



# Streetism: A Case Study of a Worldwide Epidemic

Wondimagegn Girma Abebe<sup>1</sup> and Dawit Negassa Golga<sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MA, Lecturer, PhD Fellow, Department of Psychology, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

<sup>2</sup>PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education Haramaya University, Ethiopia

\*Corresponding author: Dawit NG, (PhD Associate Professor), Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education Haramaya University, Ethiopia; E-mail: [dawitnegassa2002@gmail.com](mailto:dawitnegassa2002@gmail.com)

Received date: 02 February 2024; Accepted date: 05 February 2024; Published date: 12 February 2024

Citation: Wondimagegn GA, Dawit NG (2024). Streetism: A Case Study of a Worldwide Epidemic. SunText Rev Neurosci Psychol 5(1): 170.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51737/2766-4503.2024.070>

Copyright: © 2024 Wondimagegn GA, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

## Abstract

The objective of this study was to examine the phenomenon of streetism by employing the instrumental case study design and taking Hawassa City as a case. The researchers deliberately selected a sample of 12 street children and 4 key informants to gather the necessary data. To collect the data, the researchers employed interview protocols and focus group discussions as their tools. Thematic analyses were utilized to comprehend the phenomenon being studied. Three major themes and nine sub-themes were generated inductively to portray the phenomenon of streetism. The study revealed that street children primarily turn to street life as a result of factors such as poverty, familial abandonment, violence, the perception of freedom, and peer influence. In order to sustain their livelihood, these children engage primarily in informal labour, experience a transition within the street life, and spend a majority of their time participating in non-formal work and substance consumption. Due to their exposure to urban environments, individuals who participate in street life are susceptible to various health ailments, acts of aggression, substance abuse, and engagement in criminal activities. The phenomenon of streetism has evolved into a multifaceted and intricate social problem in contemporary times, necessitating a comprehensive and collaborative approach from society at large.

**Keywords:** Streetism; Instrumental case study; Causes; Current situations; Consequences

## Introduction

On a global basis, the epidemic of streetism among children is expanding significantly and quickly. The vast majority of these kids live and work in the busy streets of big cities all around the world. Depending on how involved they are in street life, UNICEF has divided street children into two categories: "children on the street" and "children of the street." "Children on the street" are people who live on the streets mostly to make ends meet financially, but they are still connected to their families. On the other hand, "children of the street" are individuals who do not have a permanent residence and who, without the support of their families, live, work, and sleep on the streets [1]. Although many countries are aware of the existence of street children, it is difficult to provide a precise image of them. Some children move from one place to another or visit their relatives on occasion, depending on

the time of year and their personal circumstances [2]. Since a sizable fraction of the population lacks birth certificates or identity documents, official figures are unavailable. The number of street children in a certain country may differ depending on the information's source (government, non-governmental organizations, research institutions), as well as whether or not the issue is a top priority for development in the specific country [3]. Approximately 100 million street children live in the world, with half of them being in Latin America, according to UNICEF estimates [4]. However, there are regional variations in terms of intensity [5]. The demands of these disgruntled children jeopardize socioeconomic programs and social infrastructure, making it more dangerous in developing countries [3]. For instance, 32 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be homeless, according to a UNICEF assessment from 2006 (Figure 1).



Most street youngsters are at least ten years old all around the world. The majority of street children served by current programs are between the ages of 8 and 18 [1]. In most countries, it appears that there are more men than women living on the streets. Street girls are certainly an understudied reality, despite the fact that they might not be as well-known [1].

They also have a higher probability of engaging in prostitution and experiencing violence and sexual abuse at the hands of peers and adults [1]. Africa's political and social growth is happening quickly and widely, which has benefits and drawbacks. A considerable proportion of youngsters become homeless as a result of the latter [2]. Ethiopia is one of these nations where the number of street children afflicted with various ailments is rising [6]. It is not uncommon for kids to become homeless. It now suddenly shows up in places where it was never previously. Ethiopia currently has tens of thousands of homeless children; therefore, the problem is worsening [6]. It is more difficult for homeless children to support themselves because of the plethora of problems they face on a daily basis. For example, youth who determine that homelessness is their only option face the possibility of falling prey to a range of criminal activities and violent scenarios, such as drug abuse, prostitution, assault, family breakup, and desertion [2]. According to UNODC estimates from 2006, there are between 150,000 and 200,000 street children in Ethiopia, with an additional 1,000,000 vulnerable or at-risk youngsters. Many have experienced significant changes since then.

According to a recent estimate from the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, there were around 29,000 homeless people living in Addis Abeba in 2018. 13,500 street children and 15,500 adult homeless people were included in this number. This sum was determined by the researchers based on estimations from focus group discussions and interviews held with communities, sub-city authorities, and non-governmental organization. In addition, the city is home for 4000 street children, according to [7]. Irrespective of the conditions and contexts s/he is in every child has the right to develop to the fullest extent possible in terms of social, emotional, cognitive, and physical domains, according to the UNCRC (1989). This convention, which defines children's rights and services as survival, protection, development, and participation in social activities, was ratified by the Ethiopian government in 1991 [8]. Nonetheless, a review of pertinent literature indicates that street children experience stigma and receive the least amount of assistance from the community [5]. They failed to establish good ties with important organizations in the areas of family, education, health, and other fields in their early years [9]. In addition, the human rights, social networks, and resources of street children are adversely affected [10]. Their social marginalization is strongly suggested by these combinations of deprivations. The goal of this research was to delve into and develop deeper understanding of the

causes, current situation, and consequences of streetism in Hawassa City."

### Statement of the problem

Street children are a disenfranchised group in most civilizations. They don't engage with the three main institutions of children that society considers appropriate: the family, the school, and the health. The nature of their lifestyles and continuous exposure to harsh environments puts their mental, physical, social, and spiritual well-being in peril and increases their susceptibility to substance abuse [11]. Homeless children are a worldwide problem, but they are more common in South American, Asian, and African countries [12]. However, its scope, nature, and underlying causes vary from continent to continent, nation to nation, society to society, and even from one child to the next, depending on institutional interventions, economic growth, cultural and traditional context, and the degree of societal harmony and peace [13]. In Ethiopia, a variety of economic, political, and cultural reasons contribute to the situation where children end up living on the streets [14]. Children who are homeless are impacted by society and the outside world in both direct and indirect ways. According to [15], these impacts are reciprocal and bi-directional. We might be able to spot certain trends and differences in the push and pull forces affecting homeless children thanks to these contextual elements—regional, local, and community [15].

Previous studies in Ethiopia that addressed the problem of homeless children is provided below at a glance. Residents of Addis Ababa's Piassa neighbourhood were asked about their thoughts on children playing in the street by Redea (2015). The study concludes that social isolation did not exist and that youngsters living on the streets were given good care. In Tigist's (2010) analysis, a number of extremely difficult situations are faced by girls, including adult sexual assault, rape, unintended pregnancies, and early motherhood - sometimes as early as 12 years old. These girls will probably grow up to be street moms or child prostitutes, continuing the cycle of homelessness. Gebre Medhin (2014) focused on the difficulties of living on Addis Ababa's streets, revealing that young people living on the streets face a variety of obstacles, including crime, poor water and sanitation, psychological and physical health problems, and coping mechanisms. Tatek (2000) asserts that children's misbehaviour, excitement, and peer pressure are the main causes of streetism in Dessie. Sofiya & Geleta (2019) determined the main causes of street children's existence in Harar City, citing their incapacity to obtain employment and arguments with their parents as the main causes. The aforementioned studies focused primarily on examining the perspectives, experiences, and survival techniques of kids living on the streets outside of Hawassa in Addis Abeba, Harar, and Dessie. In addition, these studies tend to concentrate on a narrow aspect of the issue and have not given much thought to

the fact that youth homelessness is more common. Most of the research did not evaluate the causes, existing conditions, or impacts of streetism in its entirety and in the context of Hawassa City. Furthermore, the number of street children in Hawassa City, the seat of the Sidama Regional State, is increasing despite the dearth of thorough studies on the topic. To provide a complete picture of the trend, holes and blanks in the research should be filled. Consequently, a detailed examination of the elements that push out children from homes and draw them to the streets, their living conditions, and their understanding of the consequences is needed in the research field.

Accordingly, this study was conducted to address the following research questions.

- What are the major causes of streetism?
- What does the living condition of street children look like?
- What are the consequences of streetism?

## Methods

The researchers employed the instrumental case study design, in qualitative approach to examine the phenomenon of streetism and delve into its causes, current state, and possible repercussions. Instrumental case study design is preferred when the complexity of what is being studied suggests more can be learnt by detailed exploration of an instant than surveying a representative sample. This design deepens and expands our understanding of how the phenomenon in our social world came to be the way they are [16]. The research topic was addressed through the use of qualitative data collection techniques appropriate for the case study design, including KII, FGD, and in-depth interviews [17]. These techniques allow the researchers to triangulate and combine the benefits of multiple procedures, making up for the drawbacks of particular data collection techniques [18]. The non-probability purposive sampling technique was employed to choose the study participants, as there was no sample frame available to choose from when choosing the street children. Because they believe that law enforcement personnel and elderly people living on the streets pose a threat, even they move swiftly between different corners of the street.

Using a probability sampling technique with people whose whereabouts are erratic and who are always moving present challenges. It was difficult to use a probability sampling technique with people whose whereabouts are erratic and who move around a lot [19]. Therefore, even though they were mobile, those with a wealth of information and a high level of expertise about street children and their lives were chosen to participate [4,20]. Also, the researchers relied on their own tacit knowledge, sound judgment, and awareness of the subject matter. The sample size of the study was decided when saturation of information was reached after interviewing seven street children who work and live on the street

for over one year and above. In addition, 1 FGD was conducted: the FGD group consisted of 5 members. Furthermore, four experts from the Hawassa city Administration office of Labor and Social Affairs, Police, Center of concern and Elshadai organization provided vital information about the causes, current situation and consequences of street children. Consequently, the information gathered from the subjects adhered to certain ethical guidelines, particularly the preservation of the confidentiality and dignity of informants during study as well as the keeping of the information in secure places to guard against access. A variety of techniques, such as transcribing, familiarization, coding, categorizing, structuring, and thematizing, were used to analyse and interpret the data thematically [21]. Before starting data analysis, the researchers became familiar with the data acquired through KII, FGD, and in-depth interviews. These connected categories were categorized into primary themes based on the study's research question, which defined the research subjects [22]. In order to ensure the accuracy of the data collection and analysis, the researchers also took a number of steps, including carefully choosing study participants based on predetermined criteria, building rapport with interview subjects, seeking expert opinion on the prepared interview guide, etc. Finally, a debate that backed up the study's findings was consistent with other relevant discoveries. The study's findings were then used to develop conclusions and suggestions.

## Conceptual Framework

Research, understanding, and classification of street children pose significant challenges, despite their obvious presence to the uninitiated eye. Although every street child has a different background, the primary reasons for their misfortune and the effects they had on both the individual and society as a whole are always the same. The diagram depicted below illustrates how causes, present circumstances, and outcomes for children living on the streets have all been seen to be parts of street life.

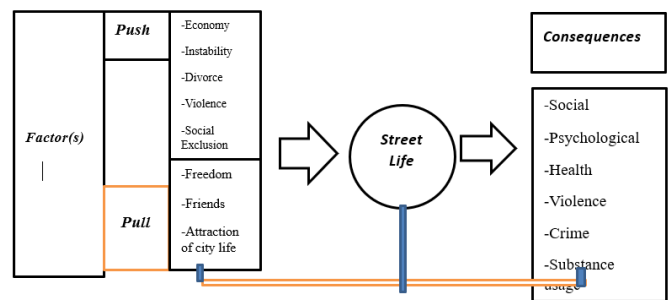


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the study.

## Results and Discussions

### Demographic characteristics of study participants

Note: Ten of the participants were male, and the remaining two were female. We can infer from this that the majority of street children in the study area were male. In terms of their place of birth, 75% of respondents were from different Zones of Sidama regional state, followed by the Woliyita zone and Gamogofa zone. When it comes to their educational background, nearly all of the respondents attended school, but none of them completed primary education.

Note: As it is depicted (Table 1) 75% of the key informants were male and the rest 25% were female, as portrayed in the above table they have better knowledge and understanding about the issue and they are technical experts that are purposively pointed by the

researcher by basing their significance to the phenomenon under study.

The finding of the study was illustrated with 3 major themes and 9 subthemes as follows. The major themes are causes of streetism, situations of street life and consequences of streetism. Causes of streetism portrayed with two sub themes: push factors (poverty, family dissolution, and domestic violence) and pull factors (perceived freedom, a better quality of life, and peer influence), situation of street life was portrayed with three sub themes: livelihood security, life transition on the street and time spent on street life and consequences of streetism was portrayed with four subthemes: health effect, violence, substance abuse and involvement in crime (Table 1,2).

**Table 1:** Demographic characteristics of street children and youths.

S.N	Pseudonym	Sex	Age	Birth place	Educational Level	Duration on the street	Remark
1	R1	Male	10	Gorche	2	1 year	Interview
2	R2	Male	13	Gorche	4	2 years	Interview
3	R3	Male	12	Shebedino	3	2 years	Interview
4	R4	Male	14	Wolayita	6	3 years	Interview
5	R5	Female	16	Boricha	1	3 years	Interview
6	R6	Male	15	Boricha	2	1 year	Interview
7	R7	Male	14	Boricha	2	2 years	Interview
8	R8	Male	16	Wolayita	8	1 year	FGD
9	R9	Male	13	Gorche	4	2 years	FGD
10	R10	Male	11	Gorche	2	2 years	FGD
11	R11	Male	8	Gamogofa	1	1 year	FGD
12	R12	Female	12	Boricha	3	2 years	FGD

**Table 2:** Demographic characteristics of key informant.

S.N	Pseudonym	Sex	Work experience with streetism	Position
1	K1	Male	6 years	Counsellor in Center of Concern
2	K2	Male	10 years	Expert in police office
3	K3	Female	3 years	Project coordinator at Elshadai
4	K4	Male	4 years	Expert in Social Affairs

## Causes of streetism

In this study, streetism among children was caused by a number of causal elements. The study's findings pointed to two subthemes as potential causes of youngsters running away and becoming homeless. These are: push factors (poverty, family dissolution, and domestic violence) and pull factors (perceived freedom, a better quality of life, and peer influence).

### Push factors

#### Poverty

The majority of interviewees mentioned poverty as the major reason behind their migration to the streets. This forced them to move out of their first house in quest of a better life. Some families actively or passively push their kids to move out. Respondents R2 and R7's narrative well illustrates this concept. R2 claimed that my father has absolutely nothing. He is unemployed. I have eight sisters and brothers. We almost went against our beliefs and fasted for seven days because they couldn't feed us. Due to all the inconveniences, I leave my family and home to seek education and a stable income for me and my family. Similar to R2, R7 claims that I go hungry most days; my family lacks the resources to provide for their children's fundamental needs. This suggests that children in the study area are driven to become homeless due to family financial hardships and poverty.

#### Violence at Home

Growing up in a family by witnessing violence presents difficult situations for children. Parents become involved when there is domestic violence because the spouse may be an alcoholic, for example. On the other hand, parents do sometimes injure their children physically, psychologically, or sexually. Over time, children reared in such situations often display anger, animosity, and violent behaviour [23-34]. Either because they must escape their abusive homes or because they fear they will inherit similar conduct from their parents, children who flee to the streets do so. The following example illustrates this:

According to R5, my father always gets into arguments with my mom and other family members and when he starts banging things over, I'm pretty certain we'll get insulted and beaten. We usually go to sleep with our neighbours to get away from this. I finally resolved to leave my father's verbal abuse behind and join the streets.

In similar manner R6 adds that difficulties, fights, and nagging are inevitable parts of life and that he always drinks a lot. He likes to cause trouble, complain, and quarrel, so I constantly felt depressed and made the decision to join the street life. From the aforementioned child statements violence as potential causes of streetism that facilitate flee.

## Family dissolution

Children end up on the streets as a result of family-related issues such family dissolution, restructuring of the family system, or living with stepparents and stepchildren. The example below demonstrates this:

As of R4 my parents' disintegration is unknown to me, ..... My father is with another woman after the divorce, and they had two kids together. Our stepmother was not good to us, especially because she was so nasty and treated my sister and I like slaves. She consistently provides me instructions..... She was physically and psychologically mistreating us. As a result, I join street life. Thus, family dissolution was among the triggering causes that lead children to join street life.

### Pull factors

#### Perceived freedom

Understanding about the concept of freedom based on our cognitive capacity, children also flee to street life because they think that they will enjoy freedom because of living home. The following idea debriefs the issue:

I was born in Boricha, and as of R3, I had a brother and a sister. Both my father and mother are daily labourers. In our household, there is no financial problem. Our home is equipped with what we require. But every time I see children on the street, they always seem happy and behave as they choose. Then, as I began to adore them, I left the house in search of independence, influenced by my newfound street friends. This suggests that another reason why some kids leave their families' homes is to pursue what they consider to be freedom.

#### Peer influence

Clique-friendship circles with members who identify with one another and sharing a sense of identity are prevalent kind of peer influence for kids. According to the information gathered from interviews and FGD, peer influence was among the reasons for streetism. The issue is better illustrated in the following narrative: R1 proves that when my friends visit Gena (Christmas), I observe change in him more he's mature, dressed formally, and speaks excellent Amharic. He and I spoke on the phone. He adamantly asserted that life in Hawassa is appealing, and he counselled me to follow his example and: left my house on the recommendation of a friend.

From the narrative above, it can be inferred that one of the contributing factors to youngsters ending up on the streets is peer pressure. The focus group discussion's findings also showed that the main causes of their being in the middle of the street were poverty, family divorce, peer pressure, freedom, and the desire for a better life.



In addition, a discussion with K2 disclosed that the main factor contributing to kid streetism in the study region is poverty. The size of the household and inadequate parenting also had a significant impact on children being exposed to the streets. Peer pressure and urbanization were two other important pull factors.

### **Situation of the street children**

On the basis of the interview and FGD, the researcher identified three sub themes, namely livelihood stability, life transitions on the street, and time spent on the streets, each theme was discussed as follows.

#### **Livelihood security**

The findings provide evidence that having experience on the streets is necessary to make a living wage. They cannot compete for occupations that will allow them to support themselves because they lack the necessary urban-based skills. They engage in more unlawful and informal activities in order to make a meagre living. The problem is summed up in the narrative that follows:

R7 demonstrates that my favourite days were Monday and Thursday. I feel fairly secure in my ability to choose what to eat and how much sleep to pay for. Because Hawassa is having a market day. I will carry a variety of bags for customers who visited the market. In line with R7, R2 also demonstrates that he will be content during market days by getting employment, which will allow him to sell Bonda (second-hand) clothing in the marketplace. The aforementioned story debriefs that Market days were good day chosen by most street children to secure their livelihood. Participants in the FGD also noted that the main sources of income for street children include begging, car washing, street vending, temporary jobs in markets, collecting plastic debris for sale, fishing, shoe-shining, lugging heavy items in the market, and selling newspapers. Lemena, or begging, is the primary tactic used by street children as of the K4 to ensure their livelihood. For economically deprived street children, scavenging, or "qefefa," is a means of survival. They beg at public places like as churches, mosques, shops, markets, restaurants, crowded street areas, traffic lights, and any nearby house. Through personal networks, ateketetera (vegetable market), and merekeb (trash bin), they scavenge from restaurants, bars, and hotels. In a mobile search from kebele to kebele, in trash cans, by the side of the road, and other filthy container sakes, they gathered various metal fragments, plastic materials, glasses, clothing, shoes, and other essential things.

#### **Life transition in street**

Settlement in street life is accompanied with transition as per the obtained data; the settlement at the beginning and being senior has quite complete variation. The story below clearly debriefs the issue. R1 said that after three weeks of living there after moving from Adissu Menehariya to Gebeya on the advice of friends, I spent

approximately eight months there before settling down near Tabor Elementary School, which is the greatest place for me to reside. In a similar vein, R3 also claims that I spent a few days in Aroge Menehariya before moving to Gebeya and settling there after being heavily into drugs. Based on the above story there is strata in life transition in street life which suits fresh as well seniors. Participants in the FGD confirm that newcomers initially settle in the Menehariya neighbourhood. After getting to know the city and making friends, the majority of us will move to Gebeya in order to secure a livelihood. If we are substance-free, we choose to live near Tabor Elementary; if we use drugs, we prefer the Piasa and Haik Dar neighbourhoods. According to k3, Menehariya is for new comers, Gebeya is for people who like to work and where young kids congregate near Tabor Elementary, and the remainder of the addicts and drug users congregate around Piasa and Haik Dar.

#### **Time spent on the street**

According to information gathered from interviewees, street children in the study area spent their time by engaging in a variety of activities: playing with friends, visiting Drop In Rehabilitation Centre (DIRC), visiting movie theatres, working, sniffing glue and benzene, and using psychoactive substances were the main hassles they engaged in. The situation is well portrayed in the following narrative. Answerer R4 I am fine during the day because I have a lot to do, like working, playing with my friends, going to the DIRC to clean, and watch movies, but the night is terrible because there are so many abuses and scary things to see. Each and every one of us could be abused at night. In agreement with R4, R6 demonstrates that while the night is terrible, I prefer the day because I get to work around Menehariya, visit Gebeya, go to the DIRC, and shine shoes. From the above story we can sum they enjoy day time and they have a plenty of to do and nights were challenging in street life. Participants in the FGD also demonstrate that they spend their free time in working, playing with children, visiting the DIRC, sniffing glue and benzene, and abusing psychoactive substances. In comparison to the night, days are safer. K1 reveals that they spend their time using drugs, playing, watching different movies, and working for various service providers.

#### **Consequences of streetism**

Under sub theme three, the researcher identified four sub themes namely health effect, violence, substance usage and involvement in crime and each theme were debriefed as follows.

##### **Health Effect**

Street life exposes people to health issues. Their needs are typically met by leftover food and clothing. They brought stuff from garages, health centres, and garbage cans from the west. The scenario portrayed by R7 as follows:



I almost eat the leftovers (bule). When I buy things from hotels, I usually experience stomach ache. I always go to the clinic with a DIRC referral paper, and the doctors warned me not to eat the leftover food, but I have to do it to survive. I would much rather experience discomfort from leftover food than domestic abuse. As reported by interviewee health of a child is affected seriously because of street life.

### Violence

Everyone in Hawassa has the ability to abuse us, ranging from mild to severe levels. Of the interviewees, verbal and physical abuses were the most often reported forms of abuse. The issue is succinctly illustrated in the following anecdote of R5. I almost spent the night next to the police station to avoid having sex with them, they frequently raped me in chorus, I had pain and children as a result of the frequent rapes, and I almost feel depressed by my life on the street. However, because I have no one to look out for me, I will continue to face the challenges of living on the streets as long as the abuse persists. As reported by children's violence in different form were prevalent in street life.

### Substance usage

The majority of the informants in the information gathered from interviews claimed to be addicted to at least one kind of psychoactive substance when it came to the substance use of street children. As a result, the most popular substances utilized by street youngsters were chewing gum, smoking, sniffing glue, and utilizing plastic. R2 claims that on the street starving and getting cold is common, start glue sniffing, benzene and smoking cigarette to get relief from starving and getting cold at night. Substance abuse is among the most conspicuous consequences with child streetism.

### Involvement in crime

Street youngsters typically steal in numerous ways. Different strategies are employed to gain the upper hand during the day or at night by utilizing force. The issue is briefly shown in the story of R7 that follows. Getting better through practice Thanks to my pal, I learned how to steal effectively, and these days I get a lot of flak for my actions. However, I make a lot of money as a result of my engagement, which helps me to ignore any doubts I may have about my involvement in illegal operations. I nearly started using drugs regularly. As reported by children's for securing livelihood they will be in the middle of crime. Participants in the FGD also mention the negative effects of street culture, with engagement in crime and health issues topping the list. Chebu (stealing by force), Menchu (run away by snatching) and Gechito Yekirta (smash and excuse) were the major techniques used for theft which are identified by FGD participants.

## Discussion

The findings suggest several causes for why children in Hawassa City end up living on the streets. The results of this study are in line with most other scientific research on street children that has been done in the past. For instance, Njeru (1989) noted in research on family-related concerns that because they lack a consistent source of income, a large number of street children must leave their homes in order to meet their basic needs. Since their families have failed them, children must take care of their basic requirements. In addition, a 2008 study by Densely and Joss discovered that a significant percentage of families were in disarray and that the number of urban street children had increased to concerning levels. According to the research, there are a number of reasons why kids in Hawassa City end up living on the streets. Consistent with this study are the findings of the majority of scientific studies conducted to date on street children. For example, Njeru's (1989) study on family-related issues revealed that many street children leave their homes in order to meet their fundamental needs because their families do not make a standard wage. Since the family has collapsed, it is imperative that children take care of their basic needs. In addition, Densely and Joss's (2008) study found that a number of families were in disarray and that the number of urban street children had risen to alarming proportions.

As it is revealed in this study Begging, street vendor, temporary work in market places, collecting plastic wastes to sell, fishing, shoe shining, carrying luggage and heavy things in the market and selling newspaper were the major activities carried out by street children to secure livelihood. Similar to this study, Zena and Aneth (2010) discovered that many rely on stealing, begging, or low-paying occupations in the unofficial economy to make ends meet. To add, Gobena (1994) discovered that in order to make ends meet, homeless persons take up informal jobs. Street selling, rubbish collection, and casual day labour in the construction industry are common sources of income. While teenage guys might work as casual labourers during the day or shine shoes if they have the money to purchase a kit, women often perform household chores like laundry and injera making. According to Densely and Josh (2008), chewing "chat" gum, smoking cigarettes, sniffing glue, and using plastic are all included. Even so, they progress to start smoking hashish and marijuana while feigning to overcome various issues they encounter, such as hunger, cold, fear, and loneliness on the streets. According to this research, street children are also more likely to experience health issues, violence, substance abuse, and criminal activity as a result of living on the streets.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings of this study showed that, children flee to street life because of poverty, violence at home, and family dissolution,



perceived freedom, and peer influence were the major triggering factor in the study area. Begging, washing cars and shop windows, street vendor, temporary work in market places, collecting plastic wastes to sell, fishing, shoe shining, carrying luggage and heavy things in the market and selling newspaper were the major activities carried out by street children to secure livelihood. As it is revealed in the study there is life transition in street life which suits fresh as well seniors. Street children in the study area spend their time by working, playing with children, visiting the DIRC, sniffing glue and benzene, and abusing psychoactive substances. As a result of being on the street they expose themselves to health, violence, substance usage and engagement in criminal act.

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are forwarded:

- Direct or indirect involvement of various actors is required. These players include faith-based, community-based, government, and non-governmental groups.
- Policies for social development and poverty reduction should be implemented to enhance the general state of the community with particular emphasis on street children and families in the lowest socioeconomic status.
- There should be a coordinated campaign to raise awareness, as well as efforts to create jobs, educate the public, advocate for important stakeholders, and improve education and other essential services.

## References

1. UNICEF. Deep Dive in child poverty and social exclusion in Greece. 2021.
2. Kopoka P. The problem of Children on the street in Africa: an ignored tragedy. *Africa*. 2000; 64: 516-532.
3. Hassen R, Maus T. Youth gangs and street children in Ethiopia. *Children's Geographies*. 2018; 12: 257258.
4. UNODC. Manual on corruption surveys. 2006.
5. Adeyemi A. Initiation into the street, challenges, means of survival and perceived strategies to prevent plights among street children in Addis Ababa. *Crim Rxiv*. 2012.
6. Yacob F. Situation Analysis of Services Offered to Street Girls. *Int J Sci*. 2018; 7: 27-33.
7. HCOSA. Report on street children. 2020.
8. Kifle F. The social world of children on the street: children on the street 's Peer Friendship, Group Life, and Subculture in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Social Work*. 2005; 55.
9. Vedadie. An exploratory investigation into institutional mistreatment. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 2013; 2: 229-241.
10. Buokata J, Ballet J. An examination of the phenomenon of children on the street. *Afr J Agri Res Econ*. 2015; 17: 146-156.
11. Harju SK. Shadows of the Street. *J Soc Soc Anthropol*. 2013; 11.
12. Lalor KJ. Street children: a comparative perspective. *Child Abuse Neglect*. 1999; 23: 759-770.
13. Kibrom B. Life in the Streets of Adama: The situation of children on the street a fast-growing Ethiopian town. *Eth J Health Sci*. 2008; 29.
14. Tatek A. Geography and morality. *Geographical Rev*. 2000; 106: e41-e43.
15. Miguel L, Marrengula X. Addressing socio-cultural animation as community based social work with street children. *Eur J Soc Work*. 2010; 15: 285-287.
16. Astalin PK. Social Justice Education in Dentistry: A Qualitative Analysis and Conceptual Framework. *JDR Cli Translational Res*. 2013; 238008442110727.
17. Northey M, Tepperman L. Making sense: a student's guide to research and writing. *Rev Online*. 2018; 43: 43-87.
18. Uwe F. An Introduction to qualitative research. *Qualitative Res J*. 2009; 7: 80-81.
19. Berg B. *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences*. Pearson. 2007.
20. Elmusharaf K. *Qualitative sampling techniques*. 2016; 80: 225.
21. Lacey A, Luff D. *Conducting Qualitative Data Analysis*. *Qualitative Rep*. 2009.
22. Creswell J, Clark L. *Designing and conducting Mixed Methods Research*, London. Sage Pub. 2007.
23. Kaleab D. The situation of street children in urban centers of Ethiopia and the role of Ngo in addressing their socio-economic problems. *Res Hum Soc Sci*. 2016.
24. Anderson M, Taylor H. *Sociology the essentials*. Prentice Hall. 2007.
25. Creswell JW. *Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approach*. Prentice Hall. 2012.
26. Endris S, Sitota G. Causes and consequences of streetism among street children in Harar city, Ethiopia. *Inter J Edu Lit Stu*. 2019; 7: 94.
27. Gebremedhin T. The socio- economic condition of children living in child- headed households and government response in Addis Ababa City. *Inter J Soc Sci*. 2014; 2.
28. Gobena D. Comparative study of development on children. *Pedia Inter*. 1994; 40: 1-6.
29. Njeru JW. Situation analysis for children. *Ped Inter*. 1989; 40: 1-6.
30. Ochola L, Dzikus A. Street gangs, migration and ethnicity. *Child Society*. 2000; 23: 471-472.
31. Redae T. Community perceptions on street children. *Eth J Hea Devel*. 2015; 23.
32. UNCRF. *Children caught up in conflict*. 1998.
33. Valida L. Children on the street: promising practices and approaches. 2018; 22: 50.
34. Vergara E, Meneses P. Metropolitan observatory for street children and youngsters. *Lan*. 2008; 25: 951.