could not grasp all knowledge/skill. Moreover, based on the findings some of the youth were found in illiterate group and almost all terminated their school before a year and more, so that this circumstance could contribute a lot for their capacity to learn, even writing, reading and understand the subjects might be difficult for them. Therefore,

with this situation it could be hard for them to be competent enough with the given short period of time unless they organized upon their capacity and education level.

Based on the interview findings under the psychosocial support program counseling in different topics like substance abuse and HIV education has been provided to all rehabilitated youth in group and individually. The staff interviewees were also believed that the project has been provided effective counseling services and supported those rehabilitated youth to adjust their problems. The findings also showed that these counseling sessions helped the youth to be more informed on sensitive issues such as reproductive health. Similarly as per the youth confirmation, they benefited from the counseling service to fit into the rules and regulations of the institutions and shaped their communication skills. Moreover they attempted to stop drugs, fighting and struggling to adjust their attitude towards their bad life experience. In such kinds of rehabilitation center, incorporating psychosocial support is very essential since it has great consequences on the rehabilitated youth mental and psychological progress. (Warren, 2002) psychosocial is of the view that addressing the broader emotional, social and economic needs of survivors is a critical aspect of the rehabilitation process. Support survivors in becoming reintegrated into all aspects of community life including education, employment, recreation and social and political activities. Moreover, providing the psychosocial support could also help the rehabilitated street youth to cure effectively. Therefore, High level therapy or excellent psychosocial support is mandatory to bring the required result. However, almost all of the youth participants were complaining about the insufficient time allocated on the psychosocial support service and absence of the proper manual hindered the provision this support. Since street youth have fragile mental, appropriate long term treatment should be provided without systemic barriers. Balachova, Bonner and Levy, (2008) stated rehabilitation of street youth should

involves long-term care and professional management as well as basic psychological support for youth to prevent them from returning to the streets. Furthermore, the finding revealed that mass counseling to be held once in a week and especially when the organization receives complains, such as violence and group fights among themselves. Individual therapies were also provided when they miss behaved and disobey rules and regulations. The youth also pointed out that the absence of continues counseling. Homelessness may be more than simply not having somewhere to live owing to unforeseen circumstances. This means that the problem of homelessness cannot be solved by the provision of counseling alone. Since rehabilitation includes efforts aimed at restoring the affected persons to reduce disability and prevent relapses and recurrences of a problem. Therefore, rehabilitation of street youth focuses on reducing the effects of street life and the results of this negative experience on the youth (Balachova, Bonner & Levy, 2008). These may include maladaptive behaviors such as: drug and alcohol abuse; conduct disorders, delinquency, sexual behavior problems and post-traumatic stress disorder. Hence multidimensional approaches should be used to address the problems of street youth. The findings also discovered that even if the project incorporates life skill training in psychosocial support service, the service did not provide to any of the youth. Hence, life skills training that deals with issues such as self-awareness, self-esteem, personal development, goal setting, time management, cooking, cleaning, organizing and ways to budget one's own money are often crucial parts and need to incorporate in the program so that youth learn concrete ways of handling new situations. As per the findings, youths who were disobedient and breached the required project ethical requirements were canceled and drive back from the program. As per the researcher viewpoint it is expected that the rehabilitated youth could behave wrongly till he/she adjust themselves to some normal or acceptable conditions. However, this action might create

bad consequence on the drive back youth and it is difficult to say it is appropriate decision. The street youth are not believed to be passive victims who are just waiting to be saved and they are not criminals who should be punished into better behavior. Instead they are viewed as resourceful and resilient individuals who are able to survive under very harsh conditions (Rurevo & Bourdillon, 2003, Malindi & Theron, 2010). The efforts to help street youth have to be created together with the street youth in order to be successful (Panter-Brick, 2002). Dybicz also stated street and vulnerable youth do not want to be viewed and perceived as victims, but rather want their strength and resiliency recognized(2005). One way this is achieved is through interventions that are greatly empowerment based (Dybicz, 2005). Since the street youth have experienced different unaccepted and unpleasant conditions and conducts, plus they overwhelmed through physical and emotional violence, they should get appropriate therapy to recover from their trauma. Unless, they could not be ready to pass on the next stage or the transition could be inappropriate. Therefore, it is difficult to say that the project has attain its' target on this regard since the psychosocial support services were not provided properly.

Livelihood and Psychosocial Status of the Youth

The findings of the study was evidenced that large number of the rehabilitated street youth livelihood status relatively better than from their pre-rehabilitation conditions. Most of them got employment opportunity and some of them organized in small business activities. The study has uncovered that the project link the youth with the Micro-Finance institution to access the startup loan covering the 20% prior saving requirement from Elshaday Relief and Development Association own account. However, those participants who have started business after having received the start up loan on their part raised as a challenge the high interest rate and the inadequacy of the loan repayment grace period given to them since they were forced to

begin the loan repayment immediately at the time they started the business. Linking with financial institution could be one way to help those youth in starting their business but program could not only succeeded in linking participants with economic opportunities but also in helping them maintain sustainable livelihoods address various interdependent developmental needs of the youth. A strong theme among the professional wisdom perspective as well, emphasizes on income generation in one form or another for intervention aimed at street youth (Dybicz, 2005). In the normal course of things, one may expect those youth who were organized in micro and small enterprises to generate adequate income to live on, but contrary to this normal assumption, the youth could not generate adequate and sustainable income from the businesses. In this regard, the main problem stemmed from the monthly loan repayment obligations and the loan repayment amount took almost all of the proceeds of the business generated in a month. Due to this, all those participant youth who were organized in micro enterprises could not manage to get an income to share amongst the members in the same business. The study was also revealed youth difficulties which hamper their livelihood status progress emanated from the difficulty being faced by the youth to earn sufficient income to live on. Moreover, *inabilities to get employment with incomplete skill training, their poor saving culture and lack of affordable house* with their capacity were also the revealed participants' challenges which hindered them to lead their life successfully.

The overall aim of offering the vocational training is that to educate youth in some specific skill and earn a living plus more. Therefore, to meet this purpose, the training must be a realistic one to mean that the skills taught should have to have the potential to be utilized for income generation and also it has to offer a high prospect in that the youth will be able to master and utilize the skill taught. According to (Surtees, 2012), trainings which are aimed at

ensuring skill and vocational development shall be considered to be most effective if it practically advances the likelihood of finding or retaining suitable job opportunities for youth. On this aspect, participant youth faced practical challenge in finding employment opportunities having insufficient skill. The Alliance for Youth Development (2013) argues that “effective learning provides individuals with the necessary tools to become productive citizens, pursue education and lifelong learning, engage in meaningful employment, and work toward achieving their life goals. Therefore, improving the relevance of youth workforce development or skills development programs has become an increasing focus of many youth employment interventions.

With regards of lack of affordable house challenge, Indeed affordable house is a concern for everyone in the city, but these rehabilitated youths are significantly affected by homelessness and now they need home to depart their past. Research suggests that subsidized housing combined with mental health services may be an effective intervention for successfully placing individuals who have a history of homelessness into community housing (O’Connell et al., 2008). Renting house is unaffordable for those youth and is difficult to obtain therefore, the project need to assume other alternatives considering as one of the project component, unless this situation might resend those youth to the street.

The findings reveled that most of the rehabilitated youth would left behind the gloomy life on the streets they used to live and now they believed that they have started new life. However, the study has also unveiled that those youth have faced some social challenges which emanate from the surrounding community and service giver institutions. Among the discovered challenges: *lack of follow up from the project after rehabilitation, barriers to access services* due to identity card requirement, *community misconception, self-imposed social isolation* due to

weak economy capacity and fear of marginalization were mentioned. Post rehabilitation follow-up should be essential for rehabilitated youth to monitor their progress and help them to adjust with the real environment and the new life style. Moreover, services for street youth need to be integrated with the community to ensure that the youth is safe and has continuous support (Balachova, Bonner & Levy 2008). Therefore, the project should incorporate follow-up strategies in to the existing services schema. In addition the project should look for ways to collaborate further with professionals across the primary care, mental health, social welfare and legal sectors, policy makers, colleges/universities, religious leaders, parents and families in order to provide strong psychosocial support and to create awareness among the society. A study of street youth in Brazil emphasized the importance of communities and the society and identified public institutions as the most suitable for preventive and rehabilitative interventions. Although, services and systems of care vary from country to country, there are some similarities. The need Psychosocial support is all about helping those youth to improve their psychosocial wellbeing (UNICEF, 2005). It is about encouraging better connections between people, and building a better sense of self and community. Therefore in order to strength the youth psychosocial capacity the service should directs attention towards the totality of youth's experience rather than focusing exclusively on the physical or psychological aspects of health and wellbeing, and emphasizes the need to view these issues within the interpersonal contexts of wider family and community networks in which they are located.

Youth Participation for Their Country Development

This study disclosed that the rehabilitated youth attempted to contribute their part for the development of their country in determining to leave street life and re-start their life again in understanding their value. Since the DFID's definition of participation is linked to a rights

perspective as: “..enabling people to realize their rights to participate in, and access information relating to, the decision-making processes which affect their lives(DFID,2010).” Moreover the 1st and 2nd round rehabilitated youth purchased 54,700.00 (fifty four thousand seven hundred birr) Bond for the Grand *Ethiopian Renaissance Dam* construction. The vision of any country lies in the hands of youths. Since those youth are filled with tremendous and towering ambitions. It will be a great wastage of human resources if these youths are not given an opportunity to exercise their talent. “*Young people are the foundation for effective development, and if engaged they will improve many of the structural development challenges that we face today, including enhancing the cohesiveness of families and communities, reducing health risks and advancing livelihood opportunities. They are the bridge between effective development policy and valuable practical action on the ground.*” (DFID 2010).

The study finding also revealed that BoLSA street youth project design skill development training and psychosocial support service to assist the rehabilitated youth to change their life. The literature provides links between the practice of child and youth participation and aid effectiveness by citing the strong links between child and youth involvement in development activities and the benefits of tailoring programs to their strategic needs (Harper et al. 2010; DFID, CSO, 2010). The primary role of young people is to get a good education in order to become better citizens of tomorrow. They need to learn skills to do the job that their country’s economy needs. They also need to know how to read, write, think, understand, analyze, and discuss the issues their country faces. The entire success of the nation depends on the youths. Youth livelihood themes, including nutrition and food security (focused on education, skills transfer related to governance, voice and accountability) are documented as a key entry point for wide scale youth participation and as essential to equipping young people with peace-building

skills (DFID, 2010). Since the rehabilitated youth found in the young age category, it could possible say it is the age of discovery and dreams. They have the power to transform the nation into a better place. *“Young people are beginning to be assertive in the community”* and *“Youth are realizing their potential and taking pride in their achievements”* (Willetts et al. 2010). They also have the ability to lead their fellow citizens into the right direction. Youths are fighters. They fight for an identity in society, equality, the homeless, bullying, unemployment, exploitation, poverty and other problems which the world faces today. All of them hopes for a world full of opportunities, so great minds can conquer them and become better individuals. They need good morals and values to handle conflicts in a positive way. (UNDP, 2006) notes that youth participation *“has been particularly strong in post-conflict settings”* and peace processes provide opportunities for a higher degree of youth participation. Hence, the street youths that we have out there should be taken into consideration. They should be given an opportunity to expose their intelligence to the world and make themselves into someone. Some organizations and other firm should assist those youths; so they can make our land a great and educated one. They will make a huge difference in society and the entire world.

Chapter Six: Conclusion and Implications of the Study

6.1. Conclusions

The study findings described the experience of staffs and the rehabilitated youth socio-economy situation and overall the project services. Accordingly, the following conclusions are drawn from the study.

The BoLSA Street Youth Rehabilitation Project aims at supporting vulnerable street youth so as to enable them to live better life. Hence since 2003 to date the project has gathered and rehabilitated 6000 street youth within 6 rounds. The office provided psychosocial training which was aimed at bringing about attitudinal change, skill trainings in various vocational and business fields which stayed for about 5-6 months, facilitation of business startup loans and networking with employment opportunity were mentioned as the major interventions aimed at adjusting the life of the street youth. The study confirmed that BoLSA street youth rehabilitation project works in collaboration with other governmental and non-governmental organizations and this positively contributed to the project services improvement in reducing BoLSAs' burden. Moreover, since the stakeholders' participations are a lot in various aspects, it is possible to say that the stakeholders have contributed their parts to uplift the rehabilitated youth life standard. The findings confirmed that the project has faced various challenges to run the project effectively, however most of the strategies used by the project were helpful to overcome those challenges.

Having the above study findings it is possible to conclude that the project service components were not fully effective in achieving street youth needs and did not help them to reach an optimal level of independent functioning in the community. For instance the youth didn't get continuous and critical psychosocial well-being training and this support was less

functional in the project. The rehabilitated youth weren't diagnosed and treated well individually. Plus the psychosocial support training has only focused to solve temporary problems within very short period of time rather fixing the youth various traumatic situation. Moreover the training omitted the critical life skill training and didn't provide trauma recovery programs to alleviate the youth suffering and decrease their marginalization.

-With regards to the vocational skill training the project attempted to provide a variety of business skill training and this effort helped the youth to have choice rather assigning with one or two specific business training. Moreover the youth could acquaint with new knowledge. However, some of the skill training which was organized and offered by the project for 6 months apparently lacked depth and did not considered the youth learning capacity; due to that some of the youth are not competitive enough in searching job.

The findings of the study were also indicated that the rehabilitated youth livelihood status and their economy situation is better than before and forward one step ahead. After rehabilitation they started new life working and organizing in small business activities. However they encountered several livelihood challenges. Among the challenges, lack of sustainable income takes the forefront position. Lack of employment opportunities with incomplete skill and lack of affordable house were also their major challenges. The challenges which are associated with the formation of micro-enterprises and among which organizing excessive youth in a micro-business, the challenges which are associated with inadequacy of the start-up loan repayment grace period and the high interest rate could be mentioned. The study has also revealed that the youth have experienced positive changes with regards to their attitudes and they determine to leave behind the street life. However, the youth have also faced social challenges like: lack of post rehabilitation follow up, community misconception of them, self-imposed social isolation due to insufficient economy and fear of marginalization.

6.2 Implications of the Study

Implications for Social Work Education

Given the fact that the social work is a helping profession, it would be of paramount importance if the social workers get adequate training on street life in general, how to cure people from their unpleasant street life experience and the kinds of services which are much important to rehabilitate peoples who experienced street life. Since social work seeks to connect people with needed resources, change social structures, help service users negotiate problematic situations, and deconstruct socio political discourses (Wood & Tully, 2006). Hence, there is a strong need to incorporate the *Social Work Practice on Street Life* as an independent course, so as to equip the graduates of the profession with the necessary knowledge aimed at practical interventions.

Implications for Social Work Intervention

The results of the study illustrated that BoLSA street youth rehabilitation project have positively influenced the lives of youth. But there are also a number of challenges faced by both the youth and the organization as part of the project implementation. Therefore, the rich experience of the participant youth and project staffs can be utilized from different angles. Furthermore, since effective social work interventions tend to build on people's strengths, involve elements of participation, self-help, and mutual support and follow the least stigmatizing approach. As a result, intervention towards the problem of street youth should be able to provide a caring and safe space for these youth. In addition as a helping profession, the social work intervention may be needed in the provision of consistent psycho-social support and counseling services for the street youth. Besides, given the escalating trend of street life in Ethiopia, the social workers should strongly advocate for the country to have a comprehensive policy and for

the establishment of institutionalized street youth rehabilitation and reintegration service providing center at a national level.

Implications for Future Research

As far as the future research implication of the study is concerned, since the subject matter need much attention to change the prevalence of the problem this study may somehow serve as a spring-board for the much anticipated further researches to be undertaken in the Ethiopian context. Furthermore this study only investigate the street youth pre and post rehabilitation socio-economy situation together with challenges and the BoLSAs' rehabilitation project service components to rehabilitate those youth. However, there is a need for additional researches that include the families or guardians of the youth, members of a community and other service providers which are working on street youth. The undertaking of this type of research would help to make interventions geared towards the problem of street youth more sound and effective.

Implications for Policy

Ethiopia has endorsed the Youth Policy at the 100th FDRE Council of Ministers regular meeting that was held on March 12/2004 ensuring youth to be active participant in democratization and economic development activities. Aiming to create an empowered young generation with democratic outlook and ideas, equipped with knowledge and professional skills get organized and built on ethical integrity. But, the experience of youth who participated in this study indicated the situation of many street youth in the country calls for a real and contextual implementation of existing policy. Consequently, this implies both governmental and nongovernmental organizations working towards the wellbeing of street youth in the country should give a due attention to works of

advocacy on the rights of the youth. Thus, all the stakeholders should aggressively strive towards the youth policy implementation and specifically make advocacy to materialize the policy.

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Appendix A: Interview Guide for the Key Informant

Dear Participants;

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation and dedication of your precious time to participate on this interview.

The main purpose of this interview is to gather data/information for a study, which is intended to assess the rehabilitation efforts of A.A BoLSA on promoting socioeconomic status of street youth. The study is purely intended only for academic fulfillment.

Hence, I am very much interested to hear your valuable opinion on the research topic and related issues. The information you give me is completely confidential, and I will not associate your name with anything you say in the interview session.

Finally, if you have any questions now or after we complete the discussion, you are welcome to contact me in person or through my phone.

Background Information:

1. Age
2. Gender.....
3. Educational status.....
4. Fields of study.....
5. Year of professional service at the project.....
6. Position or role in the project.....

Strategies & Approaches:

1. Where/how do BoLSAs' first come in contact with the youth? What is the process like?
2. What geographical areas do you cover?
3. At what age do the majority of the youth start attending the project?
4. What are the criteria for enrolment in the project?
5. How many youth do rehabilitated in the project to date?
6. Does BoLSA's youth project collaborate with any other organizations? Who are they?

7. What were the roles of stakeholders to improve the program?
8. How is the project financed?
9. What are the main BoLSAs' street youth rehabilitation program components?
10. Who are professionals working in this project?
11. What are challenges of BoLSAs' street youth rehabilitation project?
12. What are the strategies used by BoLSA to overcome the project challenges?
13. What difficulties may youth experience when rehabilitating in and leaving the project?
14. How many youth complete vs drop out of the project? For what reasons?
15. Do you think that BoLSAs' youth rehabilitation program helping the street youth in promoting their psychosocial wellbeing and economic status?
16. What do you suppose to a positive contribution of the street youth for the development of their country?
17. Do you follow-up and/or keep supporting the youth after completing the project? How? For how long?
18. What do you think is positive with the project?
19. What do you think can be done better with the project?

Other:

- Is there anything you would like to add?

Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Points for Rehabilitated Youth

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation and dedication of your precious time to participate on this Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

Background Information:

1. Age.....
2. Gender.....
3. Level of Education
4. Parental situation:.....
 - a. Both are alive and live together
 - b. Both are alive but separated
 - c. Both are alive but divorced
 - d. Both are not alive
 - e. Only one parent is alive

Life Experiences Prior To Rehabilitation

1. Why you joined the street life?
2. How was your life before you came in contact with BoLSA rehabilitation project?
 - Relatives, family and Friends?
 - Social network?
 - Education/earning a living?
 - Physical/mental health?
 - Drugs/crime?

Life While Living At BoLSA Rehabilitation Center

1. When and how did you come in contact with BoLSA rehabilitation project?
2. For how long did you live at BoLSA rehabilitation project?
3. How do you manage to adapt with the new environment?
4. How did you experience the rehabilitation center at all?
5. What kind of training have you got from the center?
6. What did you benefit from the project?
7. What were challenges you faced at the project?
8. What were the roles of stakeholders to improve your life ?
9. How did you experience the final stages of your participation in and departure from the project?

Life after BoLSAs' Rehabilitation Center

1. How is your livelihood status today?
2. How is your psychological change?
3. Have you received any support from the project?
4. Do you have close interaction with the project?
5. How do you manage to live life with the community?
6. What are challenges you faced after departing the project?
7. In your own opinion, does BoLSA rehabilitation project has impact to change your life?
8. What is your viewpoint on improving the project efforts?
9. What are your goals and ambitions?

Other:

- Is there anything you would like to add?

Appendix C: Observation Check List

This observation check list serves to examine the rehabilitated street youth situation while Focus Group Discussions.

- Personal appearance.....
- Way of dressing.....
- Way of communication.....
- Participation.....
- Self-confidence
- Choice of word.....
- Listening skill.....
- Patience to stay
- Willingness to cooperate.....