

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF GLUE SNIFFING STREET CHILDREN IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA: VIOLENCE COPING AND RESILIENCE.

**Research for Partial Fulfillment of the requirements of the Postgraduate
Program in Psychiatry**

Principal Investigator: Getahun Belay

**Supervisors: Yonas Bahretibeb, MD, Child and Adolescent
Psychiatrist**

: Dawit Wondimagegn, MD, Psychiatrist

Primary adviser: Dr. YonasBahiretibeb, Associate Professor of
Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Signature:

Primary adviser: Dr. YonasBahiretibeb, Associate Professor of
Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Abstract

Introduction

In the streets of Addis Ababa, street children number which has been increasing is estimated to be at least 50,000 of which significant number of them use multiple substance. There are limited studies on glue sniffing street children lived experience.

Objective

To explore and describe the lived experience of glue sniffing children living in streets of Addis Ababa.

Method

A qualitative research design was used. Participants were recruited using purposive sampling from street children who were living under care of Retrak Ethiopia Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Also the participants were those who can speak Amharic language fluently. Sampling was until theoretical saturation is reached, seven in depth interviews were done. In-depth interviews were audio recorded, transcribed in Amharic and translated into English. Thematic analysis was used to identify key themes

Results

The major findings from this study are family abuse lead the children and adolescents in this study to street life. In their daily life searching for food, asking money for glue, sometimes stealing and robbing and sniffing glue are the major activities of their daily life. Hunger, cold during the night and beating from older peers and police make their life the more difficult. Most street children peer used peer support, glue sniffing and unusual coping strategies to cope street life while cognitive coping and emotion focused coping were used by some. Hope and abstinence from substance is found a key in these street children perception of resilience

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Abstract | 3 |
| Acknowledgment | 5 |
| Introduction..... | 6 |
| Rationale of the study | 9 |
| Research questions..... | 9 |
| Objectives | 9 |
| General objective | 9 |
| Specific objectives | 9 |
| Methodology..... | 10 |
| Research design and sampling | 10 |
| Study area..... | 10 |
| Study design and sampling | 10 |
| Data collection | 11 |
| Analysis | 11 |
| Ethical considerations | 11 |
| Results..... | 11 |
| Discussion..... | 17 |
| Limitations | 20 |
| Recommendations..... | 20 |
| References..... | 20 |

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my gratitude to my advisers Dr. YonasBahiretibeb and Dr. DawitWondimagegnwho had been invaluable in development of this research. I would like to thank to Retrak Ethiopia who were more than happy to the research data collection. I would like to thank to all participants of the study. I also would like to thank all those who helped me in the process of analysis.

Introduction

The phenomena of street children has been worldwide.(UNICEF, 2012) According to UNICEF 1989 estimate the number of street children was 100,000 million with similar figures reported in 2000 and 2005. Currently although it is impossible to know the exact number it is estimated to be in tens of millions. (UNICEF, 2012) In Africa the street children estimated to be around 30 million.

Ethiopia is also facing an increasing number of street children. In 1991 study the country street children was estimated to be 100,000.(MOLSA-UNICEF, 1992) According to the government report there are 150 to 200 thousand number of street children including 50 to 60 thousands in Addis Ababa. While the UNICEF estimates reach 600,000 thousand in the country and 100,000 in the capital.(gvnet.com, 2011) In Addis Ababa the number of street children according to many others is increasing (Government of Ethiopia , 2007).

Inter-NGOs defined the term street children as ‘Any girl or boy who has not reached adulthood, for whom the street in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, and so on, has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, directed, and supervised by responsible adults. (Inter-NGO, 1983). In further classification street children are divided into children of street, children on street and street family children. The former designates groups of street children who live and sleep in the street without caregiver support and contact. (WHO, 2000) Children on street refers to street children working on street returning home for sleep and have parental contact.(WHO, 2000) The street family children are street children who along with the rest their family member live and work in the streets. (WHO, 2000)

Causes of leaving home in street children are multiple. Worldwide poverty is the leading reason for leaving home in street children. In addition family conflict, abuse, psychosocial factors and others are the cause of street life in these children. (Embleton, Lee, Gunn, Ayuku, & Braitstein, 2016)

Inhalants use are the most common (47%) substances to be used by street children according to study in resource constrained countries which includes in developing countries. These children use solvents for variety of reasons. 19.8% the street children sniff glue and benzene in study of Nekemte town. (Zerihun, 2015).but

other studies are lacking in describing the prevalence, impact and role of solvent abuse in life of street children cities and town of Ethiopia including Addis Ababa.

Solvents can be inhaled in through the nose or the mouth in a different of ways like(united nations office on drugs and crime , 2004):

- Sniffing or snorting from containers;
- Bagging sniffing or breathing fumes from substances sprayed or deposited inside a plastic or paper bag;
- Huffing from solvent -soaked rag stuffed in the mouth;
- Spraying aerosols directly into the nose or mouth.

In the study of social networks and daily activities of street children in Belo Horizonte Brazil, street based children and adolescents' daily life consisted mostly sleeping, searching for food, acquiring money through casual work or stealing, buying substance including glue sniffing and experiencing its effect. They have little or no relative contact and support from them. These street children turn for support from their fellow peers and live by norms of their street family.(Campos, et al., 1994)

Daily life of street also involves sustaining violence from peers and older street children. In street children South Africa cities the younger children reported beatings and robbery carried out by older boys, older boys' endured violence from gang fights, drugs and alcohol-related violence.(Seager & Tamasane, 2010) Coercive sex is common among street children by older street children and outsiders in Addis Ababa in both sexes and to protect themselves they sleep in groups and in night beds rooms when they afford the price.(Chimdessa & Cheire, 2018). In study investigating the cause of death in street connected children and youth of Kenya physical assault was the second most common cause death.(Embleton, Ayuku2, Makori, Kamanda, & Braitstein, 2018).

The street children image of the police is as foe, scary figure and the source of one the worst experience in their street life.(Ribeiro, 2008) The children reported violence by the police occurs when they try to remove them from the street against their choice, intentionally humiliate them with verbal or physical attack and sexual abuse them. (Ribeiro, 2008)

Coping is defined as behavioral and cognitive responses to manage specific external and internal demands that exceed the resources of the person (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984). Coping strategies has been classified into three categories; task oriented, emotion oriented and avoidant oriented coping. Task-oriented coping, which also called engagement coping, are efforts of individual aimed at finding solution to the problem through planning or cognitive restructuring with the emphasis on the task. (Endler & Parker, 1999) Emotion-oriented coping is when individual uses self-oriented emotions to decrease stress such as self-blame, ruminations, day dreaming. In avoidance-oriented coping the individual uses activities and cognitive strategies to reduce stressful situations and this includes distraction with other tasks or being with other people. (Endler & Parker, 1999)

Street children work for long hours in order to cope with their difficulties which includes bus conducting, car washing and load carrying.(Aderinto, 2000) In the study of coping mechanisms in street children task oriented coping was negatively and significantly related to depression anxiety, delinquent and risky sexual behaviors.(Dashora, Erdem, & Slesnic, 2011) While emotion focused coping resulted higher anxiety, depression and delinquent behaviors.(Dashora, Erdem, & Slesnic, 2011) street children suicidal risk was associated with avoidant coping, social withdrawal, use of drugs and alcohol while coping with hope of having a better future is associated to lowered risk levels.(Kidida & Carrol, 2007) In this study problem-focused strategies did not modify suicidal risk in the street youths.(Kidida & Carrol, 2007)

Concept of resilience refers to a “bouncing back” or recovery of an organism to baseline after summed up pressure or strain. (Rew, Taylor-Seehafer, Thomas, & Yocke, 2001)

In South Africa Street children were found resilient and personal resources (typically nontraditional means), peer group relationship, and religion, were used to cope resiliently with the many challenges of street life.(Malindi & Theron, 2010) Street children who perceived themselves as resilient, despite disconnected from other people, felt less lonely, less hopeless, and were engaged in fewer dangerous behaviors. (Rew, Taylor-Seehafer, Thomas, & Yocke, 2001) Perceived resilience was negatively related to suicidal ideation, substance abuse and violence and was also found protective against suicidal ideation and multiple lifetime sexual partners.(Asante & Meyer-Weitz,

2015)Self-esteem contributed in resilience of street children and decreased suicidal ideation, loneliness and feeling trapped in street children.(Kidd & Shahar, 2008)

Rationale of the study

Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia has population estimated of 2,738,248 million according to 2007 census. Its street children number which has been increasing is estimated to be at least 50,000. Only two facilities are available in helping these children.

Many studies which focus on the experience of street life and accompanying problems has been studied in different African, Latina American and Asian countries urban settings. Studies which focus on the value, role and impact of glue sniffing in street youth are also found from these countries.

In Addis Ababa, however, there is no study on street children lived experience and glue sniffing. Understanding the daily lives and experience of street life and glue sniffing will be invaluable for development of strategies with goal of improving the life of street children and treatment of substance use in these population. In addition it will be base for further studies which explore multiple facets of glue sniffing street children's life. The present study aimed to inform the lived experience of glue sniffing street children from their perspective and through their own voices

Research questions

How do glue sniffing children understand street life and glue sniffing?

What is the meaning of living on street for glue sniffing children?

Why glue sniffing street children are using glue?

How is coping and resilience among street glue sniffing street children?

Objectives

General objective:

This research project aimed to explore the lived experience of glue sniffing children using a qualitative study

Specific objectives:

- Describe the day to day experience of violence

- Identify the role, experience and impacts of glue sniffing daily life of the street children
- Describe the ways coping of with challenge of street life
- Explore perceived resilience the street children

Methodology

Research design and sampling

The study used a phenomenological qualitative approach based on semi structured in-depth interviews. This approach was chosen to understand and describe subjective experience and help in gaining insights into glue sniffing children experience

Study area

The study was conducted in street children living Retrak Addis Ababa, Ethiopia who used live in the streets of Addis Ababa. Retrak is a faith based UK charity, part of the hope for justice family which works on street children with vision of “a world where no child is forced to live on street.”(Retrak, 2019)Retrak Ethiopia’s programs in Addis Ababa start with street visits searching for children who sleep on the streets mostly around the bus station and main market.(Retrak, 2013) Building Relationship and gaining the trust of street children takes time.(Retrak, 2013) Once this achieved and children appear interested in moving away from the streets, the street children are invited for to attend daily activities at the drop-in center where they can receive health care, education, food, overnight shelter, counselling and recreation activities.(Retrak, 2013) Then the children pass through, according to their own pace, towards reintegration with their families, foster care or becoming independent.(Retrak, 2013).

Study design and sampling

The study population were all glue sniffing street children currently living Retrak Addis Ababa and used to live Street of Addis Ababa. Non-probabilistic purposive sampling technique of were used to select among glue sniffing street children currently living under the care of Retrak Ethiopia. With the presence social worker of the organization the purpose of the research was explained to the children and adolescents.The consenting children were those who lived in streets of Addis Ababa and were glue sniffing. The participating children and adolescents were all male because of at site of data collection they were only male.In addition

the study included those who were able to speak Amharic fluently. 7 in depth interview were conducted until theoretical saturation was reached.

Data collection

In semi-structured interviews, questions that guided the interview were developed. These topic guides incorporated multiple questions that helped open more flexible descriptions. Amharic was used for gathering of information and the interview with each participant was audio- recorded with the consent of participants. The researcher tried to build good rapport through active listening and empathy to make glue sniffing children feel understood and helped since the nature of the inquiry might have been distressing for participants. The interview were conducted at theRetrak building where the children and adolescents were staying in quite room. Each interview lasted from 50' to 1hr10'

Analysis

Transcription and translation of the recorded material was done after data collection was done. The whole document was read repeatedly and first impressions were jotted down. The English transcripts were uploaded into the Open Code 4.03 software program. Analysis was done using thematic analysis which is a method for identifying, analyzing and reporting themes (patterns) within the data (Clarke, 2013). The main topics covered by the interview guide were the starting point and were included as themes at the beginning of the process of analysis. The coding frame was then elaborated and modified as new themes emerged in the course of the analysis.

Ethical considerations

Before data collection ethical clearance was obtained from Department of Psychiatry College of Health Science, Addis Ababa University. Also ethical approval from Retrak Ethiopia was sought. Once this was achieved participants were informed the purpose of the study and the nature of the study in the presence of the Retrak social worker and invited for any questions. Subsequently informed consent was approved for each children and adolescent from the organization. The participants were asked for verbal and written consent.

Results

Number of participants: 7

Age 12-15

Gender: all Male

Origin: two participants were from Oromia around Jemma, one from Amhara region Merabetie, 4 from southern region 3 from Butagira and 1 from Bonga.

Level of education: from grade 1st to grade 9th

Six major themes emerged

Reasons for leaving home and living in the streets

The children and adolescents had several reasons that lead them to street life.

Family abuse and instability

Most of the children and adolescents reported repeated physical abuse by family members lead them to seek street life. In particular physical abuse from fathers was attributed. While two participants attributed verbal and physical abuse from mother and an older sibling as cause of leaving home.

Whenever my father hits me I think about when am I going to be considered as a human, when I am going to leave my family and go elsewhere? 233

On other hand one participant reported the parents' divorce and subsequent separation from his father and younger sister while living with abusive mother lead him to come street life. One participant also said differential treatment at home by remarried father and stepmother in contrast to younger half-brother in addition to physical abuse were the reasons to coming street life.

My stepmother always favors her son for example she favors my brother even when she give us something to eat.233

Impoverished family life

Most of the participants came from families of lower economic background. Most mothers of respondents work at home some of whom prepare local alcohol for sell while one participant mother prepared "Injera" for sell. One participants reported his mother hire other people to farm the land because his father passed away. Some of the participant's fathers were not working usually while some were farmers. Few participants responded they came to the streets seeking job and income.

They told me that I could work either as "kurale" or I would be hired somewhere. I thought that it was true and I came here. After I arrived here when I told them we should find a job they told me to wait for five or more days and then we will find a job. Then they started to get money. When I asked them how they get the money they told me that they begged.236

The life and experience of street children

The lives of street children consist of many challenges. Most of children after walking up in early in the morning search leftover food for breakfast ,while some of the participants said they first beg money from people passing by and when car stops which will be used primarily for glue and if enough for breakfast whenever left overs are no available . After this most of children said they will continue use glue and beg to buy additional glue. Two of the participants reported in the afternoon they will be mostly watching movies at local movie house for few birr. In addition to the begging all of participants hold luggagefor money. Some of the participants said they would also collected plastic water bottles around waste disposal areas and searcharound homes and subsequently sell. Most of the children spend their nights sleeping in groups outside such as in underground train stations and road squares. Few of the participants said the usually sleep in bed room along with other street children paying some amount of money and they would be provided with blankets and mattress. Some of the participants said before they sleep they talk with their friends about their day experience and sometimes play football.

All of the children and adolescentssaid living in the streets was terrible. Living the street means experiencing multiple challenges. Living in the streets means daily facing shortage of food and eating unhealthy food, cold in the night and during the rainy season the rain, unable to keep clothes and their body clean, daily change of sleeping areas, sustaining police and older peer beatings and glue sniffing and losing control over its use. Comparing street life with their previous home most preferred and wished to returnhome.in the streets there is no one who look after them, worry and provide about their needs, give them affection and supervise their behavior. Most of the participants were sad about stopping school while seeing other students going school and if they were at home they would have been able too. Living with their parents and sibling is where they would call their home. Whilemost participantsexplained the harm of living in the streets worse than what they had endured at home on other hand two participants reported they don't wishto return home.

When you live on the street, it is hard to find food. Even if you find some it would be dirty. The polis also chase us away from the places we sleep. They also hit us, after getting hit once itwas hard to get up even after 4 days. We also use glue for the cold.238

I find love and peace. I can sleep peacefully. I find food. And I find family love. 238

Home is a place where my father my mother are where we live together it is a very good life. 232

Glue sniffing and street children

Some of the street children started glue sniffing because of pressure and encouragement to sniff glue and one participant in particular started because of threat of exclusion from his peer unless he sniffed glue. In addition hearing the benefits of glue sniffing from their already sniffing peers was a reason for most of the street children.

All of the children reported sniffing glue decrease experiencing pain from beatings and keeps them warm during the night. Some of the participants also reported the glue decreases their fear and if they sniffed they can comfortably ask for money and give them the courage to steal. To some of the street children glue sniffing curbs their appetite and this helps with shortage of food they face.

Most the participants started glue within few weeks after they came to Addis Ababa and they used it daily. For most the spend 40- 60 birr in a day for glue, while few participants reported they spent from 100-150 birr in a day ,in contrast one participant said his daily expense on glue wouldn't be more than 25 birr. Aftersniffing glue most of the participants responded feeling happy, feel good about themselves and think they can do anything about their life. On other hand sniffing glue increased fighting with others including peers and people passing by to the most of the participants. Some of the participants reported despite their increased tendency to fight their peers understand they are under the influence of glue and tolerate them. Some of participants thought about quitting sniffing glue but there were not able control themselves. One participant was able to quit for two months. Some of the street children and adolescents experienced feeling sad, become sleepy, sweaty and felt restless when they stopped sniffing glue. Some of the participants reported sniffing glue increased risk of card accidents because it decreases the fear they will be hurt by incoming cars. According One participants glue sniffed caused substantial amount loss of weight to his friend.

When you get high using the glue it is very abnormal it will make you feel like there is no one better than you. It makes you feel like you're above all. 233

It is difficult to stop. I get bored if I don't sniff. Since I have sniffed it daily, I won't be able to stop it if you told me to. #238

Violence in street life

Experiencing violence was part and parcel the daily life of the participant street children. All of participantstreet children described street childrenfighting with other street children. Some of the participants said older peers beat them over food and money. While few other participants beat younger peers to take money when they were not able to get money from other means.one participants said if one was sexually assaulted other peers would shamehim.

After they are raped they will call them gay so they will be embarrassed so they start to feel worthless #232

Most of the participants told the most of society has very low opinion about them. This is due to wearing dirty, old clothes, using substances and being thought as thief and lazy for work by society.one participants reported the people passing by blame them for leaving home. On other hand some people are supportive and sympathetic to them. They provide them food, clothes and when they see them ill will take them to treatment center and pay for medications.

The other ubiquitous part of violence was beating for community people and police. Few participants reported sustaining beating from intoxicated people and one participants admitted he there was an incident attempt of sexual assault on him and while two others said their friends who sustained sexualassault people from community who pretend to be mentally at first.

There was an incident I was sleeping it was at night this guy was trying to touch me and when I woke up and saw him he was going to rape me so I started to scream my friends came we chased him and beat him #232

The participants reported they frequently are chased and beaten by police during the day and night using rubber stick .some of the participants said the reason for beating was the police thought they were stealing and while some the other participants reported police beat them when they see them sniffing glue. In addition some participants reported during the night they were beaten and chased by the police where they are found sleeping which they are told is not allowed.

We were watching movies at that time. And the police saw us through a door hole. And they entered and they told us to go out of the underground train station. And they surrounded us. And they found a phone from one of our friends. And they took it from him. And they asked him if he stole it. He said he didn't stole the phone and he bought the phone. They asked him if he was just released from prison for stealing. He said he was not arrested before. The police hit him with stick. Then they ordered us to lay down on

the mud. They started to drug us through the mud. They did had a pistol and surrounded us so we couldn't run. They made us do some really hard physical exercises. Then they beat us. After that they ordered us to get out of the area they were all over the places so escaping was difficult. They took the man with the phone and they ordered the rest of us to go. # 236

Few participants told the police chase them from the street beating when they are ordered by government since they are thought to reflect poorly on the country image and beat them.

Coping with street life

The street children used variety of strategies to cope with the daily challenges of their life. Few participants coped with street life by limiting their expectation, accepting their problem, praying to God for better future and remembering their mothers' advice in the face of challenges.

My mother used to tell me to never give up and be very calm and talk with low voice. These advices helped me a lot when I live on the street. #236

Some of the other participants deal with beating in particular from peers by crying and blaming themselves for coming to the streets. All of the participants talk to their friends and ask for help in difficult situation such as illness, injury and when they are in need of money. In addition most of the street children reported support from society and nongovernmental organization providing food, clothes, bath and treatment help them to cope. Some of the participants responded some policemen protect them from attack by other peers or people and sometimes help them financially. All of the street children hold luggage to get money and in addition few of them collect plastics.

After we eat lunch we start to collect plastic bottles by searching around. Then we sell the bottles for 10br to 15br, 1kg is worth 5br, and spent the night by paying 10br or 5br. # 237

Most of the street children said when they feel angry they sniffed glue to calm them and when they feel sad they will forget about their problem and become happy

Whenever we get into feeling of anger or frustration we get high on adhesives. #235

The street children also use several unusual strategies to cope with street life. Few participants reported they rob money from others and most of the participants told they steal from people to support themselves. In addition few of the street children responded lying or pretending to be ill to get

money. Few of the participants also reported they wear old clothes while selling new ones to get money during begging.

people will give us money when they see us wearing old and dirty clothes. #235

Resilience in street children

Understanding of resilience in the respondent street children were varied and also the route ways of doing so. Most of the participants agreed one is resilient if he able successfully cope with challenges of street life. Some of the participants responded abstaining from substances, working, and staying hopeful despite the circumstance are ways to resilience. In addition some the other respondent said controlling anger from police beating and an ability defend oneself from other peers during fighting shows resilience. On other hand one participant responded if one is able to get money, glue and food through whatever means he is resilient. Some the participants described themselves as resilient while others said they were not. Most of the participants responded if street children are not resilient they will not keep themselves clean, eat properly and mostly sniff glue. Few of the respondents reported staying hopeful about better future helped them to be resilient. Most of the participants have dreams to be working adults such as teacher, driver, physician, and football player. One respondent in a particular wished to work in organization that helps improve street children life. All of the participants reported continuing school is the key in achieving their dreams and most of the participants agreed returning home will help them to do so.

If he is always hopeful no matter what. And if he controls his anger especially when a police beats him. If he can control his emotion when people insult him. 236

Discussion

This qualitative study explored the lived experience of glue sniffing street children.

In study meta-analysis review of the reasons for homelessness in developing countries poverty was the leading cause while family conflict and abuse were also the other most common reason for street life. (Embleton, Lee, Gunn, Ayuku, & Braitstein, 2016). In this study most of the street children attributed their reason for leaving home abuse from family members and

street life as way to escape from these. Although none of them explicitly mentioned poverty the family back ground indicates it might contributing factor in further straining their relationship with children and subsequently leaving home. Most of the father had unreliable jobs and spend usually without work. Their mothers tend to work jobs with minimal gain.

The daily life of glue sniffing is filled in with the searching for food, finding money through begging; carrying luggage for people and collect plastics ;steal, rob and lie which mostly used to buy to sniff glue. Sniffing glue and finding money for it tend to occupy significant period of time in their daily life. They spent the nights sleeping in groups in underground train station and squares while some paying in bedrooms for few birr. This is also was similar to the daily activities of street children in Belo Horizonte, Brazil although the substance used included the other heavy drugs in addition to inhalants.(Campos, et al., 1994)

The experience street life was the difficult one for the participants in this study. Living in the street meant to them day to day dealing with hunger, cold in the night, violence from different group of people and without parent who show them affection and attend their needs. Most hate being exposed to problematic use of glue and become one. Most wished to return home while two preferred not to. The difficulties of the street life is also shared in street children from two cities of South Africa.. (MsocSci, Meyer-Weitz, & Asante, 2016)(Myburgh, Moolla, & Poggenpoel, 2015)

Experience of daily violence is part of the street life in these street children. Violence between street children tend to be over food and money. While some of the participants they were beaten by older peer they also doing the same on younger ones. This might be due to an implicit norm of using violence to access food and money in street life. In addition the sniffing glue which most participants reported might add to the violence inflicted on each other.

All of the street children reported the society and the police has very low opinion about them and this is because they are all thought as thief, lack hygiene and wear old clothes, use substances and are not willing to work. In addition some of the participants reported beating from people passing by. Most participants frequently sustained beatings and chasing because of the

above reasons. This might suggest the stigma towards the street children might be the driving factor in the most of the violence sustained by them.

Glue sniffing has multilayered role in the life of this street children. Most the street children started glue sniffing after peer pressure and hearing the possible positive effect and benefits. In addition one participant started glue for fear of being expelled from his peer groups. This might suggest glue sniffing as one of the factors peer group identity established and sniffing glue symbolize membership with their peers. This seems consistent to the observation of glue sniffing in street children of Ruiru the satellite city of Nairobi. (Cottrell-Boyce, 2010). In their daily life glue worked as anti-pain during and after beating from others, protect them from feeling cold during the night and curb hunger. According to some of participants it also decreased their fear of asking money and when they have to steal. Also most the street children used it as one way of coping during and sadness and anger. To most the glue sniffing create transient time during which they feel happy, are above their problems and have good future. This indicates glue in addition to being social cohesion factor, it also tames the harsh realities of street life both at psychological level and physiological level. In some of the participants' problematic use of glue including loss of impulse control, risky use and withdrawal symptoms seems to be present.

In coping with street life the children and the adolescents used different strategies. All of the street children and adolescents relied on interpersonal support for their friends and peers during any problems. This might be because the street peers group function as quasi family system despite the rising tensions due to resource insecurities. Some of the participant through cognitive coping in which they limit their expectations, learning to accept the problem and hoping better future while some of others through emotion focused coping including self-blaming and crying. Most of the street children expressed coping with sniffing glue when they feel angry and sad. This might indicate using emotion focused coping strategies is the gate way to glue sniffing in some of the street children. In addition most of the street children used some unusual coping strategies including stealing, lying, robbing, wearing old clothes while begging to support themselves. These unusual strategies while they help them with their immediate needs they also

are the fertile ground for stigma and violence against them from community and police.

For most of the street children being resilient is being able to successfully cope with street life. According some of the participants those who used cognitive and problem focused coping strategies and abstain from substances will be resilient, despite the difficulties of the street life. In this study Hope of better tomorrow seems to keeps most of street children in search ways of going to towards this including returning home and continue education.

Limitations

The absence of female glue sniffing participants in this study might be limit the validity of the experience of street life

The relatively narrow range and older age of the participants may also limit the additional vulnerabilities and experience of street life

The study involved those street children who wanted and started action towards leaving street life and this might be different to those glue sniffing street children who prefer to stay in the streets.

Recommendations

Intervention that would give priority to providing basic needs such sleeping room, food and clothes without mandatory to leave street life and access to education will help in improving street children life both on short term and long term base

Developing system that enable access to mental health services will be in important on delivering intervention related to problematic glue sniffing

Developing prevention strategies including raising community awareness and policy system that monitory the safety of children in household will help decreasing the number of street children leaving home

References

Aderinto, A. A. (2000). Social Correlates and coping Measures Of Street-Children: A Comparative Study of Street and non-Street Children In south-western Nigeria . *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 1199-1213.

- Asante, K. O., & Meyer-Weitz, A. (2015). International note: Association between perceived resilience and health risk behaviours in homeless youth. *Journal of Adolescence*, 36-39.
- Campos, R., Raffaelli, M., Ude, W., Greco, M., Ruff, A., Jon, R., . . . Hasley, N. (1994). Social Networks and Daily Activities of Street Youth in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. *Child Development*, 319-330.
- Chimdessa, A., & Cheire, A. (2018). Sexual and Physical Abuse and Its Determinants Among Street Children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia . *BMC Pediatrics*, 304-311.
- Clarke, V. B. (2013). *Successful Qualitative Research*. California: SAGE Publications.
- Cottrell-Boyce, J. (2010). The Role of Solvents in Kenyan street children . *African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies*.
- Dashora, P., Erdem, G., & Slesnic, N. (2011). Better to bend than to break : coping strategies utilized by substance abusing homeless youth. *Journal of Health Psycholgy* , 158- 168.
- Embleton, L., Ayuku², D., Makori, D., Kamanda, A., & Braitstein, P. (2018). Causes of death among street-connected children and youth in Eldoret, Kenya. *BMC International Health and Human Rights*, 19-26.
- Embleton, L., Lee, H., Gunn, J., Ayuku, D., & Braitstein, P. (2016). Causes of Child and Youth Homelessness in Developed and Developing Countries, A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatrics* .
- Endler, N., & Parker, J. (1999). Coping Inventory for Stressful Situations. MHS INC.
- Government of Ethiopia . (2007). *Report on Progress in Implementing the World Fit for Children, Plan of Action in Ethiopian*. Addis Ababa.
- gvnet.com. (2011, February 4). Retrieved from Prevalence, Abuse & Exploitation of Street Children: gvnet.com/streetchildren/Ethiopia.htm
- Kidd, S., & Shahar, G. (2008). Resilience in Homeless Houth: They key role of Self esteem . *American journal of orthopsychiatry* , 163-172.
- Kidda, S. A., & Carrol, M. R. (2007). Coping and suicidality among homeless youth. *journal of adolecene*, 283-296.
- Lazarus, R. S., & Folkman, S. (1984). *Stress Apriasal and Coping* . New York: Springer.
- Malindi, M., & Theron, L. C. (2010). The hidden resilience of street youth . *South African Journal of Psychology* , 318-326.
- MOLSA-UNICEF. (1992). *Study on Street Children in Four Selected Towns in Ethiopia* . Addis Ababa: University College, Cork, Ireland.
- MsocSci, F. H., Meyer-Weitz, A., & Asante, K. O. (2016). The lived experiences of street children in Durban, South Africa: Violence, substance use, and resilience . *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and wellbeing* .

- Myburgh, C., Moolla, A., & Poggenpoel, M. (2015). The lived experiences of children living in the street of hillbrow . *Curations* .
- Retrak. (2013). *Evaluating outcomes: Retrak's use of the Child Status Index to measure wellbeing of street-connected children*. Retrak.
- Retrak. (2019, may). *Retrak*. Retrieved from Retrak: www.retrak.org
- Rew, L., Taylor-Seehafer, M., Thomas, N. Y., & Yocke, R. D. (2001). Correlates of Resilience in Homeless Adolescents. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 33-40.
- Ribeiro, M. (2008). Street Children and Their Relationship With The Police. *International Nursing Review* , 89-96.
- Seager, J. R., & Tamasane, T. (2010). Health and well-being of the homeless in South African cities and towns. *Development Southern Africa*, 63-83.
- Sewpaul, V., Osthus, I., Mhone, C., Sibilo, E., & Mbhele, S. (2012). LIFE ON THE STREETS OF DURBAN: NO MILLIONAIRE ENDING. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*, 241-251.
- UNICEF. (2012). *State of Children ,Children in Urban World*. New York: Unicef .
- united nations office on drugs and crime . (2004). *solvent abuse among street children in pakistan* . Islamabad : United Nations System in Pakistan.
- WHO. (2000). *Working with street children ,Module One Profile of Street Children*. Geneva: WHO.

Appendix 1

Interview schedule

A. Demographics

A1. What is your age?

A2. Which region do you come from?

A3. What is your highest level of education?

B. Experience of street children

B1. How long have you been living on the street?

B2. How did you come to live on the street? Probe: relationship with parents their occupational status and whether they are still alive

B3. What is life like on the street? Probe: difficulties with shelter, food, getting clothes, stigma

B4. Please give me an idea of what you do in typical day?

B5. How do you think society see young people like yourself?

B6. What do you do for living?

C. Meaning and understanding of home

C1. What does homelessness mean to you?

C2. What does home mean to you?

C3. Where is home for you? Probe: prefer center to home and why? Would you like to go home? Is the street home? Are fellow street youth your family?

D. Experience of coping and survival

D1. How do you cope with conditions on the street? Probe: What or who helps you to cope with the bad things that happen to you? Probe: do you think you are a strong person? If so what makes you strong?

D2. What does other people do to cope with the bad things that happen to them?

D3. What kind of resource do you rely on the street?

D4. What are the main challenges of growing up here?

D5. Please give me examples of problems you have had and explain how you dealt with them?

D6. Do you know of any cultural values that have kept you going?

Probe: when you have a problem, what do you think of, e.g. grandmother's words, cultural norms/rituals, ancestors?)

D7. How does your culture help you to cope with difficult situations?

D8. Do you believe that things could change for the better?

D9. Do you think religion has a role to play in your life?

E. Resilience

E1. Have you heard of the concept resilience? If yes, what do you think the meaning it has to our own context?

E2. What do you think the relationship between coping and resilience? Do you think they are different or the same?

E3. Do you think street children have the capacity to remain resilient to problems they face in the streets in their daily life?

E4. What do you think street children would feel or face, if they lack resilience in their daily life?

E5. what are the unconventional tactics and resilience resource street children use? Probe: petty theft, glue sniffing to numb themselves, wearing scruffy old cloths so that members of the public will pity them, begging and prostitution...)

E6. What are the other more unconventional practices that contribute strongly to the ability of street children to rebound from adversity? Probe: violence, vandalism, humor, telling lies and bonding with other street children)

E7. What pro-social, normative, resilient –promoting mechanisms contribute strongly to the ability of street children to rebound from adversity? (Probe: such as reciprocating support, asking for help and being assertive)

E8. What are the values but not typically associated with street children that contribute to the ability of the street children to rebound from adversity? Probe: such as religiosity and purposeful regulation of behavior)

F. Violence

F1. Have you faced any kind of problems on the street? If yes what kind of problems? Probe: what gave the most problems?

F2. What are the common types of violence you usually see on the streets?

F3. When was the last you were injured or assaulted? What percentages constitute beatings or stabbing in those violence?

F4. Have experienced assaults such as sexual assaults and injuries as a consequence of drug and alcohol-related violence, abuse from the public, and gang fights while staying on the streets? If yes please mention the specific types of abuses you experienced?

F5. Have you ever heard or seen of street child to have died of a street violence? If yes please mention the situation and the time the incidence took place?

F6. Have you ever been harassed or assaulted by the police? If yes, please mention the specific types of police harassment? (Probe: beatings, removals, arrests in detention centers or adult prisons ...)

F7. What reason(s) is/are do you think for the police to harass you? Probe: because the police consider street children like you to be potentially criminal, because some corrupted police officers seek from these children bribes in return for not harassing or chasing them?

G. Drug use

G1. What are the factors that lead you to start using /abusing drug?

G2. What type of drug you abuse, how often and for how long?

G3. How is the availability of glue in the street and how much you spend per day?

G4. Why do abuse glue in daily bases?

G5. What are the benefits you are getting for regularly sniffing glue?

G6. What are the risks /problems you faced so far related to glue sniffing?

G7. How are your behavior change after you take drugs (probe: do feel happy, okay? how does that affect your mood?

G8. Do you think glue sniffing affects and have consequences/risks on your health, social, economic and psychological situation? (Probe give me some example; have you saw that...)

G9. Do you want to stop sniffing glue?

H. Future aspirations

H1. What are your dreams for the future?

H2. How would you make your dreams come true?

H3. What does it mean to you when other people succeed?

H4. Are there any stories you can tell of people who were in difficult circumstance but are now successful in life?

Thank-you.