

**THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS  
OF STREET CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF MUTARE**

**BY**

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## **Abstract**

*This research aimed to examine the reasons for the presence of street children in the city of Mutare. The nature and extent of the violations of their rights, and the adequacy of existing legal and institutional measures to safeguard these rights. Social justice theories were used and, the concept of social construction, the role of the family, and theories about child behavior. The researcher used mixed method of data collections involving both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Purposive sample of 50 respondents was used to obtain data. These included NGOs/Government Agencies, Parents/ Guardian and the children who live and work on the street. For data collection, a questionnaire and interview were used. The qualitative and quantitative design was used and data were presented, interpreted and analyzed. The major findings was that violations intervention strategies used to protect and promote street children's rights but their effectiveness was affected by number of factors which are: poverty, lack of interest and cultural perceptions activities. Government efforts should be made to prosecute perpetrators of street children sexual exploitation, child labour, and physical abuses that employ children and engage them in sexual exploitation. There is a need to provide means of income to support the children and also funds to strengthen the police force patrols on the streets during the night to minimize street children violations.*

## **DECLARATION**

I Frances Mary Aaron do hereby declare that this research is my own work where other people's ideas were mentioned and due acknowledgement was made. I also declare that this work has not been and is not being submitted in any other university for the award of any degree.

Student Signature-----Date-----

Supervisor-----Date-----

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my late Mother. Martha Joe Gartumojah, to my Father Aaron Gartunmonjah and the UMC/LAC Bishop John G Innis.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ANPPCAN	African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
C W I	Child watch International
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
ICESCR	International Convention Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NDRC	Nations Declaration on the Rights of the child
OHCHR	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
SKCV	Street Kids Community Village
STI	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
CRC	Convention on the Right of the Children

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

ZRP

Zimbabwe Republic Police



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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Street Children are vulnerable members of the society. Many of them do not live under the protective shelter of their family, as they are left to fend for themselves at an early age. Undoubtedly, this situation exposes them to a number of challenges relating to their basic survival in terms of access to the necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing. Their rights are further violated in many ways, ranging from sexual abuse, rape, child labour, domestic violence, and being used as political tools or forced to engage in criminal activities. Other violations include: lack of access to certain social rights like: education, health care, as well as rehabilitation and therapeutic programmes available. These violations have attracted the attention of social organizations, NGOs and interest groups who are working to influence laws that will improve the social condition of Street Children and aim at rehabilitation of such children.

According to Ray, C. Davey and P. Nolan (2011), during the last decade, it has also been recognized that the labeling and categorization of children into specific groups of ‘Street Children’, trafficked Children’ ‘Orphan,’ etc. led to programming that focused predominantly on the most visible and socially controversial groups of children; while neglecting their rights, violations experienced by their often equally vulnerable peers, such as child domestic and agricultural workers; children living in absolute poverty, or those experiencing neglect and abuse within their families and communities. There is



now greater recognition that many children belong to more than one category and/or move between categories over time, and that greater efforts need to be made to address the common underlying causes of violation of Streets Children rights or vulnerability and social exclusion.

## **1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

The appearance of children on the streets today has become a subject of major concern for most social organizations and societies: (Rurevo and Bourdilla 2003). This has led to series of discussions concerning reasons why there is escalation of the number of children on the streets of major cities whose rights are being violated all the time, coupled with risks of their exposure and vulnerability. As a byproduct of social construction, Lawrence (2004) said childhood is not a fixed construct and can never be entirely separated from other variables that fall within age, class, gender ethnic cultural and other sociological factors.

Motala and Smith (2003) define Street Children as children who spend some time on the street, for whatever purposes, regardless of whether or not they live on the street all the time or transitorily. They are mostly children below the age of 18 and are classified into two categories.

- Children on the streets, of which the street is their primary living place.
- Children who work on the street to assist their family financially and return home regularly. (Smart, 2000).

Motala and Smith (2003), Cockburn and Kabubo-Mariara (2010) highlighted reasons for having children on the streets as including: disintegration of families, high levels

of informal fostering of children with relatives, lack of adequate housing, high level of domestic violence and high level of poverty. Others such as substance abuse, child abuse and conflicts with step parents are other reasons why children run away from home.

Robinson. M (2011), human rights are commonly understood as being those rights which are inherent to the human being or inalienable rights. Certain human rights are unique and peculiar to children, and these include the rights to education, protection, shelter, and food.

Children's rights however, need to be measured and monitored independently from other overall human rights because they constitute a vulnerable sector of the population that needs special protection. They live in fear of physical assault by gangs, security agents and recrimination or judgment associated with involvement in illegal activities. Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, is rampant in Zimbabwe with increasing calls to protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect (Robinson, M (2011). According to Simukai Child Protection Organization Annual's Report (2013), Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Victim Friendly Unit report that more than 2,400 children under the age of 18 were victims of rape between January and October 2013. Overall, 3,421 sexual abuse cases were reported during the period. It was stated in the Report that neighbors account for 41 percent of perpetrators, while children left in the care of relatives accounted for 27 percent. Stories of abuse of children have been continuously published in widely read newspapers such as the Manica Post, the Sunday Mail, Newsday, Daily News and the Herald. One wonders what happens in the

deep remote areas. Where the culture of silence strongly engulfs the communities and makes it difficult for such reports to be made? One does not have to look very far to realize that the world is full of injustice especially against children. It is therefore imperative that action be taken against such injustices. Bringing justice reverses the effects of unjust acts that gripped millions of lives around the country and the world at large. It is only when people engages the Streets Children on a personal level that one appreciates the problems that drove them on the streets, the abuses they face and what needs to be done to protect their rights.

It is against this background that the researcher was motivated to carry out this research on the violation of the rights of Street Children.

## **.1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Over the past decades, the presence of children along streets and main pavements, begging for food and money from passersby has increased at an alarming proportion. The streets have now become their home. Apart from being regarded as a public nuisance the children have been exposed to all forms of societal ills ranging from sexual harassment to prostitution and drug abuse.

Children are not supposed to live and work on the streets. It is illegal in Zimbabwe and other parts of the world, and also contrary to their human rights. However, since they are on the streets, something needs to be done to stop or at least, limit their abuses. The researcher seeks to identify the nature and extent of ongoing violations of the rights of Street Children in Mutare city, and make proposals for better implementation of existing law and policies to minimize the violation of the rights of these children.

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of the study was to determine the nature and extent of violation of rights of Street Children in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The research will also try to come up with suggestions for the review and better implementation of policies that protect the rights of these children. It will contribute to the body of knowledge towards minimizing the violation being meted against Streets Children in the city of Mutare. It will also serve as a reorientation strategy for reducing the extent of violation of Street Children's rights.

### **1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To investigate the reasons for the presence of Streets Children in the City of Mutare.
2. To examine the nature and extent of the violation of Streets Children's rights in the City of Mutare.
3. To identify available policies, institutions and measures to protect the rights of Streets Children in the City of Mutare.
4. To make proposals to strengthen the protection of the rights of Streets Children in the City of Mutare.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the causes for existing numbers of Streets Children in the City of Mutare?
2. What is the nature and extent of the violation of Streets Children rights in the City of Mutare?
3. To what extent are there policies, institutions and measures to protect the rights of streets children in the City of Mutare?
4. How can the protection of the right of Streets Children in the City of Mutare be strengthened?

## **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This research is focused on the violation of rights of Street Children in Mutare city. The researcher investigated the prevailing causes of the problem of Street Children, the nature of child rights violation and its effects on Street Children, the role of security agents, social services/development workers and NGOs in response to violation of rights of Streets Children. The research is significant because it will contribute to the realization of the rights of Street Children. It will also help to raise awareness by advocating the rights of Streets children. The research will also serve as a body of knowledge aimed at the realization of the right of Street children. It will open a way for further research for the enhancement of the rights of street children and will fill the information gap on the effects of street environments on child development. The research will help for others researcher to conduct a best practices survey or study of responses to Street Children needs and sharing the idea others stakeholders.

### **1.7 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The study was limited to an examination of the nature and extent of the violation of streets children's rights in the City of Mutare. Data for this study will be collected in the city of Mutare. The study will be limited to street children in Mutare who for the purpose of the study, are defined as children whose ages range from 6-17 years. The study will also extend to parents/ guardians, government agencies and NGOs, that offer social services to such vulnerable children.

### **1.8 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

This research is focused on the area of violation of right of Streets Children in the city of Mutare, Zimbabwe. Due to the size of the geographical area in focus, the researcher perceives that the time will be too short to fully cover the whole of Mutare. In addition there is shortage of funds for transportation and other logistics. Also, because of the condition of the Street Children, some respondents may be inaccessible at the time of the research, while other may be reluctant to provide the needed information. Therefore the researcher will try her best to overcome any problems.

### **1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Street Child** is “any boy or girl who has not reached adulthood or is below the age of eighteen years, for whom the street has become his or her habitual residence and source of livelihood, and who is insufficiently protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults. In general, street children refer to children who work and sleep on the streets.

There is a difference between children ‘on the street’ and ‘of the street.’ Some children ‘of the street’ may have been abandoned and rejected by their families while others may have left their families due to some situations. Other children may stray and wander the streets, becoming involved in street activities with other children. Children on the street are those who work and sleep on the streets and take the street as their homes, because of rejections, neglect abuses they encounter at home.

**Violation:** In legal terms violation is the act of desecration or infringement of rules, to fail to keep promises, the condition of being violated, a breaking of the moral or legal code.

**Rights:** According to the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, rights are social or ethical principles of freedom, privilege, claim, power and immunity; fundamental rules about what is allowed or principles that describe certain norms or standards of human behavior

### **Children’s Rights:**

#### **Right to life**

Right to life means that each child must be able to live his or her own life. Children have the rights not to be killed. They have the right to survive and to grow up in proper conditions.

**Right to education**

The right to education allows each child to receive instruction, to enjoy a social life, and to build his or her own future. This right is essential for economic, social and cultural development.

**Right to food**

The right to food is the right of each child to eat. It is the right to not die of hunger and to not suffer from excessive intake of unhealthy foods, leading to physical harm.

**Right to health**

The right to health means that children must be protected against illness. They must be allowed to grow and become healthy adults. This contributes to developing an active society

**Right to water**

The rights to water means children have the right to safe drinking water and proper sanitary conditions. The right to water is essential for good health, survival and proper growth.

**Right to identity**

Each child has the right to have a surname, a first name, a nationality, and to know who his or her relatives are. The right to identity also means that each child's existence and rights must be officially recognized.



## **Right to freedom**

The right to liberty is the child's right to express him or herself, to have opinions, to have access to information, and to participate in decisions which affect his or her life. Children also have the right to religious freedom. ( ICESCR 1966).

## **Rights to Shelter/ Housing /Healthy Environment**

The right to shelter is the child's right to have right to adequate shelter and standard of living. The rights to healthy environment is a secure place to live, which is fundamental to living in dignity, to physical and mental health, and to overall quality of life, Safe and healthy environment appropriate for physical and mental development.

advocating the rights of Streets Children.

## **1.10 Summary**

The Street Children are human beings just like any other children in society. The nature and extent of violation of their rights to education, food, shelter, etc, however remains a problem in the city of Mutare. The researcher investigated the causes of the problem of Street Children, the nature and extent of child rights violations and its effects on these children. The researcher mean focuses are security agents, social services/ development worker and NGOs in the involvement of the violation of the street rights and how these involvements help their situations.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This section of the research focuses on related literature concerning the nature and extent of violation of rights of Street Children. It will focus on social justice theories, the concept of social construction, the role of the family, and theories about child behaviour. It will also look at literature on Street Children, covering a wide variety of reports, books and documents and international documents on children rights.

### **2.1 THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

This study focuses on the concept of violation of rights of Children. The importance of the study is informed by the fact that, all children must be given the chance to find their identity and realize their worth in a safe and supportive environment. All the concepts involved help us to understand different forms of violations of rights and define basic rights of children in general. They also advocate alternative and appropriate measures like; special protection and alternative care for vulnerable children.

#### **2.1.1 Formation of the Street Children Concept**

The name “Street Children” was first used by Henry Mayhew in 1851 when he wrote his “London Labour and the London poor,” notwithstanding it only came into overall use following the United Nations year of the child 1979. Ennew (2003), more important to this study, Street Children were referred to as homeless, unrestrained or out of control.

The most ordinarily used definition today comes from UNICEF (Lusk,1989) which was to groups of Street Children “children on the streets,” and children of the street.

The difference of Streets Children gets largely from experience with Street Children in Latin America (Ennew,1994).Therefore, when researchers speak of children on ‘the streets’, they are referring to those children who devote much of their time in the street environment, often working. Their focus in life is still the home. A few attend school, most return home at the end of each working day and still have a sense of belonging to the community in which their family home is located. A large number of them maintain some existing connection with their families while they are on the streets (Swart Kruger and Donald 1994;Muchinni, 1994).These are the children whose family support base has been more weakened and, so must share accountability for family survival by working on the city streets and market places.

Relatives’ relationships may be worse, but they certainly exist (Tacon,1985 in Ennew, 1994). For instances, they may not be permitted access to their house until an amount of income has been met (Lusket,1989).

Children “of the streets” are those, for whom the streets have become a home, it is their basic environment for working, playing, sleeping and growing up. They are much smaller in number because they socialized outside the school and the family. They have a few usual contacts with adults, and are often described as being definitely adopted and entrepreneurial, despite their difficult conditions (Aptekar, 1988).Most authors define street children according to just two characteristics: presence in the street, and a lack of contact with family.

Street Children are those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word: unoccupied dwellings, waste land, etc.) more than their family has become their real home, a situation in which there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults (inter-NGO programme, 1983 in Ennew 1994: Street children are found precisely in the vicinity of railway stations, street junctions, bridges and half-dug pavements.

### **2.1.2 The Concept ‘Street Children’**

**Aptekar** (1988) points out that the term ‘Street Children’ tends to carry very strong emotional overtones, because every aspect of their lives is exposed to the public gaze including their physical appearance, their way of life their behavior.

**Ghosh. A** (1993) observed that the phenomenon of Street Children is the main reason behind the clustering children in the cities. The frequent crop failure due to flood and drought, small economic land holding, dearth of employment and above all the lure of the city life pushed people more and to the city. When the parents came with them children too came to the city. The poor parents who could seldom earn enough to feed themselves allowed their children to grow up unprotected and uncared for. Some took up jobs as helping hands to their parents by working in shops, small wayside factories.

1. **Street Children community village, SKCV** (2000) pointed out that, “Children are the future” as aptly said, problems that affects children will affect the future of the world. Therefore understanding the status of children in need of care is also the need of the hour. Majority of the investigations which have explored the phenomenon of Street Children make a mention of social

and economic conditions such as extreme poverty, marital discard, family breakdown resulting in the homelessness of families, social and regional inequalities impinging on individuals, communities and families at local levels and natural calamities were also found responsible for the swelling numbers of Street Children in the society.

**Javid, P, Toyama, K. and Biswas, M.** (2009) observed that Street Children typically live independent of families in makeshift living arrangements, and survive on little. They estimated that there are 100 million Street Children worldwide.

**Ochola L.** (1996) on his part attributed the phenomenon of Street Children to urbanization and the attendant processes of industrial expansion, land speculation, and “beautication” which have created a cycle of poverty, evictions family disruption, and unwanted and abandoned children. He recommends improved coordination between NGOs and local and national government, as exemplified by the urban child welfare task force established by the Kenyan Government. Above all, he proposes that NGOs need to develop strategies for dealing more effectively with mass urban poverty and providing the necessary infrastructure to improve the lives of slum residents.

**Ennew** (2003) has emphasized the importance of understanding the lives and roles of children in any culture. For example, he asserts that the notion of the African child is as much an obstacle in this process as the global construct of the child. Children in different cultures experience different childhood and so must be understood according to their history and culture.

**UNICEF** (2000), Education for street and working children in India, programme for children in India has enabled the organization to provide substantial funding and technical support for educational activities' in favour of children in difficult circumstances. UNESCO is to play a key role in helping a coordinated policy planning at national, regional and international levels to ensure that all children, with special emphasis on girls and children in difficult circumstances from ethnic minorities have access to complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality by 2015

**Weiner, Myron** (1991) felt that child labour and the presence of children on the streets must be seen as less a phenomenon of poverty and more of phenomenon of social attitudes, exploitation, compulsions and sensibilities. This is evident from some developing countries, which tackled this problem much before the economic advancement.

Some Street Children are 'on the street', which means that they still see their families regularly and may even return every night to sleep in their family homes. Children 'of the streets', refers to both children under the age of 10 years and young people aged 10-24 years. Although Street Children support themselves in many different ways, they need the assistance of caring adults and charitable services provided by government or non-governmental organizations. Despite peer mutual agreement and support through sympathetic services, Street Children have extremely high rates of illness, disability and certainty to die.

### **2.1.3 Concept of social justice**

John Bordley Rawls was an American Philosopher and a leading figure in moral and political philosophy. According to him; social justice is about assuring the protection of equal access of equal to liberties, rights, and opportunities, as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society, (John Rawls 2003). Rawls also explains that the principles of justice and fairness apply to freedom and equality. In essence, children who are vulnerable not only have rights to health, nutrition and education, but also have rights to protections, freedom from violation of their rights and exploitation, and to safe and supportive environments.

### **2.1.4 Concept of Violation of Street Children Rights**

Street Children comprise a marginalized group in the world. They do not have what community considers suitable relationships with major tradition of childhood such as family education and health. The Street Children experience of coming into contact with an environmental condition and the nature of their lifestyles make them vulnerable to substance use and this threatens their mental, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing. In many regions most of these children use alcohol and other psychoactive substances. In addition, these children are confronted with discrimination and view health and social services with doubt. Street Children live a fleeting life style and are vulnerable to insufficient nutrition, physical injuries, substance use, and health problems including sexual and generative health teething troubles. These factors reduce the effectiveness of interference that aimed at Street Children.

Street Children exist in every part of the world and large groups of children unsupervised by adults have appeared in almost every country during some part of history. Most are found in large, urban areas of developing countries.

It is estimated that there are between 10 and 100 million Street Children in the world today. These children live a transitory life style and are vulnerable to inadequate nutrition, physical injuries, substance use, and health problems including sexual and reproductive health problems. (UNICEF2000).

## **2. 2. EXTENT OF THE VIOLATION OF STREET CHILDREN RIGHTS**

The violation of rights of Street Children is among the social problems worldwide. Among the challenges faced by the Street Children were abuse and harassment from their employers, sexual exploitation, underpayment, being forced to work in unhealthy environments and engagement in criminal activities. (UNICEF 1997).

Children living and working on the street face a number of challenges which included engaging in exploitative activities in order to survive, and experience emotional and physical abuse by members of the community.

One of the violations of the rights of Street Children is considered to be coming from employment of children at regular and sustained labour. This practice is considered exploitative by many international Organizations and is illegal in many countries. Child labour was exposed to varying extended public dispute with the advent of Universal schooling, with changes in working conditions during the industrial



Revolution, and with the emergence of the concepts of workers and children's rights. (S. Musandirire 2010).

According to Ray, Davey and Nolan (2011) it is now recognized that girls and boys of different ages use the streets in a wide range of different ways and that their relationship to the streets becomes fluid and dynamic. The problem has worsened across the globe in recent years because of economic problems, political changes, civil unrest, increasing family separations and conflicts, the epidemic spread of diseases and natural disasters.

## **2.2. 1 Street Children experience**

According to Rureve and Bourdillon, (2003) Street Children phenomenon became a matter during the International Year of the children in 1979, which marked the starting of the growing worldwide concern for the wellbeing of children and extreme apprehension about the increasing numbers of Street Children. The last two decades have marked the extension of human rights to enclose the rights of the child, culmination in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child, which were written over ten years, from 1979-1989. It is a widely approve tool in the history human being, with only the United States and Somalia not having endorsed the spirit and provisions of this document Many governments and the non-governmental organization have increased their activities to alleviate the plight of Street Children.

In Zimbabwe, Street Children appear to be a relatively recent phenomenon. In the colonial era, it was impossible for children to work in the street as municipal by- laws

that restricted this were strictly and brutally enforced. Independence in 1980 saw a relaxation in the enforcement of municipal influx control laws, and the urban Population swelled dramatically, straining housing and other social facilities, By the 1990s, the economy could not create sufficient jobs, which resulted in a growing in formal Sector: by the end of the century unemployment had dramatically increased (Rureve and Bourdillon, 2003).

Numbers of Street Children are hard to assess with any accuracy. The numbers have been increasing with growing unemployment and poverty. Many of these children spend much of their time on the streets of city, where they obtain their livelihood, but have a home of some kind to go at night. At the end of 2002, Streets Ahead, an organization focusing on the children living on the streets had closed to 1 500 children on its books, of whom just over 200 were girls.

The phenomenon of Street Children emerged in the urban landscape of Zimbabwe in the late 1980s, especially in the capital city, Harare. The collapse of the Zimbabwean economy in the late 1990s has resulted in large-scale unemployment and urban poverty.

Schooling has become more expensive, and is not valued as a guarantor of future employment. Therefore movements of people have weakened traditional extended family and community ties, as families become separated and have to fend for themselves. The adverse effects of these changes have included the breakdown of family values and the traditional systems of care by the extended family and community.

According to Campbell and Ntsabane (1995) the problem of Street Children has been growing over the past several years in many countries of the world. In spite of the migrant status of the children who live off the streets, the fact that they stay on the streets for the most part of the day reflects separation from their homes. This exposes them not only to the danger of being refused access to the basic rights but also to physical and sexual abuse, hunger and the occasional hostile weather conditions.

**Collette Suda**(1997) observed that poverty, rapid urbanization, population growth, family instability and the declining role of the extended family system are among the key factors responsible for the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Nairobi. One out of every three children from poor urban families in Kenya is regularly battered or subjected to other forms of maltreatment by a parent or other family members, the public and the authorities. Basically, there are two levels of abuse, and neglect. There is abuse and neglect which children experience at home and which drives them on to the streets. There is also abuse and neglect which Street Children endure while on the streets.

**T. Scanlon** (1998) states that millions of children throughout the world live on the street. These children are among the most deprived, they usually have no access to health care or education and some of them have been victims of violence even before taking to the street. Street Children are seen by many as worthless, and many countries have used violent and punitive measures to remove them.

### **2.2.2 Impression and Treatment**

According to Rurevo and Bourdillon, (2003) people in power often understand Street Children to be morally wrong (or at least potential criminals), and in any case a slur on the city. Therefore, they take a great tough or harsh approach towards Street Children, forcefully removing them from the streets and placing them in custody Centre for children, often technically referred to as houses of safety.

In some countries, the Street Children are use in other for their wellbeing, rather than the wellbeing of the Street's Children. They fail to reach an expected removal of Street Children forcefully results in physical harm, or even in death. The reason for such action is the community safety provisions made for children in law lead to violent episodic removal of Street Children and this in most results in the state procedures disregard on the rights of the children. The Authorities officials take the punitive stance party as a result of pressure from officials in industry and commerce in the city centre, who feel that Street Children drive away potential commercial activity. Adults often take for granted that they know better than children. They often seek to solve the problems of children without seeking the children's views and their assessment. They easily forget that children are human being, with their own rights and knowledge and choice concerning their lives be taken seriously.

In addition, organizations try hard to provide for the needs of children enough shelter, food, protection, education and adult care-concerned children's dependence on them. The potential ability of children is connected to steps in development towards adulthood. Children are considered to be incompetent in an adult sphere and to be in

need of protection against abuse. This typical example often prevents children's ability within their own spheres of collaboration, particularly their ability to work out survival and coping strategies on the streets. It also arises from and supports the assumption that the family is the usual social and biological structure within which the child has to grow.

**Panicker** (2005) has pointed out that many of the children in South Africa are basically rootless, mostly because they exist without resources, homes, education and guidance, or care and affection. They are often brutalized by police, older street children or gang members, and are often exposed to drug dealers and pimps. In a nutshell, they are exploited by all levels of society. The more these youths are exposed to street life; more they are assimilated into the street culture, and therefore, their chances of staying on the street increases.

### **2.2.3 Children Participation**

Participation can be defined as an ongoing process of children's expression and active involvement in decision-making at different levels in matters that concern them. It requires information-sharing and dialogue between children and adults based on mutual respect, and requires that full consideration of their views be given, taking into account the child's age and maturity. Adults often take for granted that they know better than children. They often seek to solve the problems of children without reference to children's view and perspectives. They easily forget that children are persons, with their own experience and knowledge and preference concerning their lives be taken seriously

According to Save the children (2011) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (CRC), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989, included a provision that introduced a right of all children capable of forming a view to be heard and to be taken seriously.

The provision, outlined in Article 12 of the Convention, States that:

1. States parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or appropriate body, in a manner consistent. With the procedural rules of national law

Street Children do not have the same rights with other children which are stated in Article 12 UN Convention, in Zimbabwe. Street Children are only lead by some NGOs who are responsible for them. It is important that children should be given the opportunity to be heard on all matters affecting them, without discrimination on any grounds, by adopting and continuing to implement regulations and arrangements that provide for and encourage, as appropriate, children's participation in all settings, including within the family, in school and in their communities, and that are family anchored in laws and institutional codes and that are regularly evaluated with regard to their effectiveness. Street Children are not given the right of participating in their own

decisions making but rather are being neglected, discriminated and marginalized, by adults as in the case in Zimbabwe. Street Children have been denied their rights of participation.

According to Rurevo and Bourdillon (2003) organizations striving to provide for the needs of children adequate shelter, food , protection, education and adult care emphasis children's dependence on adults. Adults should not always think that Street Children cannot participate or their voice to be heard, let them be opportune for participation. It is their rights to participate and make decision for themselves. According to Rurevo and Bourdillon (2003) some children end up on the streets because the adults who should care for them instead abandon, abuse, or neglect them.

Adults often take for granted that they know better than children. They often seek to solve the problems of children without reference to the children's views and perspectives. They easily forget that children are persons, with their own experience and knowledge and preferences concerning their lives be taken seriously.

Furthermore, organizations are striving to provide for the needs of children; adequate shelter, food, protection, education and adult care emphasis children's dependence on adults. The potential competence of children is connected to stages in development towards adulthood. Children are deemed to be incompetent in an adult sphere. This paradigm often conceals children's competence within their own spheres of interactions, particularly their ability to work out survival and coping strategies on the streets.

#### **2.2.4 The idea of Liberty**

Liberty is another concept which plays an important role in the promotion of human rights. In simple terms, liberty means, human beings are free to regulate their relations, and are able to govern their relations, behave at their own will, and be responsible for their acts. Since the concept of liberty centered on responsibility, the Street Children need to have this liberty that will make them to be responsible for their own acts. Basing on the acts performed by individuals, liberty can be enjoyed or achieved. The concept of liberty is the basics for the development of a right. According to Hobbes, every individual is empowered to enjoy their freedoms freely without the interference of any other person.

In order to resolve the problems and to provide a problem the free world also for human rights, the UN took a number of legal steps for the promotion of human rights. The objective of these acts of UN is to regulate the behavior of human being and to guide them to discharge their duties to uplift the moral and ethical values. This in turn will help to restore liberty in its true sense and make Street Children to be happy for their legal and justified actions.

Apart from the liberty, it is the duty of the Zimbabwean government also to obey the principles of international law and human rights in their relations, respecting the concept of liberty of their citizens, to promote and protect the rights of the Streets Children.



### **2.2.5 Equality and Justice**

Equality is another important element of human rights. Since early to recent times, people are fighting to accomplish this in terms of its practical application to each condition. In general, equality proposes to bring all the people into one category, and apply the principles of law and justice without any distinction, whatsoever it may be among the individuals. Equality is a comparative concept which may be distinguished basing on a number of factors, and the enjoyment of rights on an equal basis. The aim of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Constitutions of the various countries including Zimbabwe are to treat all people on an equal basis without any kind of discrimination. Therefore, Streets Children are entitled to the concept of equality of human rights.

Justice is an important concept of human rights. To achieve absolute justice, scholars have described a number of factors. Basing on variety factors that are relevant to each society, and to fill the gap between unequal and equals, from early to modern times, a number of scholars have advocated various theories to achieve the concept of justice. To achieve perfect justice, it lays its emphasis on the concept of equality, morality and ethics. According to Plato, Justice has being the highest value; men have the duty to attain it, and to discharge their duties towards society. Since, Streets Children are part of society, justice need to be done to them, and they need to have the concept of equality without any marginalization

## **2.3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The concept of rights first became prominent during the modern intellectual period known as the Age of Enlightenment a period when the traditional hierarchical political and social order were violently destroyed and replaced by an order informed on the ideals of freedom and equality. This led to formulation of various theories in a general term to deal with the issues of violation of human rights, which is discussed under the natural rights theory.

### **2.3 1 Natural Rights theory**

John Locke in his Treatise to Government claimed that men are by nature free and equal, contrary to the claim that God had made all people naturally subject to a monarch. He argued that people have equal rights, such as the right to life, liberty, and property, and that these rights are independent of the laws of any particular society.

According to Hobbes (1989), every individual is empowered to enjoy his freedoms freely without the interference of any other person. Arguing in his social contract theory, he said that the power of divine kings to regulate relationships and to restrict the freedom of individuals is antithesis to the liberty of individuals. In simple terms, human beings are free to regulate their relations and are able to govern their relations, behave at their will and be responsible for their acts.

Street Children have rights as any other children. I also, agree with Hobbes who says every individual is empowered to enjoy his freedoms freely without the interference of any other person. Therefore the Street Children have their rights to live freely as any other person.

John Rawls (2003) posits that social justice is about assuring the protection of equal access to liberties, rights, and opportunities, as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society. Rawls also explains that the principles of justice and fairness apply to freedom and equality. In essence, children who are vulnerable not only have rights such as the rights to health, shelter, nutrition and education, but also have rights to protections, from exploitation, freedom from violation of their rights and access, to a safe and supportive environment. Accordingly he developed the theory of justice as fairness as he summarized under his two principles; indefensible claim to basic liberties, social and economic condition of fair equality of opportunity.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which came into force in September 1990, has had a huge impact in defining conceptual frameworks and humanitarian concerns regarding children in adversity. The Convention asserts a number of rights for children worldwide, provides basic principles to be applied, and create a legal obligation to put these rights and principles into practice.

Panter-Brick (2000) has explicitly referred to children's rights and their best interests as advocated in the Convention. For instance, the Consortium for Street Children produced the human rights of street and working children, devised as a practical manual for implementing the Convention (Byrne 1998). UNICEF's Implementation Hand book for the Convention, which adopted a wider brief, considered those who live and work on the street under the heading of "children deprived of their family environment" (UNICEF 1998). These rights are enshrined in international law. Ennew (1995) added some important yet unwritten rights for children outside society and

“normal” childhood. These include the right for Street Children not be labeled, to be correctly researched and counted, to work and have their own support systems respected, the rights to privacy and respect for their individuality (including sexuality), and the right to be protected from exploitation by the media, activists, or fundraisers through exaggeration of children’s weaknesses and vulnerability.

The general guidelines regarding the form and content of convention of rights; UN doc. Convention /C/58 (1996) highlighted the following guiding principles:

1. Equality: They shall ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination based on status, activities, opinions and beliefs,

Child’s interest: The convention maintained that, in all actions concerning the children the best interest of the child must be considered. The state should ensure that interest of the child is protected; shall also take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to establish standard relating to the wellbeing of the child.

2. Life, survival and development: The community and government are under ‘obligation to repair the damage caused by violence against children. In article 6 and 19 of the convention it states the need for the protection of the child against any form of violence and child abuse; there was a high stress on the right to life, survival and development.

3. Participation: Participation is the concept that allows the child to avail the child to opportunities to be active in decision making process especially in matters that concerns him/her. This will give the child a strong educational development as well as benefit to his surroundings.

### **2.3.2 The Will Theory or Choice theory**

Will Theorist H.L.A Hart argue that the purpose of rights is to grant the right-holder the freedom to control the duties that others owe to him. Essentially, the purpose of rights is to protect and foster individual self-sufficiency. H.L.A Hart however, observed, individual who has the right is a small-scale self-interest.

Will theory considered a right and what circumstances need to be achieved in order for the fulfillment of a moral principle to be counted as a right in which someone can possess. Will theorists argue that a right will confuse the situation with other moral situations where the term right has a specific force. Furthermore, it can be highlighted that nothing counts as a right unless it has an assignable right-holder. The will theory also has a justificatory dimension, insofar the self-sufficiency of the individual serve as the justification of the right. Moreover, nobody counts as a right-holder unless they hold the option of enforcing or waiving the duty correlative to the right, in H.L.A Hart's work.

### **2.3.3 Interest Theory**

According (UN Convention's Document 1996.4) on Rights theory, it does not prejudice too much about what rights there are and what kinds of entities can be right-holders. Interest Theory focus on the function that rights have of protecting the right-holder. Here, the right holders do not have the power to waive his or her rights. It is argued that the only beings capable of having interests are candidates to be right

holders; thus, the interest theory is considered a selfish theoretical account of rights. (UN doc. Convention, 1996.4)

What constitutes rights is the ability to make rational choices that lead to either waiving or claiming them; the ability to activate this obligation constitutes a right. This follows that children do not have the capability of fighting for their rights but are represented by their parents or guardians until they are fully mature (Hart 1982). Campbell (1992.) argues that children do not have rights. He claims that the rights of children are basis on their caregiver, parents or guardians either to claim or waive their rights. However maintaining Hart's position, it is sufficient to for children's rights to be represented in substitute though it is difficult to determine what the child's interest is. In this case any misunderstanding and insufficient representation of this rights by parents or guardians leads to violation of the rights. Though the will theory rules out the possibility of holding such rights, it acknowledges the right to enjoy various protections against assaults.

When evaluating the plausibility of the two theories, both the Will and the Interest theory offer compelling arguments in an attempt to better understanding of rights.

Firstly, The Will theory emphasizes the idea that all rights consist in the enjoyment of opportunities for individual choices and furthermore, that having a right is having an opportunity to make a choice. The distribution of freedom, which the will theory allows is an appealing aspect in suggesting that it is a plausible theory to adopt when discussing the function and nature of rights.

**Jeremy Waldron** (1988p128), the right to Private Property, Claims, the Will Theory is essentially connected to a certain distribution of freedom. Also, the Will theory captures the distinctive link between rights and normative control. Will theories argue to have a right is having the ability to determine what other's may or may not do. Finally, the Will theory emphasizes the power that the ability to make rational choices has. Rights function as a power that the right holder exercises over others. This appealing aspect of the theory makes it a plausible theory to adopt; however, many would argue that holding such power could be considered a destructive element. Yet, the Will theory has many disadvantages which make it an implausible theoretical approach to adopt. In addition, according to Will theory, if you have a claim right, then by definition, you also have the power to waive or annul that right. However, Will theory, as a conceptual analysis, dismisses inalienable rights. This approach seems to offer the idea that this use doesn't capture what we ordinarily mean by right that this is a devaluing of the idea of right it is to say that right can be divested but not other moral duties.

**James G.S Wilson** (2000) the Interest theory of rights fits better into the ordinary understanding of rights. Firstly, the theory provides valuable and precise explanations for a wide range of cases that we want to attribute rights to. Many of the central rights we wish to attribute, such as the right to life and the right to liberty, can very plausibly be thought to further the interests of their right holders. The willingness of the Interest theory to understand and accept kindness and compassion in certain circumstances highlights that it is a plausible theoretical approach.

Furthermore, the Interest theory does not prejudge about rights and potential right-holders; the substantial element is that potential right-holders have interests that are worthy of protection, for example, the right to refuse medical treatment. Essentially, the Interest theory offers protection to autonomous and non-autonomous beings. Again this is an appealing aspect of the theory.

However, the Interest theory does have several limitations. The thesis that all rights protect and further the interests of the right-holders looks narrow. For instance, Hillel Steiner argued, “It seems wrong to say that the right exists to benefit the right holder (the power right that a judge has to pass a sentence, does not seem to have the function of protecting the judge’s interests further the interests). Finally, another problem with the Interest theory is that the appeal to human nature in order to establish what is commonly needed to lead a minimally good life, which is one of the Interest theory’s main incentives, has proved incredibly problematic.

Overall, both theories offer a compelling perspective on rights. The Will theory offers right-holders an opportunity to make a rational choice, however, the limitation of who can hold a right makes the theory an implausible one to adopt to right street children. The Interest theory, despite some reservations, fits into the understanding of Street Children’s rights. It is the plausible theoretical approach to secure general human well-being. All connections to the rights theory therefore the rights of the children are at the mercies to protect and preserve the rights of the children. When these duties are waved it lead to violation of rights. The will theory argue that rights holder has the right to waive his rights however, the children are denied this rights because all those who are



supposed to care for the children are only working for their own interest not for the children.

#### **2.4. ADVOCACY ON THE RIGHTS OF STREETS CHILDREN**

It is important to note advocacy for the right of Street Children become, a very important subject in the society where by an informed consent is developed towards a humane judgment that provide individuals with the determination to be care giver for Streets Children. Rothman describe as a free choice or self-direction of professional helping services (Jack Rothman social service Review vol.63.no4 Dec., 1989.599 client of self-determination; untangling the Kaot). He went on to highlight the code of ethics of the National Association of social Workers: to foster maximum self-determination on the part of clients' to contend and stand in the process to bring about change in the community. This fostered through self-direction. Some time it is viewed as tool for liberating and politicizing the masses. In this sense it is seen as a way of protecting the civil liberties of clients against intrusion into the lives of client's life. (Allyn & Bacon 1998).

Humanium; an international child sponsorship NGO dedicated to stopping violations of children's rights throughout the world recently made a contribution to the advocacy struggle for the rights of children. (ICCPR1966) in ancient history, special protections were not given to children; they were considered 'small adults'. At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, France was the first to give children special protection, encouraging the support for development of "minors rights; including the right for the children to be

educated. Thus, the protection of rights of children started to develop by laws in their workplace in 1841.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century children's rights and protection was put in place, including medical, social and judicial fields. During the 1919, the international community, following the formation of the League of Nations (later to become the UN) started to give some kind of importance to the concept and formed a Committee for children protection.

The first international treaty concerning children's rights; the League of Nations adopted the declaration of the Rights of the Child By September 16, 1924, in which specific rights were given to the children alongside responsibilities to the adults.

Eglantyne Jebb realized that children need special protection after looking at the horror of World War I. With the help of her sister, Dorothy Buxton, Jebb founded the children Fund in London to provide assistance to protect children who have experience war in 1919 (ICCPR1966). In 1920, with the support of the international committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the save the children Fund was organized and structured around the international save the children union. The international save the children fourth general assembly was on 26 February 1923. During the fifth general assembly, the draft was later ratified on 28 February. Jebb sent this document to the League of Nations, saying that she believed "we should claim certain Rights for the children and Labour for their Universal recognition."

On 26 September 1924, the League of Nations adopted the declaration and titled it the Geneva Declaration. It was a historic day- the first time specific rights for children were recognized. The 1924 Geneva Declaration stated that “humanity owes to the child the best that it has to give.” In simple terms, the Declaration points out adults’ obligations to children. This advocacy strategy gave focus to the ongoing effort to give the child a sense of belonging.

The fundamental needs of children were summarized in five points. The document discussed the well-being of children, their right to development, assistance, relief and protection. However, even though the document addressed certain fundamental rights, it was not legally binding. In 1934, the General Assembly of the League of Nations once again approved the Geneva Declaration. The signatories promised to incorporate the principles of the document into their national laws, but they were not legally bound to do so. Nevertheless, the Geneva Declaration remains the first international Human Rights document in history that specifically addresses children’s rights.

In 1947 the UN Fund for Urgency for the Children is created, which became UNICEF and was granted the status of a permanent international organization in the 1953. UNICEF then puts in place several programs for helping children in their education, health, and access to water and food. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 10 1948 recognizes that “motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.” In 1959 the General Assembly of the UN adopts the Declaration of the Rights of the child, which describes in 10 principles the children rights.

Whereas this text has not been signed by all the countries and its principles have only an indicative value, it paves the way to a Universal Declaration of Children Rights.

#### **2.4.1 UN Convention**

- ✓ Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.
- ✓ Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.
- ✓ Recognizing that the child for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

In the UN Convention of (Article 9) the right of the child not to be unjustly separated from his or her family, the children on the streets are not experiencing these rights because of rejection from their family's members. (UN Convention 1989).

On May 25, 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Optional Protocol concerning the sale of children, the prostitution of children and pornography involving children. The Protocol has been in force since January 18, 2002. These activities are characterized as serious violations of children's rights and as criminal acts. **Article 2** To the goals of the present protocol :( UN General Assembly 1989)

- a) By the sale of children, one refers to any act or transaction in which any individual or group of individuals hands a child over to another person or group of persons in exchange for any form of payment whatsoever;
- b) By child prostitution, one refers to the act of using a child for purposes that are sexually exploitive in exchange for any form of payment.
- c) By the pornographic depiction of children, one refers to any representation ](produced in whatever medium and by whatever means) of child engaging in explicit sexual.

Veeran V. (2004) also recommended the framework around which the strategies for street children should be designed. Moreover he said that Children's rights are control to debate on Street Children. According to the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of the child; the child has the right to affection, Love, understanding, to learn to be useful member of society, in addition to being enough housed and nourished.

World Health Organization proposed a fourfold category of psychosocial needs of children: the need for love, security new experiences, praise and recognition and responsibility.

Former President, Nelson Mandela of South Africa in 1995, advocated campaign for children right of their wellbeing and welfare. The campaign for children's right was more prominent, especially with the ratification of the united nation Convention on the Rights of the child.

The CRC advocates three central principles which distinguish the special circumstances of children compared with adults.

- The need for special safeguards for children beyond those available for adults, such as safety and security.
- The best environment for the child to be within a nurturing and protective family, which caters for his /her survival and development.
- The responsibility of governments and adults for the protection of the best interest of the child.

Therefore, these principles are well-intended resonant of most child rights campaigns Ennew, (1995) believed that some of the articles in the convention depicted street children to be a marginalized group, as most of them “do not enjoy rights of protection and provision.

Children experiencing abusive relationship, neglect and abandonment need special measures to safeguard them. When this protective framework is lacking, Street Children become outcasts. Also the street children need to be supported in the process of decision-making to their problems. They need to be equipped with empowering skills, which include capacity building, self-esteem and positive development. Street Children participation can be enhanced through the promotion of peer education where children take responsibility for creating awareness among their peers.

### **2.4.2 Rights of Protection**

According to Ranck. E. R (2014) Children must be the first to receive relief in times of distress and also children must be put in a position to early a livelihood they must be protected against every form of exploitation.

Protection against arbitrary Violation of child's privacy (Article16).This right is relevant whenever the child's personal matters become of interest to others such as when the child's body is being violated for medical examination. Special protection must be given for out of home children (Article 20).

Protection against abuse, neglect and violence, whether inflicted by family or others who care for the child (Article19). Zimbabwean Government shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the Street Children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. (United Nation Convention,1989).

### **2.4.3. Rights of Provision**

According to the UN Convention of (Article21) everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his Country. Street Children in Mutare have the right to every public service because they are citizen of the Country. The Street Children rights have been violated of neglect, rejection and maltreatment.

In (Article 26) everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. In the case of Zimbabwe street children rights has been violated through the opportunity of their education. It stated in the same article that parents have to engage right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. Since most of the children are orphan, the Government shall help in supporting their education rights. Furthermore, street children must be given the means for the normal development, both materially and spiritually;

The child that is hungry must be fed; the child that is sick must be nursed; the child that is backward must be helped; the delinquent child must be reclaimed; and the orphan and waif must be sheltered and succored. In conclusion, Street Children are part of child therefore the Government of Zimbabwe must lay down a policy for their rights to be implemented as it is the mentioned above.

#### **2.4.4 Child Labour**

There is no universally accepted definition of child labour. According to Global estimates and trends 2000-2012, child labour is a nationwide phenomenon. Others view it as a worldwide phenomenon due to the fact that the nature of the violation of the rights of children is the same all over the world; majority of them being found in developing countries. The reasons for child labour are many and varied. Some of the main reasons are poverty, ill-treatment by the parents, and negligence by the family members, frustrations, compulsion, and above all illiteracy. (Global Estimate and Trends, 2000).



Poor parents neglect their children as they find it difficult to pull on their life and lead their families. Such neglected children are abused, exploited, placed under prostitution and forced to become criminals. Instead of learning at schools, they are compelled to learn crimes and become vulnerable in society. These children have no home to rest, no education, and have no hope about their future. As today's children are tomorrow nation builders, they should be cared for, educated and trained in such a way that would make them realize their values, duties and responsibilities. Parents and caregivers should come forward honestly and whole heartedly to set the pace. (Jayapalan 2000)

#### **2.4.5 Exploitations**

Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting to injustice, cruelty and harmful treatment of the child. To this end, there are two main forms of child exploitation that are recognized.

- (a) Sexual exploitation: this is abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes, applied to a child. This includes prosily monetarily socially or politically from the exploitation of a child as well as personal sexual gratification. (M.Mella 2012p1.)
- (b) Economic exploitation: This is to use the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others putting the children on the disadvantaged side. Protection of children against moral and material abandonment is a must. All children are to be given the right to live with human dignity. Children should be provided with opportunities and facilities to grow in a healthy

manner. It is also the duty of the parents to protect and promote children's rights with a view to ensuring full development of their personality and human dignity. Or else, the right to life and liberty

- (c) Would become meaningless. In most cases street children are forced to undertake prostitution and drug addicts. These children are misused only on account of poverty. (UNICEF 200).

Neglected children turn into thieves and live an unfair life. No one is a born criminal. Only the circumstances that exist in society convert the abandoned children into criminals. In order to reform the street children, the government of Zimbabwe should stand for the rights of Street Children.

#### **2.4.6 Dignity**

According to Dr. T.S.N. Sastry, (2011) Dignity is a value that regulates the behavior of individuals. In day to day inter-relationships, individuals are expected to behave with one another in a dignified and honest manner. This concept dictates that every one of us has to exercise due caution and care in our relations without undermining the capacities of other persons. Since dignity plays a vital role, in regulating the human relations and for the furtherance of human rights, (especially, the basic rights of liberty, equality, justice, and freedom) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), in no uncertain terms declared that all individuals are equal in the eye of law, therefore, Street Children have the same human rights as human beings. The violation of children's rights has been on the increase although there are many child welfare organizations striving to protect and promote children's rights in Mutare.

Nations Declaration on the Rights of the child, “the child has the right to affection, love, understanding, to learn to be useful member of society, in addition to being adequately housed and nourished.” Of salience in working with Street Children is the need for acknowledgement that they are, indeed, children. Street Children share the same needs for safety and protection as other children living with their families. Intrinsically related to these rights are needs of children. Sastry (2011) maintained that children have certain basic needs and rights, which underscored their rights to protection.

## **2.5 CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

United Nation Convention on the rights of the child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 outline the basic rights of children and the responsibilities of the government, to protect children. Street Children have the same rights as other children and the same laws should apply to them.

### **2.5.1 A Summary of the Convention**

- A child is defined as being a person under the age of 18 unless laws of a Country state that maturity is attained at an earlier age.
- All rights apply to all children without exception. The state must not violate any right and must take positive action against any violence.
- All actions concerning children should consider their best interests. The state is to provide adequate care when parents or others fail to do so.

- Every child has the right to the highest level of health possible, and to access health and medical services.
- Every child has a right to education, and the state has the duty to ensure that primary education is made free and compulsory.

The African Contexts of Children's Rights Seminar which took place in Harare between 12 and 14 January, 1998 was a collaborative effort by four agencies to advocate for children's rights in the context of Africa. According to Tine N. D. and Ennew J. (1998) the African Context Children's Rights seminar was the result of a collaboration between four agencies with specific interests in children's rights and was intended to address the relative lack of awareness in African Countries of both the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, as well as to encourage special scholar debate that will further children's rights in African Contexts. The Agencies are:

- CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa)
- ANPPCAN (African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).
- Childwatch International.
- ReddBarna-Zimbabwe

### **2.5.2 Simukai Child Protection Programme**

Simukai Child Protection Programme, a registered child organization under the Private Voluntary Organizations Act(Chapter 17:05) 27/12, was established in the years 2000 as a community response to the plight of abused, neglected and abandoned children, who live and work on the streets and those who live outside family environments.

Since its inception, Simukai has strived to improve the quality of life orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). Networking and collaboration with the community and other stakeholders has seen Simukai realizing its dream of alleviating poverty in families and witnessing the children growing to successful adults. This has been possible, through working communities and families to prevent children from various forms of child abuse while at the same time promoting and facilitating positive growth.

#### **Objectives:**

- Reduce the vulnerability of the children and youths to all forms of abuse, sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV and mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDs on vulnerable children and youths.
- Improve the physical, psychological and spiritual well-being of vulnerable children and youths.
- Ensure access to formal and informal education, training and employment for vulnerable children and youths

- Advocate/Promoting the rights of vulnerable children and youths and ensure local community participates. (Simukai Annual Report 2013).

## **2.6. Summary**

This chapter has examined the existing literature to children's rights and the framework for their protection. It has also discussed theoretical and conceptual frameworks relevant to the discourse. From the foregoing discussions on the related literatures, was discovered that there are different categories of Street Children, and the specific category needs to be properly ascertained in order to structure appropriate policies to address the protection of the rights of these children. The literature further reveals that the problem of Street Children and the violation of their rights is a global phenomenon which has attracted attention at international, regional and national levels. Relevant frameworks addressing the issue include the UN Convention, African Charter, and other national and regional policies.

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter contains the research methodology section of the research. It involves the design and method of data collection; the information concerning the participants; especially the size of the population and how they are selected. It also highlights the instrument used in collecting data for the research. Finally the chapter provides the method analysis of the data collected.

The aim of this study is to investigate the reason for the presence of Street Children in the city of Mutare, and to also examine the nature and extent of the violation of the rights of these children.

### **3.1 Research Design**

This research is aim at investigating the nature and extent of violation of the rights of Streets Children in the city of Mutare. Research Design is structure of an enquiry to ensure that the evidence obtained enables us to answer the initial question as unambiguously as possible, specifying the type of evidence needed to answer the research question to accurately describe the phenomenon. (Emorcia V. Hill, 2011)

This research used a descriptive Case Study as a designed. The descriptive Case Study purposely adapts interpretive approach to data targeted at evaluating violations of the rights of Street Children within the scope of the Simukai Child Protection Programme in Mutare city. The Case Study was performed in detail on a single case rather than on

a sample of the whole population, which is a purposive sampling procedure aimed at getting information from those who deal directly with children, and the children themselves who are the victims. It is the ideal method in order to help the researcher get different perceptions concerning the subject of the research.

According to Clifford J. Drew, Michael L. Hardman, & Ann Weaver Hart in Yin, 1989 (1996 p.431), Case Study research can be structured to make use of qualitative and quantitative data for maximum depth of understanding and to elucidate or to explain different aspects of the cases under examination.

In order to fish out information the researcher collected data through questionnaires and interviews. The research made use of a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research designs consisting of questionnaires, and in-depth, open-ended interviews as well as related literatures, which deals with the violation of the rights of street Children. In pursuit for the achievement of the desired objective of the research the researcher used both primary and secondary sources including; books, journals, articles, internet sources, and dissertations. These sources have helped directly or indirectly in answering the research questions and also giving insight to the primary source of the study and other dependent variables such as the concept of how the street children have had their rights violated.



### **3.2 Sample Population**

The target population of this research was NGOs/ Government Agency and Parents/ Guardians namely: Childline, Simukai Child Protection Programme, Social Welfare Department, and also parents/Guardians who are workers, some are trading/doing business in Mutare City. The researcher also interviewed some of the Street Children.

#### **3.2.1 Sampling Method**

The researcher made use of the purposive sampling method for selection of participants. This is to bring out raw information from informed sources that had knowledge of Street Children and how their rights had been violated. Some of them have knowledge because they are dealing with the Streets Children in the course of their work. Others are selected on the basis of their exposure to and interaction with street children or to ascertain their perspectives about the Street Children include; some staff of the Transport Union and some parents/guardian who are working or carrying on business in the city, policies and some government Agencies. Among this group, the researcher selected some staff of Simukai Child Protection Programme, and the Social welfare Department, Childline Organization, Sheriff's Department of the High Court, Transport Union and some parents/Guardians who are working or carry on business, Juvenile court officials and law enforcement agencies, in the City. Some of the Street Children themselves were also interviewed about their experiences and perceptions. In all a total number of 50 participants were selected. They comprised of 5 participants from Simukai Child Protection Programme, 2 from Childline Organization, 3 from Social Welfare Department, 2 from Sherriff Department High

Court/law enforcement Agency and 2 were from transport Union. The rest were 14 Parents/ Guardians and 16 Street Children. These were some of the people whose day to day activities involved regular interaction with Streets Children.

### **3.3 Research Instruments**

For the purpose of collecting data the researcher used participant observation, questionnaires as well as interviews. The researcher also relied on her own observation when she was an Intern with Simukai Child Protection Programme, during which time she undertook day and night visits with the Street Children. These diverse methods are of significant importance to the study. In order to answer the research questions, it was important that all the instruments were methodically applied for the purpose of data collection.

The advantage of the interview method was to allow the Street Children freedom to give their own views and perceptions of violation of their rights as they were the victims of these violations. On the other hand a disadvantage of the interview was that they may not say the truth of what causes these violations of their rights.

#### **3.3.1 Observation**

This method availed the researcher the opportunity of witnessing some of the violations as she visited streets where the children work and sleep. The researcher moved around on the streets where she witnessed the violations of the Street Children rights. The researcher chose to be as observer; identifying with participants in a social process in order to interact with them, with the aim of getting firsthand information.

The advantage of being an observer was to experience the condition of the Street Children to get more information about the violations of their rights. The disadvantage is the sight of the observer may cause the participants to hide information that is vital to the research.

### **3.3.2 Questionnaires**

In the course of this research, data was collected through the use of Questionnaires and Interview. There were two types of questionnaire; one for NGOs/Government Agency and Parents/Guardian. The children were allocated 20 questionnaires as interview guides. A total number of thirty (30) questionnaires were administered to other participants in the city of Mutare. The questions were structured; open and close-ended questions. The responses were analyzed based on people's perceptions, attitude, and experiences concerning how people responded to the violation of the rights of Street Children. Of the thirty (30) questionnaires distributed 28 were returned, the rest were not returned. They were either misplaced or the participants chose not to respond.

The advantage of administering questionnaires was to bring out primary information from participants in the natural setting. Also, the questionnaire brings out variety of data for the study for the purpose of the research. The researcher can also contact a large sample through questionnaire more than other instruments. The disadvantage of the questionnaire is that, there would be a low response due to the respondents' freedom of choice either to participate or not.

### **3.4 Research Procedure**

The researcher began by obtaining permission and consent from the Director of Simukai Child Protection Programme , the only Organization who deal with Streets Children in Mutare, department of Social Welfare, and also Assent form for the Street Children. Permission was given to us on the February 9 2015 after which the researcher started administering and collecting the questionnaires between February 11 and March 2 2015. After collecting the data they were later assembled, classified and analyzed. Information acquired from the respondents were interpreted and represented in tables. The results were analyzed accordingly using a simple percentage to determine attitudes and opinions of participants in the study. On the other hand the data collected through the use of qualitative approach are shaped into information coded and translated into themes and creating the categories of information from the NGOs/Government Agency, Parents/Guardians and the Street Children.

### **3.4 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected were assembled, presented in tables to represent the respondent's views analyzed and interpreted. Views were explained and analyzed using a simple percentage to determine the weight of the responses given. Qualitative and quantitative information was descriptively analyzed by organizing the data into categories on the basis of themes, concepts and similar features and relationship among concepts was examined. Mixed method information was descriptively analyzed by organizing the data into categories on the basis of themes, concepts and similar features and the relationship among concepts was examined. Content analysis

allows for the explanations of meanings of findings and emotions and feelings will be easy to explain.

### **3.5 Ethical Considerations**

The research involved underage children in the city of Mutare. For this reason, the researcher sought for, and secured the permission to undertake the research from relevant authorities, responsible for the children, specifically, the Director of Simukai Child Protection Programme, and Director of Social Welfare Department. This was done in view of the absence of Parents/guardians from whom parental consent to interview the minors could be obtained. Participants were informed of the purpose, and objectives of the study to enable them appreciate the nature of the engagement. The researcher also endeavored to ensure the confidentiality of information gathered and the privacy of participants. Name of people were withheld where necessary. In addition, the participants were given the right to decide whether to participate or not as well being given the opportunity to do so in the course of the study procedure.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATIONS AND ANALYSIS**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This Chapter deals with data collected from the respondents in the City of Mutare. The data is organized and presented to represent information from participants; they represent experiences, views, perceptions, and suggestions from individuals and groups that are gathered based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It provides background to the Nature and Extent of the violations of the Rights of street children in the city of Mutare, as well as suggestions concerning the way such violation can be minimized. The findings are presented in tables, with responses and frequency. A simple percentage depicts views and themes that inform the analysis of the study.

### **4.1 Section A: General Information**

This section focus on the data collected from government agencies/ NGO staff and the parents/guardians. They are represented in the table to give the background of the respondents

**Table 1: Gender**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	10	35.7%
Female	18	64.3%
Total	28	100%

The above table shows that 10 respondents representing 35.7% are male while 18 respondents representing 64.3% are female. This comprises the total number of respondent from the NGOs government workers, social service workers and the general public.

**Table 2: Age level of NGOs/ Government agency and Parents/Guardians**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
<b>18-30</b>	<b>9</b>	32.1%
<b>31-40</b>	<b>13</b>	46.4%
<b>40-50</b>	<b>5</b>	17.9%
<b>Over 50 years</b>	<b>1</b>	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	100%

The above table represents the age level of the respondents; 9 respondents are between the ages of 18-30 representing 32.1%; 13 respondents between the ages of 31 and 40 representing 46.4% of the respondents; 5 respondents representing 17.9% are of ages 40- 50; while one (1) respondent is aged over 50 years representing 3.6%. This data shows that majority of the respondent are between ages 31 and 40. They are followed by those that fall between the ages of 18 and 30. It therefore follows that the respondents are mostly young people who would have the vision of a future that they desire to build through the care and development of the young ones.

#### **4.2 Responses from NGO & Government Agencies**

This data focuses mainly on information gathered through questionnaires issued to government agencies and the NGOs. Below are responses to open ended questions

##### **4.2.1 Responses from NGO & Government Agencies to close-ended questions.**

**Table 3 : *years of service of NGOs/ Government Agencies in their current position***

<b>Years of service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>1-5</b>	<b>8</b>	80%
<b>5-10</b>	<b>1</b>	10%
<b>10-20</b>	<b>1</b>	10%
<b>20 &amp; above</b>	<b>0</b>	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	100%



The above table represents data concerning the years of service of respondents; 8 of the respondents have put in between 1-5 years this represents 80% of responses; 1 respondent each presenting 10% are between 5 to 10 and 10 to 20 years respectively. None of the respondents' years of service exceeds above 20 years.

Table 4 Age distribution of children that NGOs / Government agencies deal with

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>0-5</b>	<b>0</b>	0%
<b>6-10</b>	<b>1</b>	10%
<b>11-15</b>	<b>0</b>	0%
<b>16-18</b>	<b>3</b>	30%
<b>0-18</b>	<b>6</b>	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	100%

The above table shows the age of the children that the NGOs & government agencies deal with. One person mentioned 6-8 year which represents 10% of responses. 3 respondents mentioned 16-18 years representing 30%; 6 persons deal with all ages mentioned above which represents 60% of respondents. Form the data it is clear that they deal with Street Children of all ages.

Table 5: How Respondents understood the term street children

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
children who live on the street	<b>8</b>	28.6%

Children who work on the streets and return home at night.	<b>4</b>	14.3%
Both	<b>14</b>	50%
Neither of these	<b>2</b>	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	100%

The above table represent opinion of respondents as to what Street Children means; 8 respondents referred them as children who live on the street this represents 28.6% of the responses; 4 persons representing 14.3% said they are children who work on the streets and return home. 14 respondents representing 50% referred to both of the above options. While two respondents did not offer any suggestion as to what the term Street Children means.

Table 6: Some of the challenges / problem faced by street children

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Shelter/food	<b>1</b>	3.6%
Physical/sexual abused	<b>1</b>	3.6%
Children lack of education	<b>0</b>	0
All of above	<b>26</b>	92.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	100%

In mentioning the problems faced by Street Children the above table presents 1 persons each mentioned shelter/food and physical/sexual abused representing 3.5% respectively; 26 respondents mentioned all of the above representing 92.8%. This is to

say that the Street Children face problem of food, shelter, physical and sexual abuse, but none of the respondents mentioned lack of education which the researcher considers as important factor in the life of the children.

Table 7: Ways in which the rights of street children are being violated

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>26</b>	92.9%
<b>No</b>	<b>2</b>	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	100%

The above table shows that 26 respondents agreed that the rights of the children are being violated when they face problem of food, shelter, physical and sexual abuse as mentioned in table six above. Two respondents representing 7.1% did not agree; this view may be coming from someone who may not be conversant with what right is all about. The fact is that majority of the respondents agreed to the fact that their rights have been violated

#### **4.2.2 Responses to open ended questions**

This section deals with the responses from government agencies and NGOs to the close-ended questions.

#### **What is the extent of the violated of street child?**

**Access to Shelter:** The respondents disclosed that one of the extents to which the rights of the Street Children is violated is that they do not have no access to shelter of their own thus no home to return to after roaming on the streets. They sleep on the

streets, on corridors and verandas. Some sleep under the bridge and tunnels. In this place they are on their own without parental guardians; exposed to any form of violation.

**Access to food:** Respondent also suggested that the extent to which the rights of the children are violated involve lack of access to food, this force them to beg for food which are often not forth coming. Sometimes they have to feed from the bins, among trashes which constitute health hazards.

**Child labour:** The children's rights are violated in form of child labour; they indulge in menial activities in order to get food and other means of livelihood. They work for money; sometimes they are even denied their entitlement.

**Access to education:** Respondents believe that the children do not attend schools. They only play around or stay idle. Most of the children are drop outs that may be unfortunately not having someone to pay for their fees or for some reasons not known; they only find themselves as children on the street.

**What measures are in place by government to protect the rights of street children in Mutare?**

According to respondents the government is trying her best in addressing the needs of the children on the streets. A number of measures are mentioned here: Establishment of children homes and the social service department, Supporting NGOs in rehabilitating the Street Children, allowing private and voluntary organizations to assist vulnerable children, the major contribution of the government is the passing of

the Child liberation Act in the parliament and the National Orphan Care policy (1990). Other measures are; the awareness campaign, youth empowerment programme and the reunification supports. Few of the respondents said that there was nothing put in place to address the plight of the Street Children. Their opinion may be as a result of poor execution of such measures mentioned or inadequacy of such service rendering it unnoticeable or they may be right because as respondents they are entitle to their opinions..

**What is the role of Parents/ Guardians in protecting street Children from violation of their rights?**

Parents should be aware of children's rights and strive to protect them. They should be given the right to access to basic needs (shelter, food, education, health) making sure the children have access to their rights. Some of the respondents suggested that they must in instruct and educating their children on the danger of being on the streets. Counseling them on the dangers of being on the streets, as well as provide love and care to the children. There is a call for good parenting to protect their children in a good manner so as to prevent them from going out on the streets. Although from the findings so far most of the respondents are establishing the fact that 99 % of such children are orphans with no one to care for them.

**What are communities doing to protect street children from violated of their rights?**

The Community where the Street Children come from has responsibilities to take care of the kids. However respondents have offered several ways in which they offer their help. One of the major contributions of the community is that they have an orphanage in sakubva that provide food and clothing to the street children though experience shows that it is very expensive, but is a good undertaking.

A good number of the respondents are saying that there is nothing being done concerning the Street Children. It could be that they are not feeling the impact of those activities the community offer.

Some of the respondents say the community formed focus groups with the aim of creating awareness through campaigns, workshops and seminars in the community. There is also a Child protection committee saddled with the responsibility of protecting the interest of the street children and offer counseling services to them.

The community also supports NGOs like Simukai, Zunderamambo Programme, Scriptural Union, FACTS, PIAN international, and UNICEF. These organizations take care of the street children in various ways. They help in raising awareness on child labour, sexual abuse and other violations. They create programmes for reunification of the Street Children with those identified as their family or relatives.

### **What is the role of NGOs in protecting the rights of the children?**

The respondents mentioned the following as the role of the NGOs: Provide awareness campaigns, food aids and scholarship, work with the government in providing advocacy, education, teaching, sensitization on rights of children, provision of basic

needs like rehabilitation, food, reunion, shelter and empowerment. The NGOs are served to bridge the gap that government cannot fill.

**What is your agency actually doing to protect the rights of Streets children in Mutare?**

The work of the agency is to provide sex education, reproduction health, child abuse. Counseling services for the abused, Provide needs like food, clothing, shelter etc. They also serve as advocate for the rights of the Street Children's rights.

The respondents highlighted the work of the Agencies such as; supporting the NGOs, organizing sensitization programme, reunification and youth empowerment. Through these measures the agencies recognize the plight of the Street Children therefore offering them hope for a better future.

**What is your perception about street life?**

The respondent's perception concerning street children's life raises a number of concerns in the way the children live. Most of them said Street lives are hard and tough; exposed to vulnerability, to different kinds of abuses making the victims of circumstances.

Some respondents said that living as street children is not proper, dangerous, dehumanizing and portrays lack of morale. Also they maintain that children are not

meant for the street because being on the street, one has no access to his right since they are abuses.

Other respondents describe the Street Children as those who are far away from caregivers and parents. They are often delinquent One of the respondent said that they have no right to live on the street even as orphans they will have a home with relatives. However the issue of choice is prevalent whereby those who do not feel they are well treated run to the street to find means of livelihood.

#### **4.3 Section C: General Information for Street Children**

Table 8: Gender of the children

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>
Female	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Total	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table shows that all the children who are participants in this research are males. No female was found. Sixteen children were contacted which represents 100% male. The NGOs through which these children were reached confirmed that there used to be female street children but now they were either married or reunited with their families.

Table 9: Age level for the children

<b>Ages</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
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0-5	0	0%
6-10	1	6.2%
11-15	4	25%
16-18	11	68.8%
Total	<b>16</b>	100%

The above table shows the age level of the children who participated in this research.

None of them is bellow five years. One child is between 6-10 years old representing 6.2 % of the respondents; 4 children are between 11- 15 years representing 25. While 11 are aged between 16 to 18 years representing 68.8% of the children who responded.

#### **4.4 SECTION D: Interview Questions for street children**

Table 10: The length of time street children had been on the street

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1 month	2	12.5%
1 year	7	43.75%
2 years	3	18.75%
3 years	2	12.5%
9 years	1	6.25%
10 years	1	6.25%
Total	16	100%

The above table shows how long the children had been on the street. Two of them were there for 1 month representing 12.5%; seven of the spent 1 year of the street representing 43.75% of the respondents; 3 of the respondents representing 18.75% were 2 years on the street; 3 of them spent 3 year representing 12.5% then 1 child each representing 6.27% was on the street for 9 and 10 years respectively. The above data shows that most of the children were newly on the street, while few of them have been there for a long time

### **What do you do on the Street?**

The children on the street have many reasons of being on the street. In the interview conducted, majority of them go to the streets in search of minor jobs to look for money which they would spend. They are desperately in need of money to feed themselves and take care of some other problems. They engage in carrying luggage for people in order to be paid. Most of them do not even know why they are on the street; they simply said they do nothing. This means that they are just roaming about the street without doing anything in particular.

### **Do you go back home at night?**

Majority of the children contacted said they do not go back home at night. An insignificant percentage of the children do return home .however there those who not even go home on a regular basis. They provided some reasons why they stay on the street. Majority of them do not have homes there is no body to care as we can see in

table above, they have no parents and no homes to return to, the street had become their home. They are there in Search of better means of living what they call ‘employment’. One of the things that happen to those who do not have parents is that, they receive beatings from their brothers that were why they run away from home. They sleep on the streets, on verandas, in town halls, tunnels and where they find appropriate.

**Do you go to school? Have you been to school before? If yes, which level did you stop to? If no, why?**

All the children who were contacted in this research do not go to school. They are mostly found around the market places and on the streets. Almost all the children have been to school but had to stop attending school. The level of education attained varied; some of them left school from grade 3, grade four, grade six and grade seven. Others left school in form one two and form three. From the above analysis therefore one is tempted to say that these children do not have a future. They are not in any way making any effort to find others ways that would help them improve and one day stay out of the street. They do not engage in any form of training or apprentice to be able to acquire some skills.

**How do you earn your living?**

The Street Children engage in minor jobs and all kinds of labour in order to find money. They mostly beg from passers-by on the street, pushing trollies, carrying Goods and luggage, washing cars. Very few of them are selling small items like

brooms and cooking stick .One of them was helping shop owners in selling provisions.  
This is to enable them take care of themselves.

Table 11: Condition of street children's parents and guardian

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Loss both parents	9	56.25%
Loss father	2	12.5%
Loss mother	2	12.5%
Both parents are alive	3	18.75%
Total	16	100%

The above table shows that 9 respondents represent 56.25% of the children loss both parents; 2 each representing 12.5% loss either the father or the mother respectively; while 3 of the respondent said both of their parents are alive but they live separately. For the data therefore we can see that most of the children who turn out to be Street Children are orphans who do not have parents. Secondly children of broken homes are also liable to become vulnerable and liable of being Street Children because of the disintegration of the family. As a result children have no options that to go on the street to look for means of livelihood.

Table 12: The care of Street Children

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No one	14	87.5%
Grand mother	2	12.5%
Guardians	0	0%
Total	16	100%

In responding to the question as to who takes care of the children 4 respondents said they have no one to take care of them which is 87.5% of the responses given; 2 respondents representing 12.5% said that they live with their grandmothers. They may not be taking good care of them as they may be old and unable to carter for the needs of the children. So that may be the reason why they are on the street.

#### **What problem/ risks do you face on the streets?**

The problems faced by street children are numerous, however the major ones are; lack of food, shelter, assault, beating by older boys, theft, Police harassment. One answering the question as to how they feel being on the street most of them describe the life as a terrible experience which they feel bad. They express the fact that their life is always in danger.

One of the children was bold to say he is not a street child but a child living on the street.

### **What is the prevention used when having sex?**

This was a searching question to clear the assumption that they Street Children are exposed to sexual risk. In response, some of them used condom for protecting while engaging sexual activities. Majority of them are not sexually active. They have no idea what it means to be protected or not.

Table 13: Street Children involvement in drugs

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	11	68.75%
No	5	31.25%
Total	16	100%

The above table show that 11 respondent, representing 67.75% agreed that the Street Children take drugs. While 5 respondents representing 31.25% said they do not take drugs. This show that majority of the street children take drugs. This is because their vulnerability exposes them to street life and involvement in certain behaviours that are dangerous to their lives.

### **Are you willing to go back home?**

In responding to this question majority of the children prefer to go back and stay at home if they have parents or those who will take care of them. Very few of them said they are not going anywhere. There reason for not consenting to go home is that there

is no body at home. Table eleven above shows that most of them loss both of their parents, even those who loss one parent cannot stay with the other because they are either absent or refusing to take responsibility of the children

**Are you aware of your rights? What are they? Which of your rights are being violated**

In answering the question whether they know their rights, majority of the Street Children do not know their rights. They don't even know whether they have any rights this is to say that they really know that street life was not the best life for them because as human beings you must have the right to do what you are doing and be confident about what you are doing. Only very few among them mentioned their rights that are being denied, like right to education, food and shelter. To them these are the most basic needs.

Table 14: Ways in which the rights of street children will be protected

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Get education	5	31.25%
Establish NGO	3	18.75%
Stay at home	4	25%
Get a place/shelter to stay	2	12.5%
Get a good work	2	12.5%
Total	16	100%

The above table shows what can be done to protect the rights of the children. 5 of the respondents representing 31.25% chose education, they are of the opinion that education can be the key to ignorance; 3 respondents said that they should establish NGOs to protect the rights of the children from violations this represents 18.75% of responses; 4 respondents representing 25% suggested that they should stay at home not to come on the street, that is where their rights are protected; 2 persons representing 10% each suggested that they either get a place/home to stay; or get a good job to do respectively.

From the data above most of the children would prefer that they leave the street if only their needs would be met. The fact is that most of them did not have the opportunity to complete their schooling this deprived them from some of the chances they may be having if they were educated. This would give them the privilege of owning a job, shelter and food and even think of having and raising a family of their own.

### **What is the role of your Parents/Guardian in protecting your rights?**

The parents said they have responsibility for the children. Some respondent that in Africa it is believed a child does not belong to the biological parents but the whole community. Therefore, it is a shameful thing to see the children roaming about without parent, guardian or relative taking care of them. The respondent said, it is the duty of the parents to take good care of their children or the relative to as well take care of the children of their relative who died. Therefore their major duties as parents or guardians are mentioned as: showing Love to their children, provide for children especially food clothing and shelter, providing guidance and instruction to the



children. Furthermore, they are endeavor to protect the rights of their children in a situation whereby their rights are being violated, they added..

### **What is the role of Communities in protecting your rights?**

According to the respondents the community should monitor how people care for children and make sure they are safe. In situations where the parents are unable to care for the children, the community will help in raising others or even influence other people who are well to do to help each others who are weak. It is how ever clear that some of the children do not know the role of the community they are living.

### **What is the role of Government/NGOs in protecting your rights?**

The respondents share from their experience what the role of the government is; the government is there to protect the rights and privileges of its citizens and make sure they are safe. Provide needs, Assist children /families that cannot take care of their young ones, Provide jobs, counseling, shelter, , In most cases the Help NGOs in advocating for the rights of the children. However most of the children do not know what the role of the government is.

### **What can you do as a street child in protecting yourself from abuses?**

The children said they will do positive things to avoid /stay out of trouble, this means that they would not involve in any form of criminal activities; stop taking drugs, avoid taking people's belongings, only focus on doing jobs in order to get money and food which are the basic needs. They also say they have to develop some defines mechanisms in other to protect from violence and abuses.

**How do you take your medication when you are sick?**

Some of the children said they take Pain killers when they are sick. Some of them said they never sick before. So they have no experience of what sickness mean to them. Majority of them go to the clinic when they are sick. Some of them said they go home when they are sick that is for those who spend the day on the street and return home. Others go to NGOs (Simikai) to received treatment or medical attention.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter consists of the summary of the research, the conclusions and the recommendations. Here the researcher seeks to provide a summary of the nature and extent of the violation of the rights of street children in the city of Mutare. It will also suggest some recommendations for the effective protection and promotion of rights of Street Children in the city of Mutare, Zimbabwe.

### **5.1 Summary**

The main focus of the research was to examine the nature and extent of the violation of the rights of Street Children in the city of Mutare. The objectives of the study were to investigate the reasons for the presence of streets children in the City of Mutare, to examine the nature and extent of the violation of Streets Children's rights in the City of Mutare, to identify available policies, institutions and measures to protect the rights of Streets Children in the City of Mutare, to make proposals that will strengthen the protection of the rights of Street Children, in the City of Mutare.

The research was rooted in social justice theories, the concept of social construction, will and Interest theories , the role of the family, theories about child behavior, International and regional treaties and relevant existing literature concerning the nature and extent of violation of rights of Street Children. Data in the field was collected through the use of primary and secondary resources. The sample size was 50 and was selected from NGOs/Government Agencies, Parents/ Guardians and some

Street Children. Of the 50, 28 questionnaires were respondents NGOs/ Government Agency and Parents / Guardians. Interviews were conducted with 16 of the Street Children. The data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

Street Children involved in this study were boys who work for their own survival and some runaway from abuses from their relatives. Poverty was the main cause for children to live and work on the street.

In Mutare there is growing disquiet over the numbers of children working and living on the streets. Their moral values and behavior are seen as different from that of other children who are not Street Children. This is so as they lack parental guidance and protection. The family is regarded as the main source of material and emotional support of the child's growth and development.

### **5.2.1 Causes for the existence of Street Children in the city of Mutare**

From the findings it was discovered that the proliferation of the number of Street Children in the city of Mutare is based on the fact that, most of them lost their parents and had no one to take care of them. Some of them have single parent who find it difficult to care for them. This makes them to resort to the streets for livelihood. Poverty is a major cause of children movement to the street. There is negligence by parents, guardians, and caregivers who do not want to take responsibilities.

### **5.2.2 Nature and Extent of the violation of the rights of Street Children**

According to the findings, the rights of the Streets Children are highly violated in a number of ways; they face a lot of harassment from the public, their mates, the adult and mostly the security agents who regard them as criminals in the society. These children live a transitory life style and are vulnerable to inadequate nutrition, physical injuries, substance use, and health problems including sexual and reproductive health problems.

It was discovered that the Street Children were abused and harassed by their employers, couple with sexual exploitation, underpayment, being forced to work in unhealthy environments and engagement in criminal activities. Children living and working on the street face a number of challenges which included engaging in exploitative activities in order to survive, and experience emotional and physical abuse by members of the community.

The extent and nature of violation of Street Children rights amount others include; challenges relating to their basic survival in terms of access to the necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing. They suffer from sexual abuse, rape, child labour, domestic violence, also being used as political/ criminal activities, lack of access to certain social rights like: education, health care, as well as rehabilitation and therapeutic programmes.

### **5.2.3 Policies, institutions and measures towards the protection of the right of Street Children**

The Government and other institutions have been working hard to sensitize the public against the right of the children. There are a number of policies available that stressed the rights of the Streets Children. The Geneva declaration was the first document that talks about the rights of children, leading to the UN convention. The department of Child Welfare is the hand of the Government reaching out to the children.

It has been stressed that community has focus groups whose aim is to create awareness through campaigns, workshops and seminars in the community. There is also a Child protection committee in the city of Mutare that is saddled with the responsibility of protecting the interest of the street children as well as offer counseling services.

The NGOs has for now become a home for some of the children and the formation of NGOs like the Simukai Child protection Programme is to augment the effort of the Government in providing care for the Street Children. The community also supports NGOs like Simukai, Zunderamambo Programme, Scriptural Union, FACTS, PIAN international, and UNICEF, help in raising awareness on child labour, sexual abuse and other violations. They create programmes for reunification of the Street Children with those identified as their family or relatives.

5.2.4 Some of the findings serve as source of strength include the call of the Government to empower more NGOs; secondly to offer support to NGOs, and provide polices that protect the rights of the Street Children, the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights and Constitutions of the various countries including Zimbabwe on the basis of a society without any kind of discrimination, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Zimbabwean Government shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the Street Children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child

### **5.3 Recommendations**

#### **Government involvement**

- ✓ It is recommended that Zimbabwe Government should encourage public awareness campaigns aimed at reduction of the violation of the rights of Street Children. The government should establish orphanage homes in order to accommodate the children. In the meantime the children should be brought within the umbrella of existing orphanage homes and fitted into public schools or others mean provided to educate them or at least, facilitate the acquisition of vocational skills to prepare them for their future life.
- ✓ The security agents should also be strengthened to patrol the streets during the night to minimize violations of Street Children's right. Government should facilitate economic empowerment to rural populace, which will assist in reduction of the flow of Street Children into the cities to look for a better life.

### **5.3.1 Enhancing NGOs Efforts towards the Protection of the Street Children's Rights.**

- ✓ Since the NGOs have become the main source of hope for the Street Children, It is recommended that there should be effort in enhancing NGOs efforts towards the protection of the violation of street children's rights.

### **5.3.2 Community Responsibility on Alleviation of Street Children violation of Their Rights**

- ✓ The community should discourage employment of children as domestic workers or other jobs offered to Street Children. Also the community should employ communal monitoring mechanism on the abuse of vulnerable children from families of orphans or abusive parents or guardians.
- ✓ Community mobilization should be a priority in ensuring duty-bearers keeping their promise to children of Mutare, including Street Children.

### **5.3.3 Programmes for Educating Street Children on the violations of their Rights**

- ✓ Street Children have rights to be protected like any other child. Since they stay alone on the street with no proper guidance from the adults they need to be educated about their rights. Relevant government departments and NGOs should invest on street children's education on Health care, child labour, sexual reproductive health and HIV and AIDs matters. Street children should be informed about the importance of attending trainings which are offered by the government and other stakeholders in child protection. They should also be



encouraged to attend children's formal gatherings and meetings such as Children's parliament by sending their representatives.

#### **5.3.4 Recommendation for further studies**

- ✓ This research project has exhausted the causes, nature and extent of the violation of the rights of Street Children and has discovered a lot of measure and quests for the protection of the rights of the children. However, the researcher would like to recommend this study topic for those who would like to engage in exploring it further, for the benefit of the whole of community in Mutare and Zimbabwe at large.
- ✓ More study should be done in the area of the cause for the proliferation of the number of Street Children; also, to study ways in which government can intervene in the interest of the Street Children. Study should also be made in order to develop ways of protecting children from HIV and other STI related diseases in the whole of Mutare city.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Questionnaire for NGOs/Government Agency and Parents/ Guardians

This is a research that is being done by a graduate student at Africa University, in IPLG, Mutare, Zimbabwe. All of the information provided will be used purely for academic purposes only and will remain CONFIDENTIALITY.

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

#### INSTRUCTION

You are kindly requested to fill in this Questionnaire.

#### Section A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Gender      Male      Female

Age    18-30years     31-40 years

41-50 year       Over 50 years

How long have you been working at your current position?

1-5 years     5-10 years    10-20 years

What is the age distribution of children that you deal with?

0-5years  6-10 years     11-15   

16-18 years

## Section B: Questionnaire for NGOs/ Government /agencies

1. What do you understand by the term Street' Children?

Children who live on the streets ☐ Children who work on the streets and  
return home at night ☐ neither of these ☐ both ☐

3. What are some of the challenges / problems faced by Street Children?

Shelter/food ☐ physical/sexual abused ☐

Children lack of education all of these ☐

3. Does this mean their rights are being violated?

Yes ☐ NO ☐

4. What is the extent of the violation of the rights of Street Children?

Access to shelter

Access to food

Child labour

Access to education

What measures are in place by government to protect the rights of Street Children in  
Mutare?

What is the role of Parents/Guardians in protecting children from street violation of their rights?

What are communities doing to protect street children from violation of their rights?

What are the roles of NGOs in protecting the rights of the children?

What is your agency actually doing to protect the rights of Streets children in Mutare?

What is your perception about street life?

**Section c: GENERAL INFORMATION for Street c**

**Appendix 2: Interview Questions for Street Children**

Name------(optional)

Gender                      Male    Female

Age 0-5     6-10     11-15

16-18

## **Appendix 2: Interview Question for Street Children**

This is a research that is being done by a graduate student at Africa University, in IPLG, Mutare, Zimbabwe. All of the information provided will be used purely for academic purposes only and will remain CONFIDENTIALITY.

### **INSTRUCTION**

You kindly requested to answer the following questions.

How long have you been on the street?-----

---

What do you do on the street?-----

---

Do you go back home at night?-----

Are you going to school?-----

Have you been to school before? If yes which level do you stop to? If no, why?-----

-----

Are you undergoing any form of training or apprenticeship?-----

-----

How do you earn your living?-----

Where are your parents?-----

Why are you on the street?-----  
-----

How long have you been on the street?-----

Where do you sleep?-----

What problems/ risks do you face on the streets?-----

How do you feel about being a street child?-----

What is the prevention used when having sex?-----

Do you take drugs?-----

Who is taking care of you?-----

Are you willing to go back home?-----

Are you aware of your rights? What are they?-----

Which of your rights are being violated?-----

What do you think can be done to protect your rights from being violated?-----  
-----

What is the role of your Parents/Guardians in protecting your rights?-----  
-----

-

What is the role of Communities in protecting your rights?-----

-----

What is the role of Government /NGOs in protecting your rights?-----

-----

What can you do as a street child in protecting yourself from abuses?-----

-----

How do you take your medication when you are sick?-----

-----

Zita rangu ndi Frances Aaron. Ndiri graduate student ye Institute ye Peace, Leadership ne Governance pa Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe. Kuti ndipedze dzidzo yangu, ndinisungirwa kuita wongororo nokunyora dissertation. Ndinisungirwa kuita wongororo mayrererano nemusoro wenyaya inoti: **The Nature and Extent of the Violation of the Rights of Street Children in the City of Mutare**

Ndirikukubirawo kuti mundibatsire nokudavira mibvunzo mayrererano newongororo iyi. Ndiontsidza kuti information yandichawana mayrererano newongororo iyi haishambadzwe kuruzhinji, information iyi ichachengetedzwa.

Ndini wenyu

**GWARO REMIBVUNZO PAMUSORO PEMANGOS/ VAMIRIRI  
VEHURUMENDE PAMWE CHETE NEVABEREKI KANA KUTI  
VACHENGETI VEVANA.**

**ZVAMUNOTARISIRWA KUITA: MUNOKUMBIRWA KUTI MUPINDURE  
MIBVUNZO YESE INOTEVERA.**

#### **CHIKAMU CHEKUTANGA: General Information**

Gender Vahurume Vanhukadzi

Makore 18-30 years  31-40  41-50 years

Kudarika 50 years



## Chinzvimbo chenyu

Mavane makore mangani muchishanda pachinzvimbo chamuri?

1-5 years  5-10  10-20 years

20 kudarika

Munoshanda nevanna vari pamakore api ekuberekwa?

0-5 years  6-10 years  11-15 years  16-18 years

### Section B: Questionnaire for NGOs/ Government/ Agencies

.1. Ndezvipi zvamunonzwisiisa pamusoro pevanna vanogarira mumigwagwa

Vana vanogara mumigwagwa  vana vanoshanda mumigwagwa  
vachidzokerra kumba manheru  zvese zvirizviviri

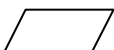

Hapana

2. Ndeapi matambudziko anosangana nevanna vanogara mumigwagwa?

Pekugara/chikafu  kushandiswa/kubatwa chibharo

Vana havakwanisi kuvane dzidzo  zvese

3. Izvi zvinoreva here kuti kodzero dzavo dziri kudzvanyiriwa

hongu  kwete 

4. Kodzero dzevana ava dziri kudzvanyirirwa kusvikapapi?

Kuwana pekugara -----

kuwana chikafu -----

kushandiswa kwevana -----

kuwana dzidzo-----

5. ndezvipi zvirikuitwa nehurumende kuchengetedza kodzero-----

-----

6. Ndezvipi zvingaitwe nevabereki kuchengetedza kodzero dzevana kuti dzisadzvanyirirwe mumigwagwa-----

-----

-

7. Ndezvipi zvirikuitwa munharaunda kuchengetedza kodzero dzevana vanogara mumigwagwa kuti vasadzvinyirinwe?

8. Ndezvipi zvingaitwe nemapoka akazvimiririra kuchengetedza kodzero dzevana?

Ndezvipi zvirikuitwa neboka renyu kuchengetedza kodzero dzevana vanogarara mumigwagwa ma Mutare?

9. Ndezvipi zvamunofunga pamusoro pehupenyu hwekugara mumigwagwa?

### Section c: General Information for street children

Zita-----

Gender: Mukomana

Musikana

Makore 0-5

6-10

11-15

16-18

### Interview Question for street children

1. Une nguva yakarebasei uchigara mumugwagwa?-----

-----

2. Urikuitei mumugwagwa?-----

-----

Unoenda kumba here manheru?-----

-----

3. Unoenda kuchikoro here?-----

-----

4. Wakamboenda kuchikoro here? Kana wakamboenda, wakagumira pagwaro ripi?

Kana usina nemhaka yei usina kumboenda kuchikoro?-----

-----

5. Une zvimwe zvidzidzo zvaurikuita here kana mabasa emaoko aurikudzidzira?-----  
-----  
-----
6. Unorarama nei?-----  
-----  
-----
7. Vabereki vakovarikupi?-----  
-----  
-----
8. Nei uchigara mumugwagwa?-----  
-----  
-----
9. Uane nguva yakareba sei uchigara mumugwagwa?-----  
-----  
-----
10. Unorara kupi?-----  
-----  
-----
11. Ndeapi matambudziko aunasangana nawo uchigara mumugwagwa?-----  
-----  
-----
12. Unonzwa sei kuva street kid?-----  
-----  
-----
13. Unoshondisa nzira dzipi dzokuzvidzivirira paunoita zvepabonde?-----  
-----  
-----
14. Unoputa kana kunwa zvinodhaka here?-----  
-----  
-----
15. Ndiani anokuchengeta?-----  
-----  
-----

16. Wakasununguka here kudzokera kumba?-----  
-----
17. Unoziva kodzero yako here? Ndeipi yako yaunoziva?-----  
-----
18. Ndedzipi kodzero dzako dziri kudzvanyirirwa?-----  
-----
19. Ndezvipi zvounofunga kuti zvingaitwe kuti kodzero dzako dzisadzvnyirirwe?--  
-----
20. Ndezvipi zvingaitwa nevabereki vako kuchengetedza kodzero dzako?-----  
-----
21. Ndezvipi zvingoitwe munharaunda kuchegetedza kodzero dzako?-----  
-----
22. Ndezvipi zvingaitwe nehurumende kana mapoka akazvimiririra kuchengetedza  
kodzero dzako?-----
23. Ndedzipi nzira dzaungashandisa sestreet kid kudzivirira kushungurudzwa? --  
-----
24. Ukarwara unowanepi mishonga yekuzvirapa?-----  
-----

## APPENDIX 3 APPROVAL LETTER FROM IPLG



(A United Methodist-Related Institution)

*Investing in Africa's Future*

P.O. BOX 1320, MUTARE, ZIMBABWE - OFF NYANGA ROAD, OLD MUTARE - TEL: (263-20) 66785/60075/60026/61611 - FAX: (263-20) 66785/61785 - EMAIL: [ipigdirector@africau.ac.zw](mailto:ipigdirector@africau.ac.zw) - Website [www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)

### INSTITUTE OF PEACE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

26 February 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Re: Permission to Undertake Research for Dissertation at Africa University**

**Aaron Francis** student registration number **107504** is a student at Africa University. She is enrolled in a degree program in Peace, Leadership and Governance and is currently conducting research for her Dissertation, which is required for completion of the program in June 2015. The research topic is **"The Nature and Extent of the Violation of the Rights of Street Children in the City of Mutare"**. Aaron is expected to undertake this research during the period February-May 2015 before the dissertation can be submitted to the Faculty in June 2015.

The student will share with you the results of this research after its approval by the Institute.

We thank you for your support and cooperation regarding this research.


Yours sincerely

  
**Prof. P. Machakanja**  
Director

*"Living our Vision in Faith, Embracing Diversity, Developing Leaders for Africa"*



## APPENDIX: 4 AUREC APPROVAL LETTER



**AFRICA UNIVERSITY**  
(A United Methodist-Related Institution)  
INVESTING IN AFRICA'S FUTURE

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (AUREC)**

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P.O. BOX 1320, MUTARE, ZIMBABWE • OFF NYANGA ROAD, OLD MUTARE • TEL: (+263-20) 60075/60026/61611 • E-MAIL: aurec@fricau.edu • WEBSITE: www.africau.edu

Ref: AU158/15 *146* *[Signature]* March 16, 2015

Frances Mary Aaron  
Institute of Peace Leadership and Governance  
Africa University  
Mutare

**Re: The nature and extend of violation of the rights of street children in the City of Mutare.**

Thank you for the above titled proposal that you submitted to the Africa University Research Ethics Committee for review. Please be advised that AUREC has reviewed your application to conduct the above research.


AUREC stipulated that you work closely with your supervisor in addressing the comments below and submit the final proposal for further review prior to initiating direct contact with human participants.

1. Develop assent forms for the children between 7 and 17 years of age.
2. Adjust your questions to be in line with your topic.
3. Attend to your methodology and be clear whether this is a case study or a descriptive survey.
4. Describe procedures to be taken to ensure confidentiality.
5. Describe fully your sampling procedure. How the 20 children and 30 others will be selected and justify why these.
6. Revisit the data analysis section, how do you calculate views?

NB: After addressing these comments you should resubmit the proposal to AUREC together with your supervisor's approval for further review and approval.

Yours Faithfully  
*[Signature]*

**MITI G. P. AUREC Programmes Officer-  
FOR CHAIRPERSON,  
AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**



APPENDIX: 4 LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD  
WELFARE

*Official Communications should  
not be addressed to individuals*

Telephone: (020) 64615/63045



ZIMBABWE

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD WELFARE  
AND PROBATION SERVICES**  
Private Bag Q 7743  
Mutare

**18 February 2015**

**Frances Mary Aaron  
Africa University  
Institute of Peace ,Leadership and Governance**

**Reference : Consent for research.**

The above matter refers. Following your letter dated 18 February 2015, seeking permission to carry out a research on street children, I am hereby granting you authority to proceed with the research.

Be advised however , that all information gathered should be kept strictly confidential and only pseudonyms shall be used for exceptional stories.

**M. CHIGUMIRA**   
Provincial Child Welfare Officer  
MANICALAND



## APPENDIX5 LETTER FROM SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION



9 Aerodrome Road, Yeovil,  
P.O. Box 2888  
Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Phone / Fax: 020 62311/65530  
E Mail: simadmin@zol.co.zw  
simukai@zol.co.zw

18/2/2015

To whom it may concern

**RE: AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SOME RESEARCH STUDY**

Simukai Child Protection Programme is a registered Private Voluntary Organisation PVO 27/12. It is located at Number 9 Aerodrome Road, Yeovil in Mutare. Simukai was established as a community response to the plight of abused, neglected and abandoned children who live on the streets and those who live outside family environments. At a local consultative forum it was agreed that Simukai be established as an intervention to alleviate suffering of abused, abandoned and neglected children especially children living and working on the streets. After a baseline survey to find out why these children were living and working on the streets, different factors were highlighted which included extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS pandemic which had eroded most breadwinners and in other instances resulting in child headed families. Other social factors contributed to this exodus of children from different areas of the province and beyond, even other countries that border Zimbabwe.

This letter serves as confirmation that Simukai Child Protection Programme has allowed Frances Mary Aaron to conduct her research on children living and working on the streets in Mutare.

Yours Faithfully,  
  
Mrs F.B. Matsanga  
Director  
Tel: 020-65530/62311  
Cell: 0772 111 693  
Email: bfmatsanga@gmail.com



SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME  
No. 9 AERODROME RD  
YEOVIL  
18 FEB 2015  
P.O. BOX 2888 MUTARE  
TEL: 020 65530  
Email: simadmin@zol.co.zw



SCRIPTURE UNION AND FAMILY A.I.D.S CARING TRUST IN PARTNERSHIP  
*"He lifted me up from the slimy pit, ...and set my feet upon a rock."*



FACT