

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**THE SITUATION OF STREET CHILDREN AND THE ROLE
OF NGOs IN MEETING THEIR NEEDS: THE CASE OF
ADDIS ABABA**

BY
DESSALE AYALEW



ADDIS ABABA
JUNE 1998

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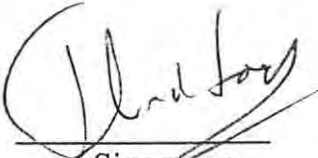
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
School of Graduate Studies

*The Role of NGO's in Meeting the Needs of Street Children:
The Case of Addis Ababa*

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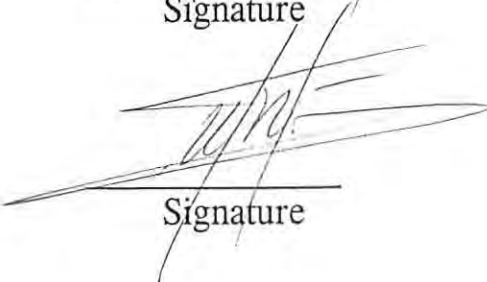
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DEDICATION

To my late mother W/o Tsehaynesh Sisay who died in November 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGEMNT

Praise be to Thee, My Lord who helped me from the very beginning to this very minute to get my efforts fruitful.

In the course of the research for this thesis, I have benefited from the help and assistance of many individuals and institutions.

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ABSTRACT

In Ethiopia, there are many poor, displaced, unaccompanied, disabled, abused and neglected, orphaned, and street children. The major cities and towns are particularly facing frightening problems as urbanization continues unabated resulting in a rapidly rising population. Such a phenomenon leads to shortage of amenities and puts the existing urban residents deprived. A realistic symptom of such deprivation is the alarming number of street children. The majority of these children work on the streets with some even totally living on the streets without any adult care and supervision.

The study revealed that street children are compelled to work on the streets in their struggle for survival. By doing menial jobs they both support themselves and their parents meager incomes with the small incomes they earn. Out of the total interviewees 52 percent are children on the streets who work during the day time and return home during the night. Children of the street who work and sleep on the street are about 32 percent while the high risk children are 15 percent.

The major causes of streetism, according to the study, are poverty, family disintegration and instability, loss of parents, migration and maltreatment by parents. The study also confirmed that the magnitude of the problem of street children is increasing because a number of families could not fulfill the needs of their children. Although various services are provided by the NGOs to alleviate the problem, its magnitude is still increasing. Because the magnitude of the problem and the services which are being rendered by the NGOs could not match.

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n. 37 refers to the page next to page 37.

n. 45 refers to the page next to page 45.

Acronyms

CBE	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.
CCF	Christian Children's Fund.
CRDA	Christian Relief and Development Association
CYAO	Children and Youth Affairs Organization
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission.
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia
FGAE	Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia
FSCE	Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NBE	National Bank of Ethiopia
NCC	National Children's Commission
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NPA	National Program of Action
OLSAB	Oromia Labour and Social Affairs Bureau
RAD	Rehabilitation Agency for the Disabled
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
SIM	Society for International Missionaries
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TGE	Transitional Government of Ethiopia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Like in many least developed countries, the scale of the problem of street children in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular has reached very unprecedented levels due to intertwined and complex socio-economic factors including poverty, family breakdown, political unrest/instability, rural-urban migration, mass displacement, loss of parents, drought and famine, and so on. Despite the existence of the problem of streetism in every country, its size, nature and cause varies from country to country depending on the level of economic development, cultural and traditional settings, institutional interventions and the level of social harmony and peace.

Of all complex and varied factors urban poverty, emanating from the proliferation of slum communities, unemployment, underemployment, ill health of parents and displacement, is the major cause that accentuates the problem of street children in Addis Ababa.

Children occupy an important position particularly in creating a link between now and the future. "Every child is an asset glamour to the family and a tremendous fortune to the community. Children are the future hope of any society since they will be vested with the great responsibility of becoming the leaders of tomorrow" (Melan, 1996:7).

Similarly, Hassen, in his opening address of the workshop entitled "Protect Children from Abuse and Neglect" put children as a future of mankind and state that "what the world of tomorrow will look like will depend on what

adults could do for children today as we cannot reap tomorrow what we haven't sown today." This requires a lot of sacrifices from the adults who control resources both human and material in favour of children (1996:12).

The family setting, which is the best if not the only one place for a child to grow and develop, fails to give the love and attention the child needs due to various interrelated problems mentioned above. It is when there is no peace and security in the home, the child runs away from home and joins the street in order to find the recognition and love it has lost at home. The street, which is not a comfortable place for adults to dwell let alone for children, serves them as a place to play, beg, do petty and/or menial jobs. Its corners, pavements, bus stops, churchyards, verandahs, open market places, etc, become the sleeping place for the children. That is, in a number of cities and towns of Ethiopia a very large number of street children live and sleep miserably due to various causal factors like poverty, political unrest, family breakdown, loss of parents, ill-treatment by parents/guardians, migration and displacement but poverty being the leading one.

In rural Ethiopia where the family and the neighbourhood play a significant role in the social control, many social problems including the problem of street children were non-existent and unknown. As time went by, the emergence and expansion of urbanization brought a change in human history and this in turn, had changed the economic and social structure of the society at a fast rate. Thus, families have lost their functional strength in controlling their children survival and impersonal relationships therein. As a consequence of urbanization, the problem of street children becomes a challenge of many countries like Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, being one of the urban centers, shares the same problem.

In a total population of about 56 million, Ethiopia has 23.5 million children under 16 years of age. State of the World's Children showed in 1992 that

some 60 percent of Ethiopia's 6.2 million urban poor live below the absolute poverty line and some 1.1 million urban children are victims of debilitating poverty. Likewise, in the rural areas 65 percent of children live below the poverty line. This implies that nearly two thirds of all Ethiopian families are on incomes below that required to meet the minimum basic needs of the family (Veale and Azeb: 1992:5). Here it is clear that children, who are the most vulnerable group among the whole society, constitute half of the population. The children's physical, mental, emotional and social development is susceptible to permanent damage and most of them are living under difficult circumstances. The problem is worse since it creates a high dependency of children on those productive age groups who are living under poverty.

The seriousness of the problem is recognized by the Ethiopian government and improved concerns are showing up these days. Notable among the measures taken are the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as of December 9, 1991 and the subsequent effecting of it by Proclamation No. 10/1992 as of January 30, 1992. The tenets of this provision are also included in the Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in 1995 (Proclamation No.1/1995). In sum, the Convention dictates promotion of the "best interests of the child", which in turn, refers to mental, physical and social development of the child in all dimensions (MOLSA and UNICEF, 1995).

Similarly, Child Rights Committee embodying different government organizations working on child areas and chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is reported to have been organized in order to implement the Convention and other similar charters/declarations.

Such developments show the commitment of the government to curb the problem of street children. Accordingly, significant improvements which, among others, include sensitization workshops, training of staff, national

surveys /studies on the situation of street children, expansion/establishment of various NGOs to work on street children, etc, have come to the fore.

The NGOs are playing a crucial role in promoting the welfare of street children. They plan, finance, manage and provide counseling and advocacy services for a variety of specialized projects set up to assist street children, abused children, orphans and neglected children.- They implement and evaluate various relief and rehabilitation programs. Both these national and international NGOs vary in size, affiliation, nationality and financial status and as a result have different capacity levels.

All NGOs have to sign a Basic Agreement setting out conditions of establishment and operation so as to get recognition from the Government.

Due to the new federal arrangement, the regional governments have the autonomy in resource mobilization and utilization. In this regard, NGOs, which would like to function in various regions will not come to the center in order to sign agreement for recognition. It is up to the regions. Yet NGOs are not sufficient in themselves.

Therefore, in this paper an attempt will be made to assess the general condition of street children in Addis Ababa and the role of NGOs in tackling the problem of streetism. In so doing, the paper is organized in the following manner.

Chapter one gives some introductory remarks on objective, methodology, limitation and hypothesis of the study. Chapter two highlights literature review on the subject under study. Chapter three focuses on the magnitude of the problem of streetism. Some of the most significant factors that contribute to streetism will be discussed. Chapter four summarizes what NGOs are doing so as to meet the needs of street children. Finally, conclusions and recommendations will be forwarded.

1.2 The Objective of the Study

The major objective of the study is to assess the situation of street children and the role of NGOs in meeting the needs of street children who are in need of help by emphasizing particularly on Addis Ababa.

The specific objectives are to:

- highlight on the magnitude and nature of the problem of streetism in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular,
- examine the major contributing factors that aggravate the problem of street children, and
- identify, on sample basis, the needs of street children and investigate the role played by the NGOs in mitigating the problem.

This study will be of some help for further research and give an understanding of the seriousness of the problem.

As this problem is part and parcel of the country's social urban problems, it will hopefully shed new light on the problem of streetism. Since the problem is growing, it is necessary to analyze the past situation and recommend better intervention programs at least to prevent and mitigate this increasing problem.

1.3 Methodology

In order to write this thesis both written materials and oral sources are used. In this regard, the available written materials about street children which are

mostly found in the libraries of Addis Ababa University, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Foreign Relations and Development Cooperation Bureau and Labour and Social Affairs Bureau of Addis Ababa City Administration, Addis Ababa Municipality, and NGOs are used.

Besides, the study is based on questionnaires and interview questions which are used to interview the street children, and NGO's officials as well as government officials, academics, researchers and social workers (see Appendices 1 to 3).

After the questionnaire was developed, a pre-test on 6 street children was made to check whether the work could go smoothly or not. Except one street child, the other five were volunteer to have interview discussion with the writer. Then , in addition to the writer, two interviewers were hired to begin the work.

For the purpose of this study, a sample of 468 street children, of which 197 working on the streets and 271 getting assistance from NGOs, have been selected randomly. For the interview on the streets, the areas selected include Arat kilo, *Piazza*, St. George Church, *Atiklit Terra* (a place where vegetables/fruits are sold), Merkato, Bus station, Mesalemia, Teklehaimanot, Mexico, National Theater, *La Gare*, Total and Kirkos. These areas are selected because they are densely populated by street children. In these areas children who are found on the streets when the interviewers move from place to place have been interviewed. That is, those street children who were on the streets in the above areas during the interview period doing something and/or begging were interviewed. Since most of them are business areas they are both suitable for residence and serve the children to do menial jobs and other deviant activities like thieving.

The other group of children for interview are those who get any assistance from the 7 NGOs selected for review and assessment. From each NGO a sample of 30 to 40 children are taken. The seven NGOs were selected because they have responded very fast for the letter of cooperation written by the Addis Ababa University. Since their responses were immediate, it was easy to assess the activities of these NGOs too.

Like that of the street children, key persons such as government officials/staff, academics, social workers, researchers, etc were directly interviewed. NGOs' officials/staff were also another group to be interviewed.

In this research there was no stratification with respect to sex, religion and/or ethnic composition. Although these backgrounds on the street children are important for the study, it has been impossible to stratify my samples due to time limitation. Generally, the research is based on descriptive analysis.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

The major problem was related to the street children who were approached for the interview. A group of street children found in *Piazza* were not interested to have interview discussion with us by saying "nobody works for us", "we are very tired by being interviewed by a number of people", "leave us, we are doing business/*shikella* i.e, begging", etc. We face the same problem in *Merkato*, *Bus station* and *Total*. Here what is important is that the children have been interviewed by a number of government and NGO officials/experts, researchers, social workers, students, journalists, etc, and they are fed up of being interviewed for so many times.

In addition, people on the road interfere when we do interview with the children by throwing unnecessary questions to the children like "do you think

these people will bring some positive development to your life?" Related to this, when we interviewed children around Teklehaimanot Church, one priest who was observing our discussion with the children declared for the kids that "these people are from the Protestant religion and they are trying to baptize you". Then the children began to insult us and some of them were trying to fight with us. Although we have tried to inform them that we don't have any business related with religion even by showing our I.D. cards, they were not convinced. So after such attempts we were obliged to depart from the area by interrupting the interview. The serious problem here is that the importance of research is not yet known by the adult people let alone by the street children.

It has been also difficult to do the study as planned due to budget, time and various interrelated problems. Even very few data collected are not included in the analysis part of my thesis. Besides, it has been impossible to develop and collect data from the public and the families of the street children to support the analysis of the study. Data on incomes of the families of street children were not collected. The unavailability of established databases in both government and NGOs was another problem. Data were collected here and there even sometimes getting nothing.

1.5 Hypotheses

The hypotheses tested by this study are the following.

1. The magnitude of the problem of streetism is increasing in the past years due to various interrelated problems.
2. Poverty, family instability and weakness, and rural-urban migration are the major causes of streetism.

3. Almost all-street children leave their families because the families are unable to fulfill their basic needs.
4. Like the magnitude of the problem of streetism, the number of NGOs, which deal with the problem of street children directly or indirectly, is increasing particularly in recent years. Despite such good developments, the problem of streetism continued unabated.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Children in General

Rapid population growth, accompanied by sluggish and stagnant socio economic development, has become the major feature of least developed countries. This situation in turn has led to general impoverishment of the society in these countries. Such situation has particularly contributed to the mounting social problems of children and youth (Assefa and Dilnesaw, 1996:1).

As regards a child the essence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child can be summarized as follows:

The Convention speaks to three basic rights of the child. It speaks of the right to survival, a right which is at present denied to 14 million children each year, and calls for a rapid deployment of today's means of preventing most of those deaths. It speaks also of the right to development, a right which is at present denied to those who are malnourished, to those who live with frequent illness, to those who have no opportunity to be educated and to those who do not have the freedom to receive and to express information and ideas. It speaks, lastly, of the right of protection, a right which is now denied to millions of children, in both industrialized and developing worlds, who are used in wars, who are exploited at work, who are physically and sexually abused in their own home, who are abandoned on the streets, who suffer mental cruelty, or are victims of violence and drug abuse" (cited in NPA, 1995:2)

In recent times, the issues of children have become the subject of immense debate in almost every major international fora. For instance, the 1990 New York World summit for children, which called upon all nations of the world to chart out national programs of action for survival, protection and development of children, could be exemplary. However, it is an undeniable fact that "in a world where more and more people than ever are living in absolute poverty and without adequate access to food, clothing, shelter, education, and health, the struggle to pay more attention to the needs of vulnerable children becomes more complex and protracted" (Tedla, 1996:49).

On this issue, Chile's Poet Gabriela Mistral, Nobel Prizewinner, stated the following:

*We are guilty of many errors and many faults,
but our worst crime is abandoning the children,
neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the
things we need can wait. The child cannot.
Right now is the time his bones are being
formed, his blood is being made and his senses
are being developed. To him we cannot answer
'Tomorrow'. His name is 'Today' (quoted by
Morley, et. al., 1986: cover page).*

Like in other developing countries, the situation of children in general and that of street children in particular is at a very critical stage in Ethiopia. Children, who are constituting more than 50 percent of Ethiopia's population, are victimized by various social evils such as poverty, disease, famine and drought, lack of health care and education, family instability, etc.

Children, who are both the future and the basis for the future, would stand to be the best bedrock of civilization continuing to yield a population that would pass excellence in all walks of life if they have got a well integrated and developed childhood. That is why such kind of truism has led many developed countries to invest much on children (Hope Enterprises, 1997:12).

Because if children are lost, generation is lost. Thus, a serious attention should be given to the survival, development and protection of children.

The reason behind taking children as central to human development approach is not based on sentimentality but rather the fact that childhood is the time when minds and bodies, values, personalities, and thus capabilities, start developing. At the time of childhood, even temporary and minor deprivation can inflict lifelong damage on human development. On the contrary, protection from disease and provision of basic education, care and other services have extraordinary high future benefits for society (Morgan, 1995:3)

As children embrace the future productive potential of a society, the health, growth and education of children should not be seen as "marginal" issues but as central developmental issues. In other words, children provide a "lever" for development. Meeting their healthy development and education lays the basis for tackling the problems of poverty, population pressure, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation that the current trends predict for the next century. If children of poor families are provided with enough "human capital" today, they will be in a position, as adults, to find their way out of poverty (Ibid).

Thus it is important to note here that as human beings are the nucleus of concerns for sustainable development, it is paramount significant to create public awareness of the need to recognize the rights of children to adequate food, clothing, shelter, health, education, security, love and attention.

2.2 Street Children

The problem of street children is one of the vices of urbanization resulting from various social changes brought forth by industrialization. The problem expanded with the growth of towns and cities. Although the degree and complexity varies from country to country, street children are found both in developed and developing countries (MOLSA and Radda Barnen, 1988:68). Despite the recent developments, the problem of street children was considered as only the problem of the least developed countries.

"The plight of street children is the result of social changes of varying degrees, changes which destabilize or disintegrate the family. In many developing countries these changes are a natural outcome of rural-urban migration, incipient revolutions and other social unrest, whereas in developed countries the plight of street children is related to moral abandonment" (Ibid:6).

Veale also put that economic factors have been mentioned most frequently as the major reason why the majority of street children are engaged in the street. The situation of street children had its roots in the economic and social situations of the family. Throughout the world, street children have been found to be predominantly a product of poor families, whether urban or rural (1996:230).

According to the estimate of Peter Tacon , there are approximately 100 million street children in the world (1986, 4). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also estimated that there are about 50 million street children throughout the world, half of them being found in Latin America. It is important here to note that the number can change from time to time, and depends on how one defines the term "street children". Unlike orphans and

handicapped children, no one can have any precise criteria to identify and define street children (NCC, 1988:66-69).

Mores, for instance, defines street children as ". . .emotionally deprived youth trying to act his frustration on street corners in defiance of his family and society including in unlawful activities and socially unaccepted character traits" (quoted in RAD, 1974:2). This definition overlooked those street children who are on the streets for economic (financial) reasons. It doesn't also indicate the age limit of a child.

A more broader definition cited by MOLSA and Radda Barnen is given below.

“ A street child or street youth is any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood and for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.,) has become her/his habitual abode and/or source of livelihood and who is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults” (quoted by MOLSA and Radda Barnen, 1989:67).

UNICEF also gives the following categories of street children.

Children on the street- are children who spend most of their time in the streets or markets usually as child workers. They maintain a strong family link, usually returning home at night, having spent all day away. Their family lack basic necessities. They are engaged in economic activities of the streets such as car washing/watching, peddling or loitering, shoe-shinning, carrying goods etc. to earn income for livelihood.

Children of the street- are children who have in some sense chosen to fully participate in street-life not just at an economic level. They usually have a family accessible to them who they may visit from time to time, but the street is their principal home. A key indicator of a child of the street is his or her

place of sleeping. These children are engaged in the same activities as children on the street plus some antisocial activities.

Children at risk- are generally urban children who because of extreme poverty and deprivation in their homes, or inadequate care and supervision because parents are working, are at high risk of becoming involved in street life.

Abandoned children- are those who have no home to go to either because of the death of or the rejection by, their parents and the unavailability or rejection of their extended family.

In general, UNICEF states that street children are children of either sex falling within the age group of 5-17 years for whom the streets in the widest sense of the word have become their abode and source of livelihood. They are inadequately protected, supervised or helped by responsible adults (see MOLSA, 1995:11)

Related to this, streetism is used to denote "the life style of children who for various reasons work and/or live in the street with all of its sub-group cultural values, norms, customs and expectations". It is the way of life of children who consider the street in its widest sense with its own esoteric rules, customs and vocabulary as their world (MOLSA and Radda Barnen, 1988:4).

Similarly, according to Article I of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the UN on 20 November 1989 " . . . a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained" (1989:3).

The Civil Code of Ethiopia (1960) also defined the word child as a "minor" of either sex who has not attained the full age of 18 years. As regards the age limit, this definition is compatible with those provided by the Convention on

the Rights of the Child and UNICEF. Thus, as there is no substantial difference in these definitions, it is with this age limit that the writer of this paper tries to assess the issue understudy. But a particular emphasis will be given to the definitions of UNICEF. In addition, other operational definitions used in this paper include the following:

Poverty- “denotes the inability of individual or a family to command sufficient resources to satisfy basic needs” (Fields, 1994: 3). Poverty lines for Ethiopia are 244 Birr and 144 Birr for urban and rural areas respectively (World Bank, 1993). Basic needs here include food, shelter, clothing, education and health care. Therefore, during the collection of data, those street children who responded the reason for joining the street life by saying like unfulfillment of basic needs, economic reason, and poverty are considered as one category.

Menial Jobs- are those jobs which are low paying usually occupied by street workers both children and adults. These occupations embrace shoe shinning, daily labour, carrying goods, car watching/washing, peddling, serving as taxi broker and other related occupations. Such occupations are not established and do not have organizational nature but they are sources of income for street children.

Urban Poor- are those people who live in urban areas with no and/or little permanent income. They are people below the poverty line (244 Birr). They mostly work in the informal sector. If they secure job opportunity, they are recruited in manual and custodial positions like guards, messengers, cleaners, etc which are low paying occupations. These people could not fulfill both their needs and the needs of their children.

Migration- may be intra-urban, rural to urban, urban to urban, interregional, international, etc. Centripetal migration is a kind of migration in which people move towards population centers from the surrounding countryside. Migration can also be seasonal (i.e., depending on agricultural cycle) (Goodall, 1987: 302). Thus, in this paper we find children who moved from both rural and other urban areas to Addis Ababa.

Family Disintegration- can be explained as separation, divorce, death, or absence of either parent due to various reasons (Asrat, 1991: 10).

In general, there are various categories of "children in especially difficult circumstances" (CEDC), street children being one category.

"CEDC" refers to "a group of children who, due to various natural and man-made causes are physically, socially, economically and psychologically disadvantaged". The group embraces refugee children, street children, orphaned children, abandoned or unaccompanied children, child workers, disabled children, youth trapped in bondage of prostitution, abused and neglected children, etc., (ANPPCAN, Dec. 1997: 12)

The problems of this group are not only too many to solve but also complex and practically challenging to redress. Their situation is characterized by deprivation, dissatisfaction, exploitation, psychological distress and loneliness. The majority of the CEDC are street children and most of them work and live on the streets away from the care and attachment of responsible adults and being engaged in all sorts of occupations at the expense of risking their lives for survival (Ibid).

Since the objective of this paper is not to assess the situation of all children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC), it will only be given some of the list of those children and their brief definitions (see box 1)

BOX 1 List and Definitions of Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances.

CEDC Type	Definition	Source
Orphaned Children	are all children less than 18 years old who lost their parents, regardless of how they died. In Ethiopia such category embodies war orphans, drought/famine orphans and AIDS orphans.	(Tedla, op.cit.:55)
Unaccompanied/ Abandoned Children	the words 'unaccompanied' and 'abandoned' children are usually used interchangeably. An unaccompanied children are persons who are under the legal age of majority and not accompanied by parents, guardians, or other people who by law or custom are responsible for them. These children are separated from their parents as a result of wars, natural disasters, refugee movements and other emergency situations.	(Ressler, et.al., 1988:3-4 and 7).
Disabled children	are those who are not able to develop and use their potential fully because of physical, mental and psychological obstacles which may be caused by malnutrition, lack of preventive health measures, alcohol and drug abuse by parents, lack of early detection and treatment, and so on.	(quoted by Tedla, op.cit.: 57)
Displaced children	are those children who have been compelled to leave their place of birth and flee to other areas/countries as a result of war, famine/drought and other natural disasters. In Ethiopia these children could be grouped into three, namely, refugee, returnee and internally displaced children.	(Ibid)
Traumatized children	are those who have been emotionally and psychologically affected by events beyond their comprehension or control due to war and disaster situations bringing in, among other things, displacement from homes, separation from loved ones and joining refugee life. Such traumatized situation has usually a negative effect on children by limiting their social, emotional, educational development and their relationship with their families and other people.	(Ibid:56)
Abused and Neglected children	Child abuse is defined as "any act of commission or omission by individuals, institutions or society as a whole, and any condition resulting from such actions or inaction which deprive children of equal rights and liberties and/or interfere with their optimal development". Persistent and severe physical neglect like exposure to dangers of different kinds including cold and starvation is also a manifestation of this group of children. The most common forms of abuse are physical abuse, psychological abuse, child labour, sexual exploitation and traditional harmful practices.	(Ibid: 58)
Delinquent children	are those who are involved in socially unacceptable behaviour such as vagrancy, alcohol and drug abuse, gambling, petty theft and other forms of crime which make them the subject of official action.	(Ibid:59).

In Ethiopia, only 38 percent of the school age children are enrolled in school, and this figure is probably higher for the urban centers and lower for the rural areas. Street children are living in conditions of severe deprivation which place them at both physical and psychological risks. Inadequate nutrition,

long working hours, and exposure to aversive weather conditions and physical abuse endanger the physical, mental and social development of children (Veale and Azeb, 1992:IV). Many of the street children are forced to drop out of school to support themselves and supplement their parent's meager income by doing menial jobs. Even many others never get the chance to be enrolled at all.

The worst thing is that 1 in every 5 children under the age of 15 in developing countries are estimated to be under "especially difficult circumstances". These are children who are victims of various causal factors including abject poverty, rapid urbanization, drought and famine and armed conflict (Tedla, op.cit.:51).

Streetism has 3 different consequences and these are: 1) The street children do not have basic needs of subsistence such as food, clothing and shelter let alone education, health care, protection from danger, love and care of their parents. 2) The growing rate of crimes due to the increasing number of street children disrupts peace and security of the society/community. 3) If children are not properly handled, the country's future asset would be lost.

In Ethiopia, although consolidated data are not available, it is estimated that around 5 million children are in especially difficult circumstances owing the severe problems of poverty which is caused by multifarious factors (Zenebe, 1996; TGE/UNICEF, 1993).

The problem of street children has its roots in both economic circumstances and the situation of the family. Throughout the world, street children have been found to be a product of poor families in most cases, whether urban or rural. One correlate of economic status is low educational level, which limits, particularly in an urban setting where the value of labour depends on the scarcity or otherwise of skills on the market (Veale and Azeb, op.cit.:5).

In this regard, Asrat states that "the disintegration of the family by separation, divorce, death, or absence of either parent due to different other reasons makes children the first victims of dissatisfaction, frustration, strain, stress, instability (1991:10).

In the national study of 1995 it is stated that in addition to poverty, the weakness and disintegration of family coupled with poor family planning contribute to the problem of street children (FDRE, op. cit.:5).

In sum, although the degree varied, street children throughout the world face similar problems like hunger, disease, mistreatment by the adult population, especially the police, sexual exploitation, and so on. Another common problem of street children is that they are from all sectors of the population leading their life through marginal occupations such as shoe-shinning, car washing and watching, selling plastic bags, cigarettes, chewing gum, carrying goods from place to place, selling lottery tickets and *kollo* (roasted grain), *Woyalla* (taxi broker), begging, petty thieving, etc. The formation of gangs is also one of the similarities that street children reveal while they are on the streets (Kassahun, 1988:1).

As seen above some writers and agencies put street children as thieves and gangsters! However, street children should be seen as part and parcel of the society who work on the streets to support themselves and their family meager income. That is, although there may be very few children of the street who participate in antisocial activities like thieving, the street children should, in general, be considered as child workers who work on the streets to fulfill their basic needs.

2.3 Urbanization and Urban Children

As regards the general living conditions, there are some differences between urban children and those in the rural areas. Although children in the urban areas have better access to education and health facilities, their lives are probably more impoverished than the rural children in other considerations. Many urban poor children live in a very harsh and overcrowded environments, and this is especially the case in Addis Ababa where there are areas with population density of 40,000 people per Sq. km., or even greater. Such a situation could create serious health problems not only to children who are vulnerable but also adults due to huge and inappropriate waste disposal and the accompanying poor sanitation. Many urban centers of Ethiopia, particularly Addis Ababa are facing the problem of overcrowding. Urban poverty puts families under serious strains and their children also face intolerable pressures to cope up with their harsh environment (quoted by Getnet, 1996:7).

Since the early 1970s recession has severely threatened the welfare of children, youth, women and other vulnerable groups in various parts of the world. Particularly in many least developed countries, the effect of the problem has been compounded by external debt, protectionism in industrialized countries, declining terms of trade, and excessive military expenditures. Furthermore, structural adjustment programs, which were considered as panacea for underdevelopment, have failed to address adequately such problems prevailing in most of the developing countries (quoted by Getnet: 1996:12 -13).

As a result of rapid urbanization, the number of urban children has been increasing steadily over the last few decades, and the trend is likely to continue. Based on the UN estimates, there were 369 million children below the age of 15 living in the urban agglomerations of the Third World countries

in 1980. By the year 2000, approximately 23 percent of the total world population of under 15 years old children will be in the urban centers of Asia, and 21 percent in those of Latin American countries. Additional estimates are that 4 out of 10 children in the least developed world will be born in an urban area by 2000, and 6 out of 10 by 2025 if the existing trends of urbanization continue unabated without fundamental change. In the Third World, the young, nowadays, constitute the majority of the total population in many urban centers (Ibid: 13-14).

A lot of families in the urban centers of the developing countries suffer from acute shortage of economic resources which in turn leads to the problem of family instability. As it is known, when the urban poor families disorganize, children are often abandoned and forced to go into the streets. This happens because the traditional kinship and/or community support systems are weakened. The problem is more accentuated by the fact that there is no any form of social security allowance extended to the poor families of the developing countries (Ibid).

As a result of the above reasons, the problem of street children is, in one way or another, related with the expansion of urban centers.

Since the rate of urbanization is growing at alarming rate the number of cities, which had been a dozen of cities with a population of over one million in 1900, has at present become more than 200 cities crammed with a million or more inhabitants each. Half of these cities have mushroomed in Third World countries with the absence of modern technology, industry and other amenities (Ibid: 15)

The increasing number of street children is one of the serious urban social problems facing Ethiopia. In this country, according to the assessment made in 1991 by Peter Tacon-International Consultant for UNICEF, the estimated

number of street children was as many as 100,000. Out of these children who are living in the urban centers of Ethiopia, about 20,000 of them were expected to be found in Addis Ababa alone (Veale and Azeb, op.cit.: VI). It has been further estimated that more than 500,000 find themselves at an extremely high risk of becoming involved in street life (quoted by MOLSA, 1995:7). And about 1,000,000 urban poor children were at high risk of becoming street children (quoted by Tedla, op.cit.54).

The emergence of the problem of street children in Addis Ababa is integrally related to the phenomenon of urban poverty. The majority of children are child workers who are on the streets so as to contribute economically to the meager income of their family. According to the study of 1992, 75 percent of children sleep at home every night and have a good relationship with their parents/guardians. Only 13 percent sleep on the street and 7 percent regularly rent temporary shelter. Related to this, 75.2 percent have parents and/or guardians who are resident in Addis Ababa, 10.2 percent in rural areas, 7 percent in another towns, 5.7 percent did not have family and 1.8 percent did not know the whereabouts of their family (Veale and Azeb, op.cit.: XVIII-XIX).

The problem of social deterioration is chronic in the urban areas of the developing countries. In most African countries and in many of the developing countries of Asia and Latin America, urban children are more likely, now than in the 1980s, to be born into poverty, be born prematurely, die in their first year of life, suffer low birth weight, and have mothers who received late or no prenatal care. The children are more likely to have an unemployed or very underemployed parent, see a parent die or go to prison, live in a single parent household, endure low standard housing, suffer from child abuse, dropout of primary school let alone university. They are more likely to be compelled to work in an exploitative manner on the streets, get involved in substance abuse, join prostitution, become orphan due to various reasons, etc (quoted by Getnet, 1996:13).

In most cases, the economic situations of the urban poor families would create problems like unfulfillment of basic needs both on the spouses and their children. So as to escape such unpleasant situations, children often prefer to move into the street and struggle for survival on their own. In addition, those breadwinner poor families may be unable to support their children and at times, leave them all in all to act at their own will. In such a case, mothers might be forced to abandon their children as far as they can no more care for them. Here in one way or another the problem of street children is associated with the increasing trend of urban poverty which disrupts the normal family life.

In Ethiopia, there are other problems like famine and drought. The consequences of drought and famine are multifarious: the economy has been weakened, poverty increased, families have been disrupted, and children lost parental care and love, and many of them have been abandoned or forced to adopt street life as a survival mechanism. Likewise, the prolonged civil war in recent years has affected the entire population of the country. Important norms, traditions and customs have been neglected, rules and regulations violated, crime, misery and death have prevailed. As a result, families have been disintegrated and many children being orphaned or abandoned (Getnet, op.cit.:11).

The intensified awareness among policy makers, social scientists and pressure groups that children are seriously in danger of becoming the victims of the way urbanization is taking place in the south is a clear sign of inadequacy of traditional child welfare and need for new approach (CERTWID, et.al., 1994:3).

In developing countries like Ethiopia, we find urbanization without industrialization while in developed countries, where urbanization goes hand-in-hand with industrialization societal institutions have gradually taken over

familial and community roles. But the net effect of urbanization, for example in Ethiopia, is breaking down the traditional supportive system provided by family, extended families and the community at large, often leaving people especially children without alternative supportive system. Such serious problems are, indeed, severe in big urban areas, particularly in Addis Ababa (Getnet, op.cit.:15).

According to a recent study, over one third of the Ethiopia's urban population resides in Addis Ababa. Like any other metropolitan centers in the Third World, Addis Ababa is growing at a rate faster than what the existing employment opportunities, infrastructural services, and housing and other social services support. Various studies indicate that Addis Ababa's population has increased mainly due to in-migration, particularly in the late 1970s the yearly population growth of the city was estimated to be about 7%, of which 4.6% was accounted for by in-migration. It is believed that migration to Addis Ababa is the result of lack of employment opportunities in other small towns which do not have complex industrialization and service giving organizations and underemployment in the rural areas (Solomon, 1993:2-3). However, many of the migrants could not enjoy the employment opportunities they had dreamt of when they left their places of origin. Thus, the number of urban poor who live in desperate conditions in turn pushed their children to end up in the streets for survival.

In general, the number of children, especially in the urban areas, is increasing without parallel economic development. Therefore, very serious attention should be given from all concerned the government at large, the community and the NGOs to curb the problem.

In addition to urban poverty, a large number of ex-servicemen who were removed by the Transitional Government of Ethiopia in May 1991 are now in the city of Addis Ababa and their families also constitute a considerable

portion of the population. Due to these recent changes, these families are negatively affected. The whole problem of the city is further worsened by the increased number of displaced people from various regions particularly Eritrea, Assab and the southern part of the country (Ibid:3-4). This has in turn aggravated poverty in the urban centers and in the meantime, children have been obliged to run and work on the streets so as to satisfy their basic necessities.

According to the Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia one of the causes of rural-urban migration is the rising man-land ratio in the agricultural sector, which in turn, persuaded by population growth. In addition to such high man-land ratio, productivity of land declines due to low unchanging levels of technology. Such deteriorating conditions of life push the rural people to seek means of survival in the urban centers. But in countries like Ethiopia where the structural differentiation of the economy is low, employment opportunities in the non-agricultural sector are likely to be sustained to the breaking point as there is additional pressure from excessive rural-urban migration (FGAE, 1986: 26-27).

Although the magnitude is not yet known the Structural Adjustment Program which was introduced by the Transitional Government of Ethiopia in 1992 has aggravated the socio-economic problems of many urban people who lost their jobs and joined the already huge unemployed labour. Of all these people, a substantial portion has concentrated in Addis Ababa. Although any individual may suffer the consequences of job loss, the problem is more severe when it comes to families with their dependent children (Getnet: op.cit.: 16-17). Such problem might have forced the children to join the streets.

Here it is important to note that the sheer number of these disadvantaged children calls for attention. Furthermore, the rights of children are at stake, and as a result ignoring the problem means nothing but the nation allows the destruction of its future manpower instead of cultivating them.

2.4 NGOs and Children

It is undeniable that the family particularly the mother should be seen as the center of childcare. Because it is the mother "who is the highest level health worker- not in training or qualifications but in time and love, in the special knowledge of her own children, in the breadth of integrated services. She provides, and in the permanent presence she brings to her child's life" (Grant, 1985:9).

"The empowering of the mother, and the building of concentric circles of support around her, is therefore the only approach which can realistically hope to bring the benefits of a child survival revolution to the majority of the developing world children . . . But the responsibility for turning that key rests on the whole of the society. For the mother cannot act alone, should not bear the responsibility alone and cannot be empowered by information alone (Ibid).

In short, empowering of mothers than various institutions is being widely recognized as the best environment for child rearing.

In addition to the then Children and Youth Affairs Organization which is now demolished and restructured as a department under MOLSA, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission, the Municipalities, a number of

NGOs both local and international ones and religious organizations are involved in providing various types of services to the economically deprived children.

These NGOs are playing a very important role in promoting the welfare of disadvantaged children by planning, financing, managing and providing advice and counseling services for various projects set up to help poor children in general and street children in particular.

In Ethiopia, it is MOLSA which has been given responsibility over the children's welfare and oversees the implementation of various programs targeted at mitigating the problem of children in especially difficult circumstances.

Since the economy of Ethiopia is not strong enough to generate resources for the needed social investment, assistance from both indigenous and foreign NGOs will be essential to alleviate the various problems revolving around destitute children (Hope Enterprise, 1997:8). In this regard, a number of NGOs are coming to the fore to work on child rights and to fulfill the needs of children.

If it is so what are NGOs? UN in 1980 put that

. . . Non-governmental organizations are any of those organizations which are not part of a government and which have not been established as a result of an agreement between governments. NGOs can be research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, chambers of commerce, youth organizations, religious institutions, senior citizens' associations, tourist bodies, private foundations, political parties, Zionist organizations, funding or development international and indigenous agencies and any other organization of a non-governmental nature (quoted by Padron, 1987:70).

They are formed by individuals, who get payment for their duties, and are private, not-for-profit and operate within a legal framework. These organizations work to benefit people other than their members/workers (Ibid).

Unlike governments, which usually focus to reach society as a whole both in social and spatial dimensions, NGOs have restricted and localized perspectives and localized interests of specific parts of civil society. NGOs act at micro level, manage to meet efficiency and efficacy although their action might lack efficacy at macro level (Fantz, 1987:99).

In the past few decades there is a tremendous increase in the number of NGOs operating in the Third World. Such type of voluntary organizations, which are motivated by a service objective, arose in many cases out of a) societal conflict/war, b) the need to give response more effectively to crisis situations in the face of the breakdown of traditional structures, c) ideological and value differences with the powers-that-be in the planning and implementation of development work, or d) the realization that neither government nor the private sector had the will or capacity to deal with immediate and pressing social problems (Garilao, 1987:114).

As regards indigenous NGOs, three developments are predicted. 1) NGOs, as advocates for social change, will begin to support and push for policy and institutional changes (quoted by Garilao, op.cit.:118) 2). NGO alliances will band together to produce power centers for structural change 3). In the future, NGOs will produce and/or cultivate Third World leaders who leave the NGO sector and move to government to enter into public service and politics because, in addressing the structural problems of poverty, it is the logical next step (Garilao, op.cit.:119).

Likewise, according to Karten among the NGOs that work in development, it is possible to list 3 different orientations in programming strategy: a) relief

and welfare- charitable relief organizations, b) local self-reliance-community based style projects such as preventive health instead of welfare approaches, and c) sustainable systems approach-supportive national development system facilitating sustainable changes in policy and institutional setting (1987:147).

In general, NGOs have the following major advantages:

- they are closer to the poorest sectors of the society than government agencies. Because their primary *raison d'être* is the fact that they try to occupy development areas not occupied by government and not profitable to private organization.
- they are more efficient in using resources due to their smallness.
- they tend to be flexible in the management of development activities.
- they are relatively independent from governments and private sector so that they can respond to demands in remote areas and take projects, which are not popular with governments.

But this does not mean that NGOs do not have any problem. Some of the problems are indicated below:

- some NGOs came with religious mission,
- there are some NGOs which have high overhead costs, and
- some NGOs are created to secure jobs for the owners/leaders.

Most of the NGOs work in the relief and non-food sectors. Urban-based NGOs participate in projects which include training for auto mechanics, domestic science skills, cooking, sewing, embroidering, metal work, wood work, carpentry, salon, and other types of skills training and upgrading. Services offered range from providing shelter and shelter material, supplementary food, recreational service, medical supplies, shower service, environmental sanitation to counseling and educational training.

As involving as the demands of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are, the voluntary sector has played a crucial role in filling certain gaps. In Ethiopia, NGOs have been to provide, among others, most of the social services to particularly children in especially difficult circumstances. Since very recently, the issue of child rights has gained importance among a number of NGOs working with children as well. To exemplify, in addition to the above services, NGOs got together and wrote a complementary report assessing the state of children and what had been done to implement the Convention. They took their report to a formally scheduled meeting of the Convention Committee in Geneva on June 9, 1996 (MOLSA and Radda Barnen, op. cit.).

As to possible measures to rehabilitate street children income generation, family support program, vocational training, institutional care, reunification, foster care program, etc., are identified and adopted by NGOs.

The major services and the approaches which have been followed by government and NGOs include:

- community based preventive programs for high risk children,
- rehabilitation services mainly to enable the street children acquire certain skills through vocational training,

- mobile rehabilitation program which moves to places of street children,
- drop-in centers or open houses to render certain basic necessities on when the children want it, and recreational and shower services
- a primary shelter service to street children with certain rehabilitation programs side by side.

Recently, NGOs began to include preventive and income generating activities so as to make their programs sustainable.

In general, the role of NGOs is to bring change for better life. Such a role can be played through addressing poverty, through the delivery of services, through the building of capacity and institutions and through advocacy programs.

CHAPTER THREE

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM OF STREETISM AND FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROBLEM

3.1 The Magnitude of the Problem of Streetism

3.1.1 Data Collected From Various Sources

In Ethiopia, there are no available data which clearly indicate the magnitude and trend of streetism since there has never been conducted a nation-wide survey with the view to determining the size and magnitude of the problem. Some studies that have been conducted by various agencies in few of the big cities provide vital base line data on the size and causes of the problem, living and working conditions of street children and other related socio-economic conditions aggravating streetism (RAD, 1974:13). Despite this fact some writers and agencies tried to show the dangerous trend of streetism.

Related to this, there is only little evidence regarding the emergence of the problem in Ethiopia. In other words, there is hardly any written material as to when the problem of street children appeared in Ethiopia. Only few people wrote on the emergence of the problem. Among these Andargachew has stated the following.

Though it is difficult to put the exact period when the problem of street children even appear in Ethiopia, the first written reference to the problem shows that it appeared immediately after the Italian occupation. Due to the prolonged war, a large number of families were disrupted and there were large numbers of orphaned and abandoned children in the streets of Addis Ababa and other cities. Rural-urban migration had also been accelerated. As a result, it was reported that around 1941/42 there were a large number of unattached and destitute children on the streets of Addis Ababa (quoted by MOLSA and Radda Barnen, op.cit.:15).

Although there is no planned national survey, some writers and agencies tried to show the dangerous trend of streetism.

In 1963/64 a UN Consultant J. Riley conducted a survey to show the increasing number of street children. The survey was made in three towns, namely, Addis Ababa, Asmara and Dire Dawa where the problem takes a dangerous tend. The survey revealed that there were 2827 street children in Addis Ababa, 375 in Asmara and 427 in Dire Dawa (Riley, 1964:80).

As cited by Captain Demissie, the number of street boys was estimated to be about 4000 in the whole Empire in 1968 (quoted by Demissie, 1973:21).

There was also a survey conducted in Addis Ababa by the Rehabilitation Agency in 1974 which indicated the existence of 5004 (4955 boys and 49 girls) street children aged between 5 and 18 years. The survey has revealed that 72.3% of the children have come from rural origin and the causes for their migration was unemployment (economic problems), 8.8% because of family displacement, 6.7% in search of educational opportunities, 2% family breakdown and 4.1% other reasons (MOLSA and Radda Barnen, op.cit.:9).

Another most significant survey was conducted in Addis Ababa in 1988 by MOLSA in collaboration with Radda Barnen. In comparison with the finding of the 1974 survey, the 1988 survey indicated dramatic changes in the extent of the street child phenomenon and its profile and causes. The survey revealed that 66% of street children were born in Addis Ababa, this was only 28% in 1974. Another 18% came from the surrounding areas and only 16% of the total were from distant parts of the country (from outside the then province of Shewa). In 1974 only 24% of the total population were children of the street while in 1988 survey the proportion has grown to 37%. These are children who work and sleep on the streets. In 1974 children on the street, those who have strong relation with their families and sleep in their families during the night accounted for 75% of street children with 27% living with parents and 48% with relatives while in 1988 only 7.7 were living with relatives and 54.7% with parents (Veale and Azeb, op.cit.:6). The 1988 study clearly indicates that a high proportion of children were pushed to the streets because of economic reasons, i.e. they were a product of urban poor families.

A study on street children in four selected towns (Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Bahir Dar and Mekelle) was also conducted in 1992. Comparing the findings of the 1992 survey to that of the 1988 study, 71% of street children were born in the capital city compared to 66% in 1988. Whereas the 1974 survey revealed that 72% of street children came from areas outside Addis Ababa. The profile of street children in Addis Ababa has changed in the past 20 years. It seems that the street child population is increasingly being drawn from established urban poor families (Veale and Azeb, op.cit.: XXI). Although the reason of being street children varies, their number is increasing at an alarming rate. In other words, the magnitude and the rate of the problem is drastically increasing and a number of children become victims of this prevailing situation and as a result their critical years of development are hindered by anti-social activities and deviant behaviour which are hazardous to them in particular and the country in general.

Another study on street children was also undertaken in February 1995. This study confirmed that the scale of the problem of street children in Ethiopia has reached unprecedented levels. It generally put that children exposed to the highest risk of involvement in streetism are likely to be found in the towns and cities which have the biggest size of population and the greatest economic activity. Accordingly, Addis Ababa has the highest percentage of street children followed by Dire Dawa, Harar, Shashemene, Jimma and Adigrat because these towns have the fastest growth of population and vitality of their economic activities (FDRE, 1995: 1 and 5).

When we come to Addis Ababa, the number of street children in the city was estimated, by Redd Barna's field staff, to be between 15,000 and 20,000 with 5,000 most at risk. Child-hope estimated that there were 20,000 street children in the city in 1991 (quoted by Winter, 1992:2). According to recent estimate of a local NGO known as Forum on Street Children-Ethiopia (FSCE), it is stated that in Addis Ababa there are about 40,000 street children (FSCE, 1995:2). Although the figure may vary, it is unquestionable that the magnitude of the problem is increasing.

Four distinct groups/reasons are identified as contributing factors to the dramatic increase in the street child population. These are the urban poor, returnees since the end of the civil war in May 1991, the internally displaced and ex-soldiers and their families (Veale and Azeb, *op. cit.*: 3).

For instance, although there is no exact figure to indicate the size of the population affected by war and famine, according to RRC estimation, 9.8 million people have been displaced due to war and famine among which 5.8 million are the vulnerable groups, namely, children and women (FDRE, *op. cit.*: 2).

3 1.2 Data Collected Through Interviews

In order to further assess the magnitude of the problem of streetism the researcher interviewed 15 NGO officials, government officials, researchers, social workers, etc. Thus the following two questions were forwarded to my interviewees. These are :- a) Do you think the magnitude of the problem of streetism is increasing? and b) Could you guess, or state if there are data, the number of street children in Addis Ababa? The responses given by the NGOs officials, government officials/experts, researchers, social workers, and academics are indicated in the following table (see table 1 next page).

As it can be seen from table 1, out of the total 15 respondents only one has indicated that the magnitude of the problem of streetism is decreasing. The other 14 of my respondents responded that the magnitude of the problem is increasing from time to time. Similarly, the respondents were asked to estimate the number of street children in Addis Ababa.

Except three, all the interviewees estimated the number of street children as indicated in the table. If we take the average, the final result will be about 50,409. Besides if we take the median from the collected data the final result is 40,000. Thus, the existing number of street children can be estimated as between 40,000 and 50,000.

In general, the interview result indicates that the magnitude of the problem of street children increases. Both the available data and the interview proved the first hypothesis to be true.

When we see the spatial distribution of street children in Addis Ababa, most of them are found in most densely populated areas, bus stations and business areas. Because these areas are important for the children to do various odd activities.

Regarding the spatial distribution of street children Leake Mariam in his study explained that:

.... territorial hierarchy is very true of any type of survival technique adopted by street corner boys. Because neighbourhood like Piazza are among the best places for street corner life. The more people with money, the more business for the shoe-shiner, peddler, the thief and the like. For this reason the areas in which a street boy can operate is geographically segregated. The street corner group that has been around a while gets the chance to hold the most economically fertile niche in a street corner ecology (quoted by Andargachew, 1988:372).

The more crowded the area is, the more suitable it is for the street children to reside. That is why the most densely populated and business areas are selected randomly to collect data for this study.

3.2. Major Factors That Contribute to Streetism

In order to assess various issues raised in this thesis a sample of 468 street children of which 345 boys and 123 girls have been interviewed. Their age distribution is indicated in the table here under.

Table 2 Age Composition by Gender and Approach

	Gender		Approach		Total
	M	F	On the streets	Via NGOs	
5-10	23 (6.7)*	17 (13.8)	13 (6.6)	27 (10.0)	40 (8.5)
11-15	205 (59.4)	83 (67.5)	130 (66.0)	158 (58.3)	288 (61.5)
16-17	117 (33.9)	23 (18.6)	54 (27.4)	86 (31.7)	140 (29.9)
	345 (100)	123 (100)	197 (100)	271 (100)	468 (100)

* The figures in parenthesis are percentages.

Source: Survey data

Table 2 shows the age composition of children interviewed either on the street or from those who receive any help from NGOs. As the data indicate children under the age of 10 years are relatively small in number (i.e., 8.5 per cent of the total interviewees). These children are usually guided and accompanied by adults who use them for begging and other related activities. Children between the age of 11 and 15 years constitute 61.5 per cent whereas children between 16 and 17 years consisted of 29.9 per cent of 468 interviewees. This implies that in terms of age composition overwhelming majority of the interviewees (i.e., 70 per cent) are between the age of five and 15 years. It is between these ages that children begin to do menial jobs and be influenced by their peer groups. In terms of sex composition, the number of male street children is 345 (i.e., 73.7 per cent and the remaining 123 (i.e., 26.3 per cent) are females. In addition, the data indicated that 197 children (i.e., 42 per cent) are those who do not receive any kind of help from any NGOs, while the remaining 271 children (i.e., 58 per cent) are those who receive any kind of help from any of the NGOs.

The table also reveals that between the ages of 5 and 10 years there are 13 percent of females out of 123 and about 7 percent of males out of 345. Here it is clear that more females are available than males under this age group. When we see the age between 11 and 15 years again about two third of the 123 girls are found under this age group while almost 59 percent of the boys are found under this age group. Again when we compare boys and girls, more girls than boys are found under this age group.

When we compare those children approached on the street and via NGOs, there are 66 percent of the 197 children as compared to 58 percent of the 345 children between the age group of 11 and 15 years respectively.

As it is known, factors that aggravate the prevalence of streetism are the reflections of the overall socio-economic situation of the country. In line with this let us try to identify the major causes of the problem of street children.

3.2.1. Economic Problem/Poverty

Economic factors have been mentioned most frequently as the major reason for the majority of street children to be engaged in the street life. The situation of street children has its roots in the economic and social situation of the family (Veale, 1996:230).

Among the factors that contribute to streetism, poverty is probably the foremost reason why children move to the streets. Many of the impoverished families cannot afford school fees and therefore push their children to work on the street to supplement family income. Most of the parents of street children are illiterate and their sustenance tend to revolve around the informal economy leaving many young children unsupervised for considerable parts of the day. Such children are susceptible to the pressures of older street children (FSCE, 1994:1).

To prove this idea children were asked to answer how does their family head earn his/her livelihood. Their responses are indicated in table 3.

Table 3 Occupation of Family Heads

Occupation	Children Approached on the Street	Children Approached via NGOs	Total		
			M	F	T
Daily labourer	37 (21.9)	59 (25.9)	66 (23.2)	30 (26.2)	96 (24.2)
Self employed	57 (33.7)	67 (29.4)	91 (32.0)	33 (29.2)	124 (31.2)
Government Employee	23 (13.6)	22 (9.6)	37 (13.0)	8 (7.1)	45 (11.3)
Farmer	21 (12.4)	19 (8.3)	33 (11.6)	7 (6.2)	40 (10.1)
Soldier	-	2 (0.9)	2 (0.7)	-	2 (0.5)
Beggar	10 (5.9)	20 (8.8)	15 (5.2)	15 (13.2)	30 (7.6)
Pensioner	-	7 (3.1)	4 (1.4)	3 (2.7)	7 (1.8)
Others (maidservant, Firewood seller, etc	21 (12.4)	32 (14.0)	36 (12.7)	17 (15.1)	53 (13.4)
Total	169 (100)	228 (100)	284 (100)	113 (100)	397 (100)

The total number of the sample declined to 397 because the family heads of 71 children had passed away

Source: Survey data

Table 3 shows that occupational categories of parents/guardians of street child interviewees. As the data indicate, the two most important occupational categories of parents/ guardians of street children are self employment and daily labourer. These occupational categories were reported by 124 (31 . 2 percent) and 96 (24.2 percent) child interviewees respectively . Forty five (11.3 percent) and forty (10.1 percent) of child interviewees reported that their parents/guardians were government employees and farmers respectively. The remaining 98 (23.2 percent)of child interviewees reported that their parents/guardians are engaged in different occupational categories such as beggar, soldiers, pensioner, etc. Other occupations (13.4%) which include washing cloths, selling firewood, working as servant, etc. are also the signs of low paying occupations.

From the set of data one may see the variation of occupational categories of parents/guardians from which children go out. The fact that from the government employed parents/guardians children go out to streets seems to indicate that having a regular source of income does not guarantee that children do not go out to streets. However, it seems that the main cause for children to go to streets is low income of parents /guardians which could be explained by their occupational categories. Because these households are not able to satisfy the needs of their children, they push the children to the street both to support themselves and the family income.

Other occupations which include washing cloths, maidservant, selling firewood, etc. are also the signs of low paying occupations. Since these households are not able to satisfy the needs of their children, they push the children to the street both to support themselves and the family income.

As it can be seen from the table the occupations of those children who are approached on the streets and NGOs are almost the same. When we see the table based on gender out of 113 girls almost one fourth of them came from families whose occupations is self-employment while the boys who came from families who have the same occupations are less than one ninth of 284. Similarly those girls who came from parents whose occupation is daily labourer are about one fourth of the total 113 whereas those boys who came from families who have the same occupation are again about one twelfth of 284. Moreover, the number of girls who came from families who are beggars are greater than boys who came from families who are beggars.

Azeb and Gettleman also explained that educational background, occupation and housing conditions of the family have been taken as indicators of socio-economic status of the family. One correlate of low occupational level is low educational level. Such low educational level limits opportunities for gainful employment. One study indicated that over a third of the street children's fathers and nearly half of their mothers are illiterate (1994:1). But this does not mean that education always guarantee better job opportunities. The fact is that in relative terms those people who have good educational background have the chance to secure better job opportunities.

Therefore, in order to test the second hypothesis of my study which focuses on major factors that contribute to the problem of streetism, the sample street children were asked to respond on why they leave their families and participate in street life. For their response refer to table 4.

Table 4 Reasons of Street Children for Joining Street Life by Gender

Factors	Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
Economic Factor/Poverty	214 (62.0)	86 (70.0)	300 (64.1%)
Family Disintegration (Divorce/ separation)	34 (9.9)	6 (4.9)	40 (8.6%)
Ill-treatment by parents/ guardians	36 (10.4)	6 (4.9)	42 (9.0%)
Interest and Habit	12 (3.5)	4 (3.3)	16 (3.5%)
Loss of Parents	44 (12.8)	16 (13.0)	60 (12.8%)
Displacement of Parents	5 (1.4)	5 (4.0)	10 (2.1%)
Total	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100%)

Source: Survey data

Table 4 indicates factors that push children out from their homes. The main reason that push about two-third of the children from their homes is poverty. The other two closely related and relatively important push factors are family disintegration and ill treatment of children by their parents/guardians. The other important factor that was responded by 60 child-interviewees is loss of parents. Interest and habit of children was responded only by sixteen children out of the total 468 children. These are children who left their home just by their will without family or other problems. They are also those children who left home to fulfill needs on addictions like smoking, drinking, inhaling benzene and using drugs. From all these data one may clearly see that any problem that affects the parents/guardians also affects children, and thus drive them to go out from their homes. In addition, one may say that the parents/guardians economic status and harmony among the family members

are closely related with the fate of children either to grow up in a family or to go out to streets. All these results prove the second hypothesis which put poverty , family disintegration and other related factors as the causes of streetism to be true.

When we see the factors gender wise, the dominant factor for streetism is still economic factor. That is, the families could not fulfill the needs of their children because of their low incomes. In comparison more than 70 percent of the girls are forced to join street life because of economic factors whereas those males who joined the street life because of economic reason are 62 percent. Thus, in relative terms the number of girls who joined street life due to economic problem are greater than boys. But this is not the general truth because in other cases boys who joined streets due to economic problem may be greater than girls.

In addition to children, government and NGOs officials/experts, researchers and social workers were interviewed to list the major causes of the problem of street children. Their responses are indicated in table 5 (see next page).

Out of the 15 respondents 73.3 percent of them put poverty as the major factor for the increase of street children. This depicts that poverty, which is the root cause of streetism, needs huge national effort to improve both the well-being of the citizens in general and that of the street children in particular.

3.2.2. Family Disintegration

Family is susceptible to various problems which could have adverse effect on the development of children. Family disintegration may be caused by desertion of the husband or wife due to economic reason, financial

mishandling and overspending, disagreement in family management, and separation of the family due to natural and man-made calamities.

The disintegration of families is one of the major causes for streetism because such an incidence leads to lack of proper care and attention, love and affection, and lack of basic necessities. Although family disintegration affects the whole family, the most vulnerable groups are particularly children who need care and attention, love and follow-up in the development of their personality and learning activities. Socialization, which refers to the proper upbringing and training of children, is the responsibility of the family at large. Thus, a family should be capable in creating stabilization in the family and this in turn helps for the proper raising of children. But it is true that every disintegration does not lead children to go out into the streets. Because it is when particularly disintegration is related with other factors like economic problem that aggravate the problem of streetism.

An attempt has been made to determine the family background of the interviewed street children. The summary of the responses is put in the following table.

Table 6 Family Background of Street Children

Family Status	Children Approached on the Streets	Children Approached via NGOs	Total		
			M	F	T
Both alive together	61 (31.0)	72 (26.6)	95 (27.6)	38 (30.9)	133 (28.4)
Both alive but divorced/separated	27 (13.7)	36 (13.3)	47 (13.6)	16 (13.0)	63 (13.5)
Only father alive	16 (8.1)	23 (8.5)	38 (11.1)	1 (0.8)	39 (8.3)
Only mother alive	58 (29.4)	96 (35.4)	100 (29)	54 (43.9)	154 (32.9)
Both dead	35 (17.8)	44 (16.2)	65 (18.8)	14 (11.4)	79 (16.9)
Total	197 (100)	271 (100)	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

Table 6 clearly shows that unstable family is one of the causes of the problem of streetism. When one of the parents or mentors dies, or when the two original families are not together, the child does not get proper care, love and affection. Such phenomenon pushes him/her to engage in street life. Female-headed families are particularly exposed to such problem. As seen on the table almost a third (32.9%) of street children came from female-headed family.

Out of the total child interviewees, 133 (i. e., 28 percent) reported that both of their parents are alive and live together. This reveals that although the original parents live together, children are obliged to go out of their home due to poverty.

The death of both parents and the separation of original parents through divorce are reported by 16.9 percent and 13.5 percent respectively. The set of data indicates that the great majority of the child interviewees (or 61.3 percent) came either from parents who live together or from female headed families. This may indicate the fact that the lower the economic status of parents, the higher the likelihood of children to go out to streets. The other important reality indicated in the data is that street children who have alive fathers only are 39 (8.3%). When we compare the children who have alive fathers only and alive mothers only, those children who have mothers only have more chance to go out to streets. This fact may be strongly related with the low status of woman, in terms of their education, access to employment and ability to generate revenue to support their family.

When we see those children approached on the streets and those via NGOs, there are more than one third of the total 271 children approached via NGOs who came from female headed families while there are less than one third of the total 197 children approached on the streets who came from female headed families.

The table also shows that there are about 44 percent of 123 girls who came from female headed families while there are only 29 percent of 345 boys who came from female headed families. Thus it can be said that the problem of girls will be more severe when they loose their fathers.

Similarly, interviewed officials/experts from both government and NGOs, researchers and social workers mentioned family instability as the major cause for streetism (see table 5).

Out of the interviewed 15 people 12 (80 percent) put family disintegration and instability as one of the causes for streetism. This reveals how peaceful family environment is important for the upbringing of children.

3.2.3. Migration

Natural and man-made disasters have also accelerated family breakdown and community dislocations. The migration of the rural poor to the urban centers because of the deterioration of the economy in the rural areas and/or the economic and social pull factors are the causes of streetism.

The rapid increase of migrants to urban areas poses severe stress and strain on many developing countries. Because many of the migrants are both poor and illiterate, they have limited capacity in dealing with the complexities of urban life (Pernia, 1994: 6).

Since urban centers do not provide decent accommodation, easy access to employment, health care, education etc., to rural migrants, the migrant poor families will not be in a position to satisfy their children's needs. As a result, children will be forced to resort to street life for their survival.

With the advent of modernization especially in the form of urbanization, neither the extended family nor the community could take the responsibility of destitute children. Children who are out of family or community control increased from time to time in number in every corner of the urban streets creating burden in the cities like Addis Ababa. Because urbanization in the Third World in general and in Ethiopia in particular does not go hand in hand with industrialization. Besides, there are no strong societal institutions which can take over familial and community roles.

The expected possibilities of better schooling, better health facilities, better job opportunity and life are usually the major reasons behind migration of rural children to urban centers. Nevertheless, due to low educational background and newness of the environment, the migrant children are unable to compete for the limited job opportunities in urban areas. Thus, such migrant children often join street life. If some of the children were able to secure jobs, they would usually serve as guards, daily labourers, messengers, maids, bar ladies/prostitutes, etc. This is also true for those children of Addis Ababa who left their home due to poverty. All the migrants and/or non migrants serve in menial jobs. Table 7 reveals this truth.

Table 7 Occupation of Street Children

Occupation	Children Approached on the Street	Children Approached Via NGOs	Total		
			M	F	T
Shoe shinning	29 (14.7)	41 (15.2)	68 (19.7)	2 (1.6)	70 (14.9)
Car washing/watching	7 (3.6)	9 (3.3)	16 (4.6)	-	16 (3.4)
Woylla (Taxi broker)	8 (4.1)	11 (4.1)	18 (5.2)	1 (0.8)	19 (4.0)
Porter	4 (2.0)	9 (3.3)	13 (3.7)	-	13 (2.8)
Selling Kollo (roasted grain)	17 (8.6)	31 (11.5)	10 (2.9)	38 (30.9)	48 (10.2)
Daily labourer	14 (7.1)	33 (12.2)	42 (12.2)	5 (4.1)	47 (10.1)
Peddler (selling cigarettes chewing gum etc.)	13 (6.6)	4 (1.5)	28 (8.2)	9 (7.3)	37 (7.9)
Carrier/messenger	29 (14.7)	20 (7.4)	48 (10.3)	1 (0.8)	50 (10.7)
Others/maids, fire wood sellers etc.	14 (7.1)	25 (9.3)	27 (13.9)	12 (9.8)	39 (8.4)
NA	62 (31.5)	71 (26.3)	80 (23.2)	57 (46.3)	133 (28.4)
Total	197 (100)	271 (100)	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

Table 7 indicates that shoe shinning, carrying goods, selling *Kollo* and serving as daily labourer are the dominant jobs occupied by the street children. Out of the 468 interviewees about 15%, 11% and 10% are engaged in shoe shinning, carrying goods and selling *kollo* respectively. Selling *kollo* is mostly done by street girls and the other activities are almost done by street boys. It is also indicated that one hundred thirty three children do not participate in the above low paying activities. But this does not mean that these children have better alternatives than those who are engaged in menial jobs. The other remaining alternative even for those who participate in menial jobs is begging. For example, out of the total 468 interviewees, 158 (over 33%) are also involved in begging. That is why the number seems large. Related to this, about 12% and 10% are dependent on the NGOs and family for the fulfillment of their basic needs.

Children approached on the streets and via NGOs do almost all jobs proportionally except carrying goods which is done by 14% of the total children approached on the streets as compared to 7.4% of the total children approached via NGOs.

During the interview an attempt has also been made to know the birthplaces of children. The responses of the children are summarized in the table below.

Table 8 Place of Birth of Street Children

Ser. No.	Place of Birth	Frequency	Percentage
1	Addis Ababa	303	64.7
2	Urban Area outside Addis Ababa (especially Bahir Dar, Dessie, Nazareth, and Dire Dawa)	111	23.7
3	Rural Area	53	11.3
4	Missing Case	1	.2
	Total	468	100

Source: Survey data

Although the table reveals that about 65% of the street children are born in Addis Ababa, the number of children born outside Addis Ababa (both urban and rural) constitutes 35 percent of the total which shows migration as one of the contributing factors for streetism. But it is true that children who run away to the streets from the urban poor of Addis Ababa are large in number. According to the sample 64.7 percent came from Addis Ababa. For child migrants poverty is mentioned as the major reason. This shows us the interrelated nature of the causes of the problem of streetism. The above results of the interview confirm the second hypothesis, which put poverty and migration as major factors for streetism, to be true.

Moreover, Out of the 15 experts/officials from government and NGOs, researchers, social workers, and academics 8 of them have put migration as one of the causes of streetism (See table 5)

3.2.4. Loss of Parents

Regardless of how the parents died, children who do not reach the age of adulthood join the street life when they lose their biological parents unexpectedly. Such problem of loss of parents occurs often when there are internal and international conflicts as well as drought and famine. Recently also the death of parents due to HIV/AIDS is increasing.

In Ethiopia, the responsibility to take care of those children who lost their parents used to be that of the extended family. This was particularly true in rural Ethiopia. As time went by, such strong ties are loosening. Even when some of the extended families are willing to take care of the children of their relatives, their economic power/base does not allow them to do so.

Therefore, although some of them are being cared for in orphanages, countless of them end up joining street life.

According to the responses of the interviewed children (see table 4), loss of parents is mentioned as one of the major causes of the problem of streetism. About 13 percent of the interviewees explained loss of parents as the reason for being on the streets.

3.2.5. Ill-treatment by Parents/Guardians

In almost all parts of Ethiopia, child-parent relationship is formal, authoritarian and restrictive. This situation hinders the children from getting the proper exposure and opportunity to acquire necessary skills and confidence. Obedience, distance between parents and children and harsh corporal punishment are practiced and such situations are usually followed by negative effects on the behaviour of children (Summary of the Proceeding 1996:43). This is a fact being practiced by parents/guardians.

Maltreatment can be by parents, step mother/father, or by the community. Such act can emanate because:

- Parents could not afford to raise their children due to poverty,
- Some parents/guardians have addictions like drinking as a result they don't agree with their family members, and
- Hostile step mother/father usually dislike children in the home.

Children who suffer a lot from such kinds of ill treatment prefer to run away from their homes to the streets. Their objective is to get relieve although the streets don't give relieve as expected.

During the interview, 42 (9%) of the 468 children (refer to table 4) responded that they become street children due to maltreatment from parents. According to the respondents most of the time ill treatment comes from either stepmother or stepfather. Thus, single parenthood becomes a threat to children. The problem created by step father/step mother was the major complaint explained by the interviewees.

Although these are the major causes for streetism, there are other causes like family displacement, interest and habit, etc. The amazing thing is that during the interview it was found that 16 (3.5%) children left their home due to interest. Such an issue needs a further study to know whether the children left their home due to moral abandonment, peer groups influence or other reasons.

Generally, as it can be seen from the above data the major contributing factors for the problem of streetism are poverty, migration, family disintegration and loss of parents, but poverty being the leading one. Thus, any intervention to solve the problem of streetism has to focus on eradicating poverty as a primary concern.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE ROLE OF NGOs IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF STREET CHILDREN

4.1. The Needs of Children

Streetism, which is a very miserable life, is at the very margins of human existence, a life that exposes all street children to unacceptable range of physical, mental and social risks. The problem of street children worsens day-by-day, a direct result of poverty, a kind of poverty complicated by the effects of rising unemployment and slum proliferation (FSCE, 1996: App. 3:1).

It is very difficult for the street children to get food for their survival. Most of these children buy either local bread and/or injera with tea or leftovers from hotels/restaurants. The daily life of these vulnerable groups is very hard and even some of them have to do with something scavenging for food. Their houses are church and mosque yards, verandahs, plastic villas, bus stops, market places and very few in family/rented houses.

Except those children who are used to take their meal from parents and NGOs, particularly children of the street depend on leftovers sold to them on cheaper prices from hotels and scavenging i.e. food collected from dirt bins/containers. Perished vegetables from places like *Atikilt Terra (Piazza)* and various supermarkets are also the food sources of street children

Regarding food, the street children were asked to explain the type of food they eat. Their responses are indicated in the following table.

Table 9 Respondents by the Type of Food They Eat

Type of Food	Sex		
	M	F	T
Left overs (gift)	101 (29.2)	31 (25.2)	132 (28.2)
Left overs (bought)	10 (2.8)	2 (1.6)	12 (2.5)
Both left overs and scavenging	12 (3.5)	-	12 (2.5)
Bread and Injera bought	56 (16.2)	10 (8.1)	66 (14.1)
Left overs, and bread and injera	73 (21.2)	2 (1.6)	75 (16.0)
Home made (injera and bread)	57 (16.5)	58 (47.2)	115 (24.6)
NGOs' food	36 (10.4)	20 (16.3)	56 (12.0)
Total	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

The table reveals that about 28% of the children eat left overs being rendered by the alms givers. Those children who do have loose contact with their parents/guardians are mostly dependent on left overs than other kind of food.

The next largest group of children, which is 24.6%, is dependent on the family and eats home made injera/bread. The third largest group (or 16%) is dependent on both left overs, and bread and injera. Those child interviewees who are dependent on left overs are children of the street. These are children who work and sleep on the streets without family contact.

The table indicates that there are about 21% of the 345 male children as compared to 2% of the 123 female children who eat left-overs, and bread and injera. On the other hand, there are 47% of the 123 girls who eat home made

injera and bread as compared to 17% of the 345 boys. In addition, there are 16% of the 123 girls who are dependent on NGOs' food as compared to 10% of the 345 boys.

As regards the needs of street children, they were asked things/materials to be fulfilled for their life to leave the streets. In their answer all have stated that fulfillment of basic needs is the very important issue that should be addressed to improve the life of street children.

In order to check the consistency of the street children in giving responses a similar question, but paraphrased in other words, was asked. The question says could you summarize the major problems when you live on the streets. Their responses were almost similar to those given above. Here is the summary of their responses.

Table 10 Major Problems Faced by Street Children.

Ser. No.	Problem	Frequency	Percentage
1	Unfulfillment of basic needs	383	81.8
2	Unfulfillment of basic needs and abuse	2	.4
3	Unfulfillment of basic needs and rape	22	4.7
4	Unfulfillment of basic needs and conflict with the police	15	3.2
5	Unfulfillment of basic needs and addiction	32	6.8
6	No problem	14	3.0
	Total	468	100

Source: Survey data

Although some of the children magnify the seriousness of the problem by adding other problems, the number of the street children who mentioned unfulfillment of basic needs as a problem is almost equal to the number of street children who explain fulfillment of basic necessities as their need,

with only a difference of 6. Here, the responses of the children confirm hypothesis three, which puts unfulfillment of basic needs as a reason for the street children to leave their family. Related to this, addictions, rape and conflict with police, from more severe to less severe, are the other problems facing street children.

Regarding their clothes, most street children use the same old and dirty clothes for both day and night. They sew usually their own blanket known as *Dirito* by connecting different old clothes together which cannot protect them from harsh environment particularly cold and rain. Out of the 468 interviews, about 70% of the street children do not have separate clothes for the day and night times. Except few children who have NGO and family support, the great majority of street children are bare foot. Some of them may use shoes thrown by other people.

In order to identify children of the street and children on the street the interviewed children were asked to tell their sleeping places. Their responses are shown in table 11. A.

Table 11.A Children by Their Sleeping Place Based on Age

Sleeping place	Approach		Age			Total
	On Streets	Via NGOs	5-10	11-15	16-17	
Home (family)	101 (51.3)	97 (36.1)	25 (62.5)	145 (50.3)	28 (20)	198 (42.3)
Home (rented on nightly basis)	19 (9.7)	67 (24.9)	3 (7.5)	46 (16.0)	37 (26.4)	86 (18.4)
Street and home	14 (7.1)	12 (4.4)	2 (5)	11 (3.8)	13 (9.3)	26 (5.5)
Only street	50 (25.5)	65 (24.0)	8 (20)	51 (17.7)	56 (40)	115 (24.6)
NGOs shelter	13 (6.6)	30 (11.2)	2 (5)	35 (11.2)	6 (4.3)	43 (9.2)
Total	197 (100)	271 (100)	40 (100)	288 (100)	140 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

As it can be observed from table 11. A about 43% of the children live with their family only working on the streets during the day. These are called children on the streets. The second largest group, which is 25%, works and sleeps on the streets. These are called children of the streets.

Table 11A also shows that about 51 percent of the 197 children who use family home for sleeping are approached on the streets while about 36% are from the total 271 approached via NGOs.

Those children in the age category of 5-10 who use family home for sleeping are about 63% as compared to 50% who are found between the age of 11 and 15 years and that of 20% who are found between the ages of 16 and 17 years old. When we see the children who use the street as sleeping place those children between the ages of 5 and 10 are 8% of 40 children, those between the ages of 11 and 15 are about 18% of 288 children and those between the ages of 16 and 17 are 40% of the 140 children. This indicates that street children use family home at their early age and use street when their age increases.

Table 11.B Children by Their Sleeping Place Based on Sex

Sleeping Place	Sex		Total
	M	F	
Home (family)	132 (38.3)	66 (53.7)	198 (42.3)
Home (rented on nightly basis)	62 (18.0)	24 (19.5)	86 (18.4)
Street and home	20 (5.8)	5 (4.1)	25 (5.3)
Only street	96 (27.8)	19 (15.4)	115 (24.6)
NGOs' shelter	33 (9.6)	10 (8.3)	44 (9.4)
Total	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

As it can be observed from table 11.B there are about 54% of the total 123 girls who use family home for sleeping as compared to 38% of the total 345 boys who use family home for sleeping. On the other hand, there are about 28% of the total 345 boys who use only street for sleeping as compared to 15% of the total 123 girls who use the street as sleeping place. This clearly reveals that more boys use the street as a sleeping place than girls.

Due to malnutrition and the children's exposure to external environment especially during the night, most of the children of the street have diseases such as cold, headache, stomachache, nasal bleeding, and so on. During the interview above 45% of the 468 children explained that they have some kind of health problem. Since most of the street children are not legally registered in the Kebeles they are not entitled for free medical services. Very recently various NGOs started to give both medical and shower services for street children registered by respective organizations (NGOs). As it can be seen from tables 11.A and 11.B, about 52% of the children are living either with their family or in NGOs' shelter. These children can get free medical service because their families are registered by the Kebeles or the NGOs can cover their medical expense.

The only NGO, which gives free medical treatment particularly to children of the street, is Mother Theresa's Home located around Sidist Kilo. Almost all children whom we have interviewed on the streets know the free medical service of Mother Theresa's Home. Although he/she might have not been treated there at least he/she has taken his/her friend. This Home is the only NGO which provides free medical service for children of the street who are not registered by the Kebele administrations.

Although they are reluctant to tell the truth, street girls involve in prostitution to get income and because of environmental influence or being on the streets. As regards health problem, some of them complain because they have some

kind of health problem. The exposure of these young girls to sexual exploitation and the risk of being victims of disease like sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS) are great. Those street girls who do not have diseases give birth on the streets for the streets.

During the interviews it was confirmed that out of the total of 123 girls 18 are involved in prostitution and out of those involved only 8 use various contraceptives or other mechanisms to prevent STDs and HIV/AIDS.

The other 10 do not use contraceptives nor other preventive mechanism because, according to them, they don't have money to buy them. The remaining 105 girls do not practice prostitution because a) some of them do have permanent boy friends, and b) most them are kids who are not involved in sexual intercourse

Such a phenomenon of prostitution is very vivid in big cities like Addis Ababa. In 1993 a research was made on child prostitution by Pernille Baardson. The age distribution of the interviewed children was between 13 and 18. All the street children were involved in prostitution to support themselves. This also reveals us street girls are usually exposed to prostitution when they begin to work on the streets.

Many prostitutes contend that "prostitution ... is tremendously difficult work both physically, because of the extreme bodily contact involved, and degrading because of the mental degradation present" (Sikka, 1984:221). Despite such facts prostitution is being exercised by young girls for survival.

When we come to education, according to the 1992/93 Ministry of Education data, out of 4.1 million children of kindergarten age (4-6), only 57,000 attended school in 550 Kindergartens. Of all 57 percent of the children and 97 percent of their teachers were female. Similarly, out of 9.3 million children of primary school, 1.9 million attended school in 8120 schools. The gross

participation rate of primary education is less than 20 percent of the relevant age group, leaving three fourths of school age children with no access (Initial Reports of States Parties, 1995: 33-36). Here what we can see is that let alone street children who do not have shelter and source of income, those children who have at least a place or shelter to sleep and something to eat could not attend school due to economic problem/poverty.

The sample children were asked whether they have ever attended school or not. The responses are in the table below.

Table 12 Educational Background of Street Children

Educational Background	Children Approached on the Streets	Children Approached Via NGOs	Sex		Total
			M	F	
Never Attended	22 (11.5)	18 (6.6)	30 (8.7)	10 (8.1)	40 (8.5)
Informal Education- Church/Koran	3 (1.5)	2 (0.7)	4 (1.2)	1 (0.8)	5 (1.1)
Elementary Education (1-6)	98 (48.8)	160 (59.0)	185 (53.6)	73 (59.3)	258 (55.1)
Junior Education (7-8)	45 (22.8)	53 (19.6)	71 (20.6)	27 (21.6)	98 (20.9)
High School (9-12)	29 (14.7)	38 (14.8)	55 (16.0)	12 (9.5)	67 (14.3)
Total	197 (100)	271 (100)	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: survey data

Out of 468 child interviewees 258 (i.e. 55.1%) have elementary education, 98 (20.9%) have junior secondary education, while 67 (14.3%) have secondary education. The total number of street children who have at least elementary education are 423 (90.4%). This may indicate that overwhelming majority of the street children had the chance to learn but could not pursue their learning due to one reason or another. Another implication of this fact is that overwhelming majority of the street children had got the chance to learn perhaps because their parents/guardians were urban dwellers.

As the table shows except 8.5%, the remaining 91.5% have attended education at various levels. The table clearly indicates that in elementary education there are 59% of the total 271 children approached via NGOs as compared to 49% of the total 197 children approached on the streets. In non formal education, junior education, and high school education the percentage of children approached on the streets and via NGOs is almost equal relatively.

Similarly, there are about 59% of the 123 girls in elementary schools as compared to 53% of the total 345 boys. In high school education, there are about 16% of the total 345 boys while there are about 10% of the total 123 girls. In terms of educational background the data do not, except in elementary education, indicate a very significant difference between street child interviewees who get any kind of help from NGOs and those who do not get any kind of help.

As table 12 shows except 40 (8.5%) children, the others have attended school. So as to examine the prevailing educational status, the children were asked whether they still continue to attend school.

Table 13 Existing Educational Status of the Street Children

Educational Status	Children Approached on the Streets	Children Approached Via NGOs	Sex		Total
			M	F	
Attending	110 (55.8)	181 (66.6)	202 (58.6)	89 (72.4)	291 (62.2)
Not Attending	87 (44.2)	90 (33.2)	143 (41.4)	34 (27.6)	177 (37.8)
Total	197 (100)	271 (100)	345 (100)	123 (100)	468 (100)

Source: Survey data

Table 13 indicates the situation of street children whether they are currently attending classes or not. Generally, 291 (62.2%) of the child interviewees reported that they are attending their classes. Among children who receive any kind of help from NGOs 181 (66.8%) said that they are continuing their schooling while 110 (55.8%) of the children who do not receive any kind of help from NGOs reported that they have continued their schooling. On the other hand, there are about 44% of the total 197 children approached on the streets who do not attend schooling as compared to 33% of the total 271 children approached via NGOs. From this data one may say that street children who receive any kind of help from NGOs get relatively higher chance to continue their education.

Likewise, there are about 72% of the total 123 girls who are attending school whereas there are 58% of the total 345 boys. There are also about 41% of the total 345 boys as compared to 27% of the total 123 girls are not attending school. Based on the result of this gender analysis, the percentage of boys who are not attending school are more than those girls who do not attend school.

Table 13 also indicates that in addition to the 40 children who have not attended school, another 137 children discontinued their education. The children who had never attended school and who had discontinued their education were asked their reason.

Table 14 Reasons Given by Children for not Attending School and Discontinuing their Education

Ser. No.	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Financial Problem	152	85.7
2	Non financial family problem	25	14.2
	Total	177	100

Source: Survey data

Out of those children who have discontinued their education, 86 percent explained financial problem as the most severe one. And this is related with the weak economic status of the family. The remaining 14 percent reported non financial family problem as a reason for not attending their education.

Street children also engage in activities that are against law/culture. These include stealing and other addictive habits like smoking, chewing chat inhaling benzene, drinking alcohol, taking drugs/hashish, etc. According to the interview result, these unlawful activities are usually exercised by children of the street who do not get the services of NGOs. Out of the 197 children who do not get services from NGOs, about 99 percent have the habit of smoking, chewing chat, sniffing benzene, using drugs, etc. Only 1 percent of children approached on the street does not have any addiction. Those children who receive any kind of help from NGOs explained that they do not have any addiction. This clearly indicates that children who are getting assistance from NGOs are in a better position than those who do not receive

any kind of assistance from the NGOs. Because all children who are beneficiaries of NGOs services do not have any addiction. But this may not be true in all cases. Because those children who get assistance from NGOs may be reluctant to tell the truth fearing abandonment from the NGOs or other problem.

They also commit crime ranging from simple theft to big ones. According to the Federal Police Commission, there were 3286 children below the age of 15 who were officially suspected of committing crime in 1994/95 (CYAO, et.al. 1996:3)

As the magnitude of the problem of street children increases, there will be a dangerous increase in criminal offences.

4.2. The Role of NGOs

In order to assess the role played by NGOs in tackling the problem of street children 7 projects are selected from 7 NGOs (one from each). The role being played by these NGOs will be discussed later on.

To bring positive changes in the living conditions of street children, effective and large-scale programs are required from concerned government agencies and NGOs. But experience dictates that this will not happen without a well-planned, high profile campaign of advocacy touching all sectors of the society as well as national and international policy-makers, donor communities and program initiators (FSCE, 1996: 2).

According to available information, as many as 92-child care institutions catering for the needs of 13,250 children are sponsored by NGOs (TGE/UNICEF, op.cit.:46).

The NGOs have played a significant role in promoting the welfare of destitute children. According to unofficial statistics a total of 150 (both national and international) NGOs are registered by the Disaster prevention and Preparedness Commission of Ethiopia. Most of the NGOs, however, emphasize on the provision of direct services while few concentrate in advocacy work combined with development endeavours (Tsegaye, 1995 :42). An attempt has been made to know the existing numbers of NGOs which are functioning in the country.

According to the 1996 DPPC unpublished list of NGOs, there are about 212 NGOs functioning in the country. These NGOs participate both in relief and development activities.

Phoenix Universal also indicated that there are 250 NGOs operating in Ethiopia. This is not a big number as compared to 50,000 NGOs in other African countries (NGO Focus, 1997: 1). But it is true that the NGOs number is increasing from time to time.

Another government organization, which was visited so as to know the number of NGO, was the Ministry of Justice. The responsibility for registration was given in 1995 to this Ministry. The registration guideline clearly states that any foreign and/or local NGO shall produce its written application to the Registration Office of MOJ by producing the following documents indicated in Box 2.

**Box 2 Supporting Documents that should be produced by NGOs to the
Registration Office of MOJ.**

Type of NGO	Documents that should be attached by NGOs with written application
International NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -authenticated certificate that shows the applicant is registered in its country of origin, -authenticated memorandum of association of the applicant organization by which its contemporary activities are governed, -project proposal showing the intended project to be performed, -authenticated boards decision to operate in Ethiopia, -letter of confirmation from its financiers (donor's) explaining that they would finance the applicant, and -activity and financial report of a previous year if it has made an agreement with any government body.
Indigenous NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Charter signed by founders, -CV of each founder, -Educational background of founders, -Project proposal that explains the planned activities, -Source of fund, and -Activity and financial report of a previous year if it has made an agreement with any government body.

Source: Ministry of Justice.

After fulfilling the above criteria the NGOs apply for registration. In the period between October 1995 and April 1998, almost in 3 years time, 582 NGOs have applied for registration. Out of these NGOs only 170 have fulfilled the criteria and registered in the last 3 years. In addition, there are 162 NGOs registered by the then Ministry of Internal affairs and transferred to MOJ. There are also 46 NGOs which have got recognition by defunct Derg regime. According to the list of MOJ, there are 378 NGOs operating in the country.

In order to know the number of NGOs functioning in Addis Ababa, Foreign Relation and Development Bureau of the Addis Ababa City Administration was visited. According to the Bureau, there are 81 NGOs which are functioning in the city. There are also 35 NGOs which have applied for

registration. In order to know whether the number of NGOs is increasing or not, the Bureau was asked if there are documents on previous years. But no evidences were found. Similarly, there were no data to trace back regarding the number of NGOs neither in DPPC nor MOJ. In addition, the list of NGOs is not separated according to their function, service or type. Thus, I will try to show the increasing number of NGOs by summarizing the above available data. The summary of the data is indicated in the following table.

Table 15 A Summary Data on the Number of NGOs Operating in Ethiopia

Year	No. of NGOs	Source	Growth in %
1995	150	Tsegaye, 1995:42	-
1996	212	DPPC	41.3
1997	250	NGO Focus, 1997:1	17.9
1998	378	MOJ	51.2

Source: Survey data

The table clearly shows that the number of NGOs is increasing. For example, in the four years time, the number of NGOs increased by 152 per cent.

Although it is difficult to say these four sources are comparable, it may be good if the figures of DPPC and MOJ are taken for the purpose of this study because these two organizations are usually registering NGOs. Thus if we take the 1996 statistics of DPPC and the 1998 statistics of MOJ, there is a difference of 166 (or a growth of about 44% in two years time).

According to these sources it is confirmed that the number of NGOs is increasing. However, it is true that due to lack of established databases in those organizations which are responsible for registering the NGOs, it has been impossible to identify those NGOs which are dealing with the problem

of street children. Thus, it has been difficult to test hypothesis four. Although the increase in the number of the NGOs in general could not be taken as a direct supportive data for my study, the indirect result on the number of NGOs reveals us that the number of NGOs which deal with the problem of streetism is increasing.

The strength of NGOs lies in the diversity of solutions and programs offered to diverse target groups and diverse economic, social and cultural settings. But it is true that they are limited in their ability to mobilize resources for larger investments. They are only rich in their ability to provide social services for street children (Idid).

In spite of the severe problems of children in especially difficult circumstances, the services provided by both the government and NGOs are minimal in relative terms. The services include the following.

- Out of the total 4 million children in especially difficult circumstances, only 1.5% gets various services.
- Out of 500,000 orphaned and destitute children, only 24,546 are getting institutional services.
- Of the total of 2 million disabled children, only 3,000 get services.
- Out of the estimated 100,000 street children around 3,000 are getting different services (quoted by Zenebe, op. Cit.: 26).

Another study by MOLSA and UNICEF states that there are two levels of interventions: firstly, institutional care provided by government and NGOs, and secondly, support through the children's families and day care centers making available supplementary food, medical care, education, etc. In

Ethiopia, out of the total of 500,000 high risk, 30,000 (i.e., 6%) street children receive support through their families (1993:48).

It is true that as far as there are poverty and disasters and as far as governments continue to be unable to perform efficiently due to limited resources and maladministration what NGOs are doing effectively, NGOs will continue to be there to play a crucial role. In stead of charity, which could not be a solution to poverty, NGOs have started to look for sustained development. Because it is believed that poverty would be eradicated through sustained development (NGO Forum: 1997: 16).

NGOs also play a major role to developing a democratic tradition of solving local problems through active, popular participation. Because they involve the people with whom they work from the inception to the implementation of projects. Besides, they are playing and will continue to play the role of advocacy on issues of international concern such as global poverty, the environment, the elimination of nuclear weapons, the debt burden, the empowerment of women, structural adjustment, etc. Furthermore, there is a role of NGOs as research and dissemination agents. Their wide and close involvement with the people gives NGOs a unique position to carry out research and disseminate it (Ibid: 17-18).

In sum, NGOs role can be the following:

- mobilizers of resources
- deliverers of services,
- advocates of the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed and
- influencers of public policy at local, national and international levels (Joseph, 1997: 18).

In order to show what NGOs are doing I have tried to summarize the most important issues related to those selected NGOs using the following box. The major issues raised are services being rendered by the projects, criteria for the admission of street children to the projects, objectives of the projects, activities performed and being performed by the projects, sources of fund, and so on., are summarized (See boxes 3.A to 3.D next page)

As it can be observed from the boxes the seven projects of the seven NGOs give similar types of services for their beneficiaries/street children. However there are some differences.

Goal street children project, for example, has a total of 410 beneficiaries. Out of these children only 82 (20%) are attending formal education. The remaining 80 percent are only beneficiaries to other services like meal service, non-formal education, recreational services, health care service, and guidance and counseling. Although this has to be seen from the financial capacity of the project, the street children have to attend formal education because formal education helps to improve their future life and fend for themselves. FSCE preventive street children project, on the other hand, focuses on education. All of the beneficiaries of the project attend formal education but no meal service is provided. This project, however, support the families through income generating activities.

When we see the community based child rehabilitation project of Redd Barna it also emphasizes, like that of FSCE project, on giving educational support for the street children and credit facilities for the families of street children. In these two projects, the major complaint came from the beneficiaries was the issue of uniforms which is requested by their respective schools. Particularly those children found in the Redd Barna project said that if the project does not buy uniforms for us we are going back to streets. In addition, the project of Redd Barna in its criteria for admission indicates that the children should

have family in Addis Ababa for rehabilitation. This criterion excludes those children who do not have family at all and those who do have family outside Addis Ababa. According to the project officials of Redd Barna and FSCE the reason behind emphasizing on high risk children is to enable the families to solve their own problems by themselves so as to bring sustainability in the projects. But it is true that their programs exclude those destitute children who are already on the streets without any family care.

Hope Enterprises' program to approach the problems seems holistic using various methods to rehabilitate and bring self-sufficiency among its beneficiaries and to provide relief when the need arises. Its skills training programs are very wide and these enabled many destitute children to be employed in various organizations and create self-employment. Ethiopian Aid also provide skills training in addition to its medical, shower and meal services.

SIM provides meal, clothes, guidance and counseling services. It also covers school expenses for the children. But there is no skill training program being given by SIM.

In general, the seven projects can be grouped into three. The first group includes Goal street children project and SIM street children project which do not provide credit for income generating activities. Their emphasis is on direct assistance to the street children. But it is true that the number of street children being assisted and the services provided by the two organizations may not be comparable. For instance, Goal gives skills training and other services for the street children. The second category embodies FSCE street children preventive project and Redd Barna community based child rehabilitation project which focus on coverage of any school expenses for children and income generating activities. The third group embraces Hope Enterprises street children preventive project, CCF-street children project and

Ethiopian Aid street children project which focus on food, health, education and guidance and counseling as well as skills training programs.

4.3. Evaluation of NGOs

“Institutional care creates dependency. Children will lose their initiative to develop and fend for themselves” (Whitmore, 1996). It seems due to this fact that most of the NGOs assessed are involving in community based child rehabilitation programs including income generating activities for parents.

The interviewees were asked whether they are being assisted by the NGOs or not. Out of the total 468 children two third gets various services from the NGOs while one third does not get any assistance. The assistance does not necessarily cover the whole basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, education and health facilities). Some may get only food. Others may get shower and medical services. Others may receive educational support, school fee and shelter. Still others may be provided with school support and recreational services. The following table shows the number of services being given by the NGOs.

Table 16 Services Being Rendered by the 7 NGOs to Street Children

Ser. No.	Type of Service*	Frequency	Percentage
1	Only one type of service	71	15.2
2	Two types of services	38	8.1
3	Three types of services	49	10.5
4	Four types of services	57	12.2
5	Five types of services	42	9
6	Six types of services	61	13
7	No services	150	32
	Total	468	100

*Types of services rendered by NGOs include food, health care, school expenses, clothing, shelter and recreation

Source: Survey data

Table 16 shows that only 13 percent of the interviewed children get all services, (i. e., food, shelter, clothing, education, health facilities and recreation). About 15% get only one type of service. 40 percent of the total children receive two, three, four or five types of services. The remaining 32 percent do not get any assistance from the NGOs and most of these children are those who work and sleep on the streets.

Related to this, the children who are being assisted by the NGOs were asked whether they are provided with skill/vocational training or not. Out of the 318 children who are being assisted by the NGOs, 120 (37.7 percent) get skill training in bamboo work, tannery, wood work, metal work, driving, construction, auto mechanics, electricity, cosmetology, ceramics and carpet making. The remaining 62.3 percent do not get any skill training. But as it has been tested by Hope Enterprises and other NGOs, skill training has been found very important because most of the trainees are competent and being employed in various organizations particularly in the private sector. They are equipped with marketable skills. Thus, vocational training programs for street children have to be further strengthened and expanded.

Out of the 468 sample, an attempt has been made to classify the interviewees based on the UNICEF categories of street children. As a result, it has been found that:

- children on the street are 246,
- children of the street are 150, and
- high risk children are 72

The result shows that about 53 percent are children on the street (i.e., children who work during the day time and join their families during the night). About 32 percent of the children are children of the street who work and sleep on the street. They don't have family attachment. These two groups of children work

on the street so as to support themselves because their families could not fulfill their basic needs due to poverty. The remaining 15% are children found at high risk but not yet involved in street life. If they don't get some kind of help, they will join street life. Thus, prevention activities which are being done by NGOs like Hope Enterprises, FSCE, and Redd Barna Ethiopia are better solutions for such kind of high risk children.

When we see the issues related with health, the street children were interviewed to respond to whether they have been given health education or not. Out of the 318 children who are receiving assistance from NGOs, 224 (47.9) are being given general health education, most of them once in a week. The health education focuses on sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, family planning and other similar subjects. The other 94 (20.1%) explained that they have not been given any health education by the NGOs.

Street children have various addictions. Out of the total sample taken from the streets almost 99 percent are exposed to addictions like smoking, chewing chat, drinking and inhaling benzene. It is only 1 percent who does not have any of the addictions. But those children being assisted by NGOs are free from addictions and this seems the result of either the efforts of the NGOs in their counseling and guidance services or fearing abandonment.

The sample children were also asked whether they have a message to NGOs or not.

Table 17 Messages of Children to NGOs

Ser. No.	Message	Frequency	Percentage
1	I need their assistance	376	80.3
2	I don't have any message	86	18.4
3	Unspecified (missing cases)	6	1.3
	Total	468	100

Source: Survey data

Table 17 reveals that most of the children (80.3%) still need the assistance of NGOs for their livelihood. Besides, 18.4% of the children stated that they don't have any message to NGOs. But this does not mean that they don't need any assistance from NGOs. This is due to the fact that some are not aware what NGOs are and what they are doing.

Although they are noteworthy and encouraging, the interventions of NGOs dealing with the problem of street children and their families are not adequate. The 15 experts of government and NGOs, researchers and social workers also stated that although the efforts made by the NGOs to solve the problem could not be underestimated, the interventions are not adequate to give a lasting solution for the problem of street children. According to some unpublished and undated sources of FSCE, out of about 40,000 street children in Addis Ababa, only 6000-7000 of them get various services by NGOs. This is about 17.5 % of the total number.

All the NGOs which have been assessed under 4.2 above were asked if they have indicators and/or measurements to check whether the need of the street children are met or not. Except one NGO, the other six use the following indicators:

- regular school attendance and good achievement.
- behavioral change, become respectful and gentle.
- success in getting job opportunity and becoming self-supportive after vocational training.
- voluntary participation in various activities or knowing the nobility of work.
- nutritional status report from health centers.
- biannual surveys by distributing questionnaires to children and analysis of same for adjustment.
- improvement in family income (for community based intervention).

The above listed indicators are not used by all NGOs. Some may use only one indicator. Others may use two or three of the indicators. The problem is that most of the NGOs use these indicators randomly and the indicators are not put in a written document. Thus, there have to be written indicators for proper evaluation of programs.

An attempt has been made to get the yearly spending of the 7 NGOs' projects on street children. But since the projects do not have organized data on budgetary issues, the analysis of financial spending of the NGOs is omitted.

However, in order to use their budget efficiently, NGOs have to focus on the following:

- only necessary positions which can help to carry out the stated objectives should be created.
- positions related with routine activities should be filled by nationals.
- expatriates should hold positions that enable them to play advisory role by leaving the implementation to the nationals.

Efforts must be made to create and raise public awareness about the nature, the extent and the causes of the problem of street children. Advocacy through lobbying for the well being of children and for the proper implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to destitute children. It is important to organize workshops, seminars, publications and meetings to create awareness. However, except FSCE, the other six NGOs do not include as a component of their major activities. Here, it is important to focus on the specific group of the society who can contribute better to curb the problem. That is, those people who have the capacity to assist the children should be the focus group.

Generally the 7 NGOs have, among others, the following strengths:

- a) all, except one NGO, use preventive approach in addition to their street children rehabilitation programs. Focusing on preventive than rehabilitation approach is important to protect children before joining street life. However, due to such approach children of the street are being forgotten.
- b) all NGOs use parents as the committee members of the project beginning from the inception to the implementation phase. Parents are the prime movers of the projects. This will help to use local resources and invite the wider community to participate in the programs. Most importantly such approach brings sustainability because things can be sustainable if they go down to the local community level. But this does not mean that the problem will be alleviated simply by taking the programs down to the community level because such programs need resources. Thus, practical steps should be taken to get resources for minimizing the problem of streetism.

Their major weaknesses include the following:

- a) except two NGOs, the others do not have well established databases that clearly indicate what they are doing and what they have planned for the beneficiaries.
- b) international NGOs which should perform advisory functions loose their time by doing routine activities which can be handled by nationals.
- c) there is no strong collaboration between international NGOs and local NGOs.

Due to its limited resources, Ethiopia cannot solve the social problems faced by every sector of the society. Thus, the NGOs are considered as supplements, alternatives or gap fillers. And their role in assisting the vulnerable groups could not be underestimated. Because the NGOs are not only giving social services for the needy but also are trying to bring development.

NGOs are mobilizers and/or catalysts. They cannot solve all problems faced by a given country. Therefore, there should be collaboration among governments, NGOs, the society and religious organizations. Although all these agencies can be sources of resources to solve problems the major actors should be the government and the society as initiator and as major sources of resources respectively.

Although NGOs are doing their best to meet the basic needs of street children, it has been impossible to reach all corners of the streets. But those handful projects being undertaken by the NGOs to rehabilitate street children in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular should not be underestimated.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

It is an undeniable fact that the continuity of development efforts in any country depends largely on the children of that country. As today's children are nation builders and producers of tomorrow, they deserve all the attention, love and care they need even within the limits of our capacity. This implies that helping and/or taking care for street children is not just doing them a favour. As far as they are children, it is the responsibility and obligation of adults to help them. As a result, the commitment of nation building and development should be measured against the programs directed towards the needs of children.

Street children are basically a group of income earners who are engaged in income earning activities at a comparatively early age of their lives. Children leave their family both to support themselves and their meager family income. That is, because families are unable to fulfill the basic needs of their children due to poverty, children are forced to join street life. In short, poverty is the foremost reason why children move to the streets. The problem of streetism is expanding with the growth of cities and towns. The emergence of the problem of street children is particularly integrally related to the phenomenon of urban poverty. That is why unlike the previous years, the number of children who are coming out of the urban poor families to the streets is increasing. These children come from families of low paying

activities dominantly self employment and daily labour. In short, all social problems including the problem of streetism are, therefore, the reflection of the overall economic development.

Generally, about two third of the street children are found between the age group of 11 and 15 years old. Whereas, one third of the street children came from a single parenthood family particularly from a female headed household. Out of the total number of children, about 23% eat left overs usually provided by the alms givers. But it is true that girls are more dependent on home made injera/bread, and NGOs' food as compared to boys. Children also began to sleep on the streets when they particularly reach between the ages of 11 and 15 and even completely detach themselves from their family and become children of the street. More boys usually use the streets as a sleeping place than girls. Regarding education those children who receive any kind of help from the NGOs are more beneficiaries than those children approached on the streets.

As regards the categories of street children, it has been confirmed by the study that the majority of the street children are children on the street who work during the day times in order to support themselves and their families. The second largest group comprises those children known as children of the street. These are children who work and sleep on the streets and their family attachment is very loose and even some of them do not have any relation. The third group, who are called high risk children, are those children usually not found on the streets. These are poor children who live with their family. But if nothing is done for this group, they are the first to go out to the streets .

According to the NGOs' classification, the NGOs assessed in this study can be categorized as advocates of the poor because all of them assist those children who are in need of help. That is, all of the NGOs help those children who left their home because of the unfulfillment of their needs in the home.

The focus of the NGOs reviewed in this study are helping the poor children in one way or another. However, some of them like Redd Barna, CCF, and Goal have international affiliations in their home country and other countries and thus participate in mobilizing resources not only for their programs but also for other NGOs. They act sometimes as fund raising agencies.

Street children are highly mobile and found in urban centers. These children have economic, educational and other social needs. Therefore, programs undertaken by NGOs and governments must be urban focused. They must also be mobile, reactive, quick and multi-dimensional to address children's needs. In doing so, both the federal and the regional governments have to take preventive measures and rehabilitate street children by mobilizing the community, the NGOs and religious institutions.

An important issue that should get attention by NGOs (local/international) should be to reduce dependency among the poor. They should instead facilitate/enhance sustainability of their programs rather than a hand to mouth kind of assistance. Such kind of development effort should not be scattered but rather integrated in order to bring self-reliance. In other words, the problem of street children needs preventive, rehabilitative and integrated intervention. Such an ideal will become reality when families, communities, government and NGOs work together and become involved in sustainable programs.

As it can be seen from the present study, the magnitude of the problem of street children is increasing in Ethiopia as a whole and in Addis Ababa in particular. It seems, therefore, a matter of urgency to implement the social policy to solve social problems and initiate specific policy for the informal sector for the poor in general and for the street children in particular.

In general, if the government gives a deaf ear to the problem of streetism, it will reach unprecedented levels and it risks to become irreversible.

5.2. Recommendations

- 5.2.1. Preventing high risk children from going to the streets by supporting the parents down at the community level in all aspects and rehabilitating them in every way is an issue to be focused on in many least developed countries. Such income generating activities, which have already been started by most of the NGOs in general and those of the NGOs assessed in this study in particular, should be further strengthened because the stability of incomes is one of the determining factors for the sustainability of the rehabilitation programs. This type of solution helps to tackle the root causes of the problem rather than treating the symptoms.

- 5.2.2. Civic education at all levels of educational setups is important in upbringing children. Thus, civic education should be flourished beginning from kindergarten through high school level. Likewise, family planning education should also be expanded and facilities have to be provided to those who cannot afford them. Education on home management, child care, and environmental sanitation has to be also given beginning from elementary level of education. In this regard, the community has to participate in expanding civic education beginning from home.

- 5.2.3. The existing vocational/skill training programs, which are being given by the NGOs, have to be expanded and strengthened. Because such programs help the street children both to get employment opportunities and create self employment.

5.2.4. Since the magnitude of streetism is increasing at a fast rate, it is a matter of urgency to initiate policy for the informal sector for the poor in general and for the street children in particular. The government has to appreciate the problem and be willing enough to formulate policy for the informal sector so as to alleviate the problem of the vulnerable groups particularly children who are the street vendors.

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE STREET CHILDREN IN ADDIS

ABABA

I. Personal Record

1. Name _____

2. Age _____

3. Sex

a) Male _____

b) female _____

4. Place of Birth

a) Region _____

b) Zone _____

c) Woreda _____

d) Kebele _____

5. Religion

a) Orthodox _____

b) Muslim _____

c) Protestant _____

d) Other (specify) _____

II. Family Condition

6. Are your parents alive?

a) Both alive together _____

b) Both alive but separated/ divorced _____

c) Only father alive _____

d) Only mother alive _____

e) Both dead _____

7. Where do your parents live now?

- a) Region _____
- b) Zone _____
- c) Woreda _____
- d) Kebele _____

8. If your families are living outside Addis Ababa, with whom did you come to this city?

- a) Alone _____
- b) With relatives _____
- c) With friends _____
- d) With other people (specify) _____

9. How often do you visit your family?

- a) Everyday _____
- b) Every week _____
- c) Every month _____
- d) Every year _____
- e) Irregularly _____
- f) I don't visit them _____

10. How many siblings (brothers and sisters) do you have? _____

11. Does anyone of them participate in street life?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

12. If your answer to question number 11 is yes, how many of them?

13. How does your family head (father or mother) earn his/her livelihood?

- a) Daily labourer _____
- b) Self-employed _____
- c) Government employee _____
- d) Farmer _____
- e) Soldier _____
- f) Beggar _____
- g) Other (specify) _____

14. What is your father educational background?

- a) Illiterate _____
- b) Read and write _____
- c) Regular education (1-6) _____
- d) Regular education (7-8) _____
- e) Regular education (9-12) _____
- f) Diploma and above _____

III. Education

15. Have you ever attended school?

- a) Informal education (Church/ Koran) _____
- b) Regular education (1-6) _____
- c) Regular education (7-8) _____
- d) Regular education (9-12) _____
- e) Never _____

16. Are you still attending school?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

17. If never and no is your answer to question number 15 and 16 respectively, what is the reason?

- a) Financial problem _____
- b) Non-financial family problem _____
- c) Other (specify) _____

IV. Health Condition

18. Do you have any of the following health problem?

- a) Skin _____
- b) Cold _____
- c) Eye _____
- d) Ear _____
- e) Stomachache _____
- f) Nasal _____
- g) Headache _____
- h) Other (specify) _____

19. Have you ever been hospitalized?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

20. If yes, who took you there? _____

21. In what type of clinic/hospital had you been treated?

- a) Government _____
- b) NGO _____
- c) Private _____
- d) Other (specify) _____

22. How was the cost covered?

- a) I paid _____
- b) My friend paid _____
- c) NGO Paid _____
- d) Free _____
- e) Other (specify) _____

V. NGOs Related Questions

23. Do you know NGOs that assist street children?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

24. If you are being assisted by any of the NGOs, could you mention the name of the NGO? _____

25. What type of services do you get from the NGO you mentioned?

- a) Food _____
- b) Health _____
- c) School Expense _____
- d) Home for sleeping _____
- e) Clothe _____
- f) Recreation _____
- g) All _____
- h) Other (specify) _____

26. Does the NGO you mentioned provide you vocational training?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

27. If yes is your answer to question number 26, what type of training is involved?

- a) Wood work _____
- b) Metal work _____
- c) Weaving _____
- d) Curtain making _____
- e) Carpet making _____
- f) Tannery _____
- g) Pottery _____
- h) Bamboo work _____
- i) Some of the combinations _____
- j) Other (specify) _____

28. Is there any health education being given by the NGO?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

29. If yes, would you list them?

30. Have you benefited from NGOs assistance?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

31. If no, why? Explain.

32. Do you have any message to NGOs?

VI. Prostitution

33. Have you ever been involved in prostitution?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

34. If your answer to the previous question is yes, do you use contraceptives and other mechanisms to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases respectively?

a) yes _____

b) No _____

35. If no, why?

VII. General Questions

36. Do you work to satisfy your basic needs?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

37. If your answer to question number 36 is yes, in what type of work are you engaged?

- a) Shoe shinning _____
- b) Car washing/watching _____
- c) *Woyalla* (taxi broker) _____
- d) Porter _____
- e) Selling *kollo* (roasted grain) _____
- f) Daily labourer _____
- g) Peddler (selling plastic bag, chewing gums, cigarettes, etc.,) _____
- h) Carrier/messenger _____
- i) Other (specify) _____

38. If your answer to question number 36 is no, how do you survive?

39. Do you beg?

- a) Always _____
- b) Sometimes _____
- c) Very rarely _____
- d) Never _____

40. Do you want to leave street life?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

41. If yes is your answer to question number 40, under what condition? Explain.

42. If no is your answer to question number 40, why? Explain.

43. Where do you go usually to sleep?

- a) Home (family) _____
- b) Home (rented) _____
- c) Both home and street _____
- d) Only street _____
- e) NGO Shelter _____

44. What type of food do you eat?

- a) Left-overs (gift) _____
- b) Left-overs (bought) _____
- c) Scavenging _____
- d) Both left-overs and scavenging _____
- e) Bread and *injera* bought _____
- f) Left-overs, and bread and *injera* _____
- g) NGO food _____
- h) Home made food _____

45. How many meals do you have in a day?

- a) One _____
- b) Two _____
- c) Three _____
- d) Four _____

46. Do you have any addiction? Frequency: Daily, Once in a week, Other(Specify)

- | | <u>Daily,</u> | <u>Once in a week,</u> | <u>Other(Specify)</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Smoking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) Drinking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) Chewing <i>chat</i> _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| d) Inhaling benzene _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| e) Using drugs _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| f) Some of the combinations | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| g) Other (specify) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

47. Why did you leave your family?
- a) Due to economic problem (poverty) _____
 - b) Due to family disintegration _____
 - c) Due to ill-treatment _____
 - d) Due to interest and habit _____
 - e) Loss of parents _____
 - f) Displacement of parents _____
 - g) Rural-urban migration _____
 - h) Other (specify) _____

48. Do you have separate clothes for the night and day times?
- a) Yes _____
 - b) No _____

49. In order to say the life of a given street child is fulfilled, what services should be rendered?

50. What do you want to be in future?

51. Could you summarize the major and serious problems that you face when you live on the streets?

52. Do you have any question to ask me?

Thank You

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE STAFF/OFFICIALS OF NGOs ENGAGED IN ASSISTING THE STREET CHILDREN

I. Introduction

1. Name of your organization _____
P. O. BOX _____
Tel. No. _____
Addis Ababa

2. For how many years did you serve in this organization? _____

3. Position _____

4. Could you explain, in brief, the objective of your organization?

5. What initiated your organization to deal with the problem of street children?

6. Does your organization have any relationship/affiliation with government bodies?
a) Yes _____
b) No _____

7. If yes, what is the role of the government bodies in the organization's activities?
a) Extending assistance either in cash or in kind _____
b) Engaging only in management and coordination _____
c) No involvement at all _____
d) Other (specify) _____

II. Definition

8. What are the major criteria for the selection and identification of the children to be beneficiaries in your organization?

9. For which age categories does your organization give assistance range)? _____

10. How many street children are being assisted by your organization? You can list in detail if there is any classification.

III. Activities

11. Would you enumerate the services and training programs being rendered by your organization?

12. What was the rationale behind emphasizing the above services and training programs?

13. Do you think the services being rendered by your organization satisfy the need of the street children?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

14. If no is your answer to question no. 13, what do you think are the major reasons behind?

15. Does your organization have any developmental activities related with street children?

- a) Yes _____
b) No _____

16. If yes is your answer to the previous question, could you list those projects?

IV. Fund

17. From where does your organization obtain its funds?

V. Registration

18. Is your organization registered?

- a) Yes _____
b) No _____

19. If yes, by which organization/office?

20. Is there registration fee?

- a) Yes _____
b) No _____

21. If yes, how much do you pay?

22. Is there any yearly regular payment?

- a) Yes _____
b) No _____

23. If your answer to the previous question is yes, how much do you pay? _____

24. Do you face any problem related to registration? Explain.

VI. Parents Related Issues

25. Is there any relationship between your organization and the street children's parents?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

26. If yes, what do the parents suggest concerning any kind of economic and behavioural changes their children have shown?

27. If yes, what are the common suggestions?

28. Is there any suggestion from the residents/professionals of the nearby kebeles as to the children's manner and behaviour?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

29. If yes, what are the common suggestions?

VII. Plan

30. What is the future plan/emphasis of your organization?

VIII. Evaluation

31. What are your indicators/measurements to check whether the needs of the street children are met or not? Could you put them by differentiating as either psycho-social or economic indicators?

IX. Opinion Questions

32. Do you face any problem in working with the street children? Please explain.

33. Do you think the interventions of the agencies dealing with street children and their families are adequate?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

34. If no, what do you recommend for improvements?

35. What are the major problems your NGO is facing?

36. Do you think the magnitude of the problem of streetism is increasing?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

37. Could you explain the major causes of streetism?

38. Could you guess the number of street children in Addis Ababa?

39. What could be the possible sources of resources to solve the problem?

40. What do you think is a lasting solution to the problem of the street children?

41. Do you have any question to ask me?

Thank You

APPENDIX 3

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH KEY PERSONS (GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SOCIAL WORKERS, RESEARCHERS, OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE, ETC,)

1. Name of your organization _____
P. O. Box _____
Addis Ababa

2. Position _____

3. What initiated you to deal with the problem of street children?

4. Could you mention the possible causes of streetism?

5. Who should be responsible to prevent or mitigate the problem of street children?
 - a) Government through organizations like MOLSA, DPPC, CYAO, etc., _____
 - b) The Community _____
 - c) The NGOs _____
 - d) Other (specify) _____

6. Do you think the magnitude of streetism is increasing?
 - a) Yes _____
 - b) No _____

7. If yes, what evidences could be mentioned?

8. Do you think the services being rendered by NGOs satisfy the needs of street children?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

9. If your answer to the previous question is no, what do you think are the major reasons?

10. Do you think the assistance of NGOs is sustainable?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

11. If no, why?

12. Do you think those NGOs which deal with the problem of streetism use their budget efficiently?

- a) Yes _____
- b) No _____

13. If no, could you explain the reasons?

14. Could you mention the major measures (from most important to less important) to rehabilitate street children?

15. Do you think the measures you mentioned could be a lasting solution and adequate for the problem of street children?

a) Yes _____

b) No _____

16. If no, what do you recommend for improvements?

17. What do you think are the possible sources of resources to solve the problem of streetism?

18. Could you guess the number of street children in Addis Ababa?

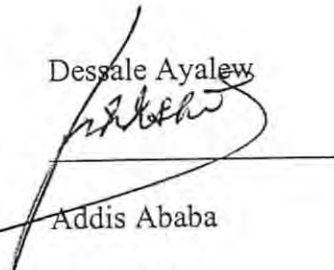
19. Do you have any question to ask me?

Thank You

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 sorts of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name: Dessale Ayalew

Signature: 

Place: Addis Ababa

Date: June 1998

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

Theo van der Loop (Ph. D.)

June 1998