THE CAUSES OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN ILALA DISTRICT, DAR ES SALAAM: TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT

The increase of homelessness in the Ilala district has become a challenge and threat both for government and community. This challenge makes the government to use high cost to eliminate, also it become persistent to the community welfare. The purpose of this study was to assess the causes of youth homelessness in Ilala District. The study was guided by the following objectives; to examine the influence of youth homeless-ness in Ilala District, to find out ways to overcome youth in Ilala District. A sample size of five police station. The participants were ten police officers, fifteen social workers, fifteen community members and ten youth homelessness. The research used a quali-tative approach, purposive sampling technique employed to gather required infor-mation. The case study design was employed; interview and focus group discussions used as methods for data collect. Data were analyses thematically by considering the following stage like; familiarisation with the data through reading and re-reading, cod-ing, generating initiation themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes and writing up the report. Trustworthiness and ethical consideration also were observed whereby the names of participants remain confidential. The researcher found that majority of youth homelessness caused by the economic difficulties (poverty), family conflicts, joblessness, discrimination and inequality based on cultural, informal justice as the primary cause. Also, the findings found out that the Tanzania government and different NGOs should open a centre that enables homelessness by providing them with a safe and secure places to stay, providing education and moral support to over-come the challenge as well as enacting strict laws to combat against street wanderers. In order to eliminate homelessness of the youths in Tanzania and the problem of committing crimes. It recommended that the government should apply policies that will curb the problem of homeless. The later country moved homeless quickly into in-dependent and permanent housing or homes. They provided additional support and services as needed and for as long as needed.

Keywords: Youth, Homelessness, Children, streets, Social Crimes,

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Homelessness refers to a condition in which individuals or families do not have a regular, safe, and secure place to live. People who are homeless may live in a wide range of plac-es, including in shelters, on the streets, in cars, or in other temporary or unstable housing situations (Heather, 2018). Youth homelessness is a complex issue that arises when young people do not have a stable and secure place to live (Lydia, 2014). The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that in 2017 about 1.6 billion young people globally were homeless or lived in

inadequate housing. Hence they increased violence such as, mental health problems, committing suicide and social crimes. Robert (2017) argued that youth homelessness is a complex social issue that affects individuals, fami-lies, and communities around the world.

Zhao (2023) argue that Homelessness began to substantially plague the US in the 1980s when severe funding cuts took place at the US Department of Housing and Urban De-velopment (HUD), resulting in an increase in the homeless population of 200,000–500,000 per night. Recent studies show that for every 25 Americans, one has experi-enced homelessness at least once. From 2007–2015, as house costs increased in many cities, the number of homeless people increased every year (Koh and O'Connell 2016). In 2018, shelters in New York provided individual services for more than 130,000 people, a 59% increase from the previous decade (Coalition for the Homeless 2019).

Homelessness become a chronic challenge in Toronto, most of the homelessness youths committed social crimes, hence, more than 73% of men and 27% of women had been arrested since aged 18, and 49% of the men and 12% of the women had been incarcer-ated at least once (Gasana, 2015). Housing and involvement in the criminal justice sys-tem are intricately related. Not having a fixed address is a liability when an accused per-son is charged with an offence and enters the criminal justice system.

In Africa most countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Mali and many others are experiencing youth homelessness (Gasana, 2015). Hence, many homeless persons are involved in committing crimes such as purchasing and selling drugs, although they are not likely to be major drug traffickers. The study conducted by Nshimiyimana (2017) in Rwanda found that there are over 7,000 street homeless youths who suffer from anxiety, depression, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Also, vulnerability to exploitation is at high risk of being exploited by adults, including being forced into prostitution, child labour, or criminal activities. Therefore, the Rwandan government, in partnership with various organizations has implemented programs to provide shelter, education, healthcare, and other support services for homeless youth.

In Tanzania, youths homeless are more likely to be victims of crimes or become at great risk of involvement in criminal activities. The government of Tanzania has taken several measures to combat the magnitude of youth homelessness including returning them to their native homes, provision of temporary shelter, education and skills, counselling and support and strengthening family ties. Despite such strategies put in place still the prob-lem persists Daniel (2017).

Daniel (2017) found that homeless male youths were more likely than females to have committed theft or to have been jailed, while homeless female youths were more likely to have been involved in prostitution. Moreover, the report provided by a Citizen news reporter Ashura Ngwai indicate that Statistics from a research conducted in 2017/2018 about six regions of Tanzania showed that Dar es Salaam had about 2,984 youths homelessness, Mwanza had 978 children, Arusha 544, Iringa 954, Dodoma 347 and Mbeya 586 (The Citizen News, 2021).These youngsters led the Society to develop a neg-ative perceptions and attitudes about these children, which led to abuse and even isola-tion by a larger part of the society, which is probably dangerous and more often than not. This may lead them into informal activities with gangsters. These reasons, therefore motivated the researcher to investigate the causes of youth homelessness in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam.

2.0 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

   i.   What is the influence of youth homelessness in Ilala District?
   ii.   What is the best ways to overcome youth in Ilala District?

3.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

This used to discuss different related literature review as per research question of the cur-rent study.

3.1 The influence of youth homelessness in Ilala District

United States' Department of Health and Human Services (2017) found that causes of homelessness among youth fall into three inter-related categories: family problems, economic problems, and residential instability. Many homeless youths leave home after years of physical and sexual abuse, strained relationships, addiction of a family mem-ber, and parental neglect. Disruptive family conditions are the principal reason that young people leave home: in one study, more than half of the youth interviewed during shelter stays reported that their parents either told them to leave or knew they were leav-ing and did not care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (a), 2015). In an-other study, 46% of runaway and homeless youth had been physically abused and 17% were forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member.

Some youth may become homeless when their families suffer financial crises resulting from lack of affordable housing, limited employment opportunities, insufficient wages, no medical insurance, or inadequate welfare benefits. These youths become homeless with their families, but are later separated from them by shelter, transitional housing, or child welfare policies (Shinn and Weitzman, 2016). Residential instability also contrib-utes to homelessness among youth. A history of foster care correlates with becoming homeless at an earlier age and remaining homeless for a longer period of time (Roman and Wolfe, 2015). Some youth living in residential or institutional placements become homeless upon discharge they are too old for foster care but are discharged with no housing or income support (Robertson, 2016). One national study reported that more than one in five youth who arrived at shelters came directly from foster care, and that more than one in four had been in foster care in the previous year (National Association of Social Workers (NASW), 2014)

According to Jennifer (2019), lack of stability and support to young people who are ex-periencing homelessness often lack stable housing and support from family and friends. This lack of stability and support can lead to feelings of isolation, desperation, and hopelessness, which makes them more vulnerable to committing social crimes. Also, they added that the issue of exposure to drugs and violence is among the influence of home-less youth whereby drugs, violence, and criminal activities navigate in the streets in the process of trying to survive. This exposure can increase the likelihood of engaging in sim-ilar activities themselves. Sarah (2017) suggests that, economic hardship among home-less youths creates struggles for them to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing which eventually lead them to resort to social crimes, such as drug addiction, theft and prostitution to meet their needs.

Shapcott (2017) found that overwhelmingly, studies of homeless youth reveal that sig-nificant proportions have experienced violence in their families of origin. Physical and sexual violence have been described as significant contributors to homelessness, espe-cially for women and youth. In an Ottawa panel study on homelessness, 50% of home-less youth reported that the reason for their homelessness was family difficulties, includ-ing parental eviction, parental conflict, and parental abuse. When asked if they were physically abused by someone lose to them, 65% of the study's female participants said they were, as did 49% of males. In the same study, 42% of female youth reported hav-ing been sexually abused, 60% of female youth witnessed abuse in their family, and 50% of male youth witnessed abuse of family members (Aubry, et al., 2013)

Additional studies reveal similar patterns. The following childhood factors are commonly reported precursors to homelessness, particularly at a young age: High rates of physical and sexual abuse in childhood and Lack of parental care during childhood and, frequent foster care and other out-of-home placements, which often occur as a result of abuse and neglect (Novac et al., 2016).

Finally, intermediate factors that lead to homelessness may actually be caused by childhood abuse. Abused children typically display developmental delays, poor school adjustment, disruptive classroom behaviour, school-age pregnancy, truancy and running away, delinquency and prostitution, early use and adult use of illicit drugs and alcohol, and suicide attempts. These lead to impaired relationships skills, social isolation and low levels of social support, re-victimization, and self-medication which in turn are all asso-ciated with risks for homelessness (Novac et al., 2016).

Victimization also figures prominently in the lives of homeless women. One study esti-mates that roughly 20% of the adult homeless population are female (Tolomiczenko & Goering, 2021). When women report the process of becoming homeless, they usually de-scribe a combination of interconnecting events and factors, such as domestic violence, divorce, other family disruptions, poverty, and low income housing shortages.

Also, Français (2021) found that there are various myths and misconceptions around the issue of homelessness. Some believe that it is a choice; there is the idea that people expe-riencing homelessness can simply pick themselves up "by the bootstraps" if they wanted to and that they are unhoused simply because they are lazy. However, homelessness is not a choice, and there are many reasons why people experience homelessness, including the lack of structural supports for those experiencing poverty or job loss and inadequate discharge planning for those leaving hospitals, correctional facilities and mental health facilities.

Feantsa, (2020) found that Sex work can often intersect with the experience of home-lessness in particular for young women and LGBTIQ youth. Many young women who are homeless have previously experienced domestic abuse and in addition to seeking emergency shelter need supports to overcome trauma, typically mixed shelters are not an appropriate place for young homeless women to recover. At the same time emergency shelters are not adapted to the needs of LGBTIQ youth, who often experience homo-phobia and transphobia. The inadequacy of existing services results in young people turning to sex work, survival sex & trading sexual favours for shelter and material sup-port rather than engaging with existing services

Kopok (2015b) found that Poverty is a major cause of street children. Africa is today a continent characterized by extreme poverty. It is poverty that is resulting in children be-ing forced to work on the streets to support themselves and their families. It is poverty that is also causing many families to break up with parents being unable to support their children. It is rural poverty that is making rural populations including children to move to urban areas with the hope of a better future. Poverty causes malnutrition and poor health and reduces a family's ability to work thus creating conditions for children to move to the streets.

3.2 The best ways to overcome youth in Ilala District

The citizen magazine (2021) reported that Abeli who is the founder of Azaria Founda-tion suggest that the biggest help to give these homelessness children is seminars that will train them to stop living in gangs while helping them develop necessary skills. At Azaria Foundation, we give training much like VETA schools in order for them to become more skilled and aware," says Audax.

VETA and other institutions that focus on vocational training on individuals are primed to help these kids develop their technical skills and put them out as constructive citizens.

For a developing country like Tanzania, such pro-bono training may not be such a bad idea for the government to engage in if there is any hope to curb this problem.

Also, the urbanization rush was no doubt the biggest perpetrator for the rise in the num-ber of street children. Pair that with liberalization policies that promised better chances of economic relief, you find yourself with a large number of hopeful individuals turning to the streets in search of this relief.

The government needs to implement policies that protect children from abuse in the homes to prevent a wave of street children. We could use the example set by other na-tions and in partnership with the community set up hotlines to report incidents of abuse by parents and guardians and an equally responsive team that deals with these reports swiftly Elizabeth (2015).

Study conducted by Elizabeth (2015) suggest that in overcoming homelessness among young people in Nigeria the government has provided them with a safe and secure place to stay. This has been done through government-run homeless shelters or through part-nerships with non-profit organizations. Also, the government has introduced education and job training programs. Ellen (2016) said that by providing education and job training opportunities, young people can acquire the skills they need to support themselves and their families. This helps to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness that so many young people in Nigeria face.

Mbwambo (2011) suggest that Education is also seen as a means of helping children on the streets. Most of the street children are illiterate with no basic skills to help them get proper jobs. Education may help break the vicious circle of marginalization and help potential street children towards a better life. This is not proving to be the case for many African countries. With liberalization and reforms schools seems to belong to a different world, remote from the everyday existence of those most deprived. School then becomes for street children only another possibility of failure. The number of dropouts is inevita-bly very high, and very few African countries have been able to give further attention to those who have failed to clear the

first hurdle. Vocational training must be made acces-sible to street children as a means of getting them of the streets.

It is often pointed out that the content as well as the form of education is often ques-tionable and unsuited to the needs of the poorest. It is still based on Western middle-class values, promotes a model of consumer society, and reflect the idea that only white-collar jobs are entirely proper. For those weeded out of school, there is no future. When con-fronted with the years of wasted effort, frustrated youngsters tend to reject the entire system, and seek refuge among those already in the street. In Africa, where learning car-ries great prestige, drop-outs have been known to wash windscreens rather than face the shame of returning home to the village (Mbwambo2011).

So the issue is not only providing education and training, but also relevant education that will be able to help street children and other children as well meet their most basic needs. It must also be said that street children cannot be motivated to educate themselves while they remain hungry, homeless and in poor health. So education must be accompanied by adequate welfare for these children (Mbwambo2011).

The government has managed to reduce lack of access to health care among youths which is a problem major barrier to overcoming homelessness among young people, providing health care services, including mental health services, to homeless youth can help to address this issue and support them in their journey to stability (Robert, 2017). Providing support to families, including counselling and family mediation, can help to prevent homelessness and support young people as they work to overcome their chal-lenges.

For instance, homeless youths in Nigeria often face legal issues, including issues related to immigration, child custody, and abuse. Thus, the government has provided legal ser-vices to young people in order to ensure that they are able to access the support they need to overcome these challenges and build a better future for themselves.

In addressing homelessness among young people in Nigeria requires the support and en-gagement of communities. The government created several initiatives such as commu-nity outreach programs, volunteer programs, and public education campaigns. Sarah (2017) argue that has promoted working together with communities can help to provide support and resources to young people who are facing homelessness and build a better future for all.

The Citizen Newspaper (2021) reported that different foundations should help these groups of youth homelessness. For instance, Audax Abeli is the director of the Azaria Foundation which is a non-governmental organization that works to help vulnerable children identify and overcome the negative aspects of child abuse and get them off the streets. He has also lived the life of a street child, and his main reason for running from home to the streets was domestic violence, especially the beatings he was experiencing at home. He decided to open a centre that enables street children by providing education and moral support to overcome bad behaviour.

Street children face untold hardship and danger on the streets. They lack food, clean water and adequate health care. Living and working on the streets exacts a terrible toll on street children. They are often prey to every physical and moral danger and as they grow older they often become dangerous to others. After such precarious childhood, most of them are condemned to

spend their lives excluded from mainstream society. Dr Juma Maligi who is a sociologist, works with the community in solving community challenges specially to eliminate street children (The Citizen Newspaper, 2021).

'It is important to understand that social work practices through educating with the aim of improving living condition with cooperative parents and other stakeholders because the main reason for street children is poor living conditions,' said Dr Maligi. He explains that social problems including violence against women and children totally affect chil-dren. In making sure we fight in this issue, we are working with various stakeholders to educate the community, especially at the family level to raise education, self-awareness for children through institutions like schools, families, workplaces as well as at the general community (The Citizen Newspaper, 2021).

Moreover, the Citizen Newspaper reported that the biggest help to give these children are provision of seminars that will train them to stop living in gangs while helping them de-velop necessary skills. At Azaria Foundation, we give training much like VETA schools in order for them to become more skilled and aware. VETA and other institutions that fo-cus on vocational training on individuals are primed to help these kids develop their technical skills and put them out as constructive citizens. For a developing country like Tanzania, such pro-bono training will be very useful idea for the government to engage in if there is any hope to curb this problem (The Citizen Newspaper, 2021).

4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a systematic way to solve a problem through describing work, explaining and predicting a phenomenon (Zheng, 2015). This section describes the area of study, research approach, research design, research population, sample size and sam-pling procedures, research instruments as well as trustworthiness of data. Others are data analysis and ethical considerations of the study.

4.1 Research Approach

This study employed a qualitative research approach. The approach involves an in-depth understanding of human behaviour and the reasons governing their behaviour (Denzin & Lincoln, 2017). The qualitative approach helped the researcher to collect and analyse participants' views, feelings and recommendations under their natural setting (Mwita, 2021).

4.2 Research Design

In a sense, the research design is a blueprint of research dealing with at least four prob-lems: what questions to study, what data are relevant, what data to collect, and how to analyse the results (Kapinga, 2012). This study employed a case study design. According to Yin (2009) as quoted by Kapinga (2012) a case study is preferred in examining con-temporary events, but when the relevant behaviours cannot be manipulated. Kapinga (2012) quoted from Halinen and Törnroos (2004) who assert that case studies allow the study of contemporary phenomenon, which is difficult to separate from its context, but necessary to study within it to understand the dynamics involved in the setting. This ap-proach will be applied because the aim of the study

will to have an in-depth understand-ing of a phenomenon. According to Yin (1984), case studies can be exploratory (what?), descriptive or explanatory (how? why?). Stake (2000).

4.3 Population and Sampling

Creswell (2012) defines the term population as a group of people having common char-acteristics. The population of this study will be police stations, social workers, community members, and youth homelessness. Social workers and police officers and police stations were selected due to their positions of dealing with people's welfare, people's security and their property. While community members were selected because they are mostly af-fected by the situation of youth homelessness as they commit social crime. Homeless youths were selected due to the fact that they are first victim hence, they provided rele-vant information as a targeted group.

4.4 Data Collection Instrument

Interview and focus group discussions were used for data collection. The interview was face to face and was recorded by using a smartphone and notebook for keeping memory. In a focus group discussion, the researcher developed specific topics to be discussed; 4-6 participants were involved for discussion.

4.5 Data Analysis Plan

Data analysis is a process that implies editing, coding, classification and tabulation of collected data (Kothari, 2004). This study used only primary data to collect information from heads of schools and teachers, through focus group discussions and interviews. Data were analysed thematically and manually. A summary and direct quotation from the participants focusing on the objectives of the study.

4.6 Statistical Treatment of Data

Data analysis is a process that involves coding, editing, classification and tabulation of data (Kothari, 2004). In this study, the data were analysed thematically. Thematic anal-ysis is a method for analysing qualitative data that entails searching across a data set to identify, analyse, and report repeated patterns (Lusupi, 2020). Thematic used to analyse, classify and present themes that relate to the questions under the following steps:

Familiarization: This phase involved reading and rereading the data to become deep and familiar with its content. Coding: This phase involves generating and summarizing the main themes of the data that might be relevant to answering the research questions. Generating initial themes: This phase dealt with examining the codes and organizing data to identify significant broader pattern of meanings.

Another stage is; Reviewing: This phase involved checking the candidate's themes against the questions to ensure that they tell a convincing stories and one that answers the research questions. Defining and naming themes: This phase involved developing a detailed analysis of each theme, working out the scope and focus of each theme and determining the stories.

Reporting: This is the final phase which involved weaving to-gether the analytic narrative and data extracts. It contextualized the analysis based on existing literature.

5.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section present findings and discussed it in the light of literature. It was guided by specific research questions. Research Question 1: What is the influence of youth home-lessness in Ilala District?

The research question wanted to examine influence of youth homelessness in Ilala Dis-trict. The findings from the participants revealed that majority of youth homelessness caused by the economic difficulties (poverty), family conflicts, joblessness and health problem, discrimination and inequality based on cultural, informal justice and natural hazards as the primary cause for homelessness. This information explained as follows;

5.1 Economic difficulties (poverty)

On regards to the study findings, the results show that poverty is among the factor caus-ing youth homelessness in Ilala district. This was evidenced during the dialog with the participants. For example, one of the Youth Homelessness said;

> "Economic hardship is among the source for youth in Ilala district. Most of us we believe that we can solve the economic challenge by shifting from other region to Dar Es Salaam where we can make business. Unfortunately, we become street children with no perma-nent residence"

Also, one of the community member was of opinion that;

> "Many young people flee from the village or homeland to the city like Dar es salaam due to the difficult in the life. This reason makes them resort or becoming scavengers to get food and other necessity to sustain life"

On the other side, Police officer declared that:

> "The problem of homelessness is associated by the poorest situa-tion of the family hence parents/guidance fail to give their children the needs like food, clothes health care and education. These rea-sons lead youth people decide to fight for life hence, most of them come to Dar Es Salaam and go to other towns without permanent residence where they fall into homelessness".

Furthermore, another police officer from station C said that;

> Parents are the foundation of children's welfare and protection. According to our report from arrested youths who are homelessness in Ilala District, it shows that nowadays most of the families, en-counter the severe poverty which become a major cause of the youth homelessness. This makes the parents to send their children even students into the streets to beg, steal or engage in petty trade for money something forcing them into homelessness.

The above quotation imply poverty is among the causatives of youth homelessness in Ilala district. This situation forces many youths to live their housemother to the cities for the aim of sustaining their lives. Moreover, the findings indicate that poverty led parents to take their children even students as a source of income whereby they drop out from schools and turning into town streets where they end up into violence and crime involve-ment.

The current study is associated with the study by Shapcott (2017) who suggests that, economic hardship among homeless youths creates struggles for them to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing which eventually lead them to resort to social crimes, such as theft and prostitution to meet their needs.

5.1.2 Family conflicts as a source of homelessness

Also the researcher obtained that youth homelessness in Ilala district is caused by the parental conflicts. The findings revealed that many families are dominated by chaos and quarrels that lead to divorce and abandonment of children and homes. This was evi-denced during the interview and focus group discussion with the participants.

One of the community member had the opinion that;

> *The challenge of parental relationship results to children improper behaviour as well as child's mental skills. Scientists have proved that good relationship develop child emotionally and socially during growing process. So unresolved parents' quarrels that are happening regularly into the family leads children not able to trust people and communicate with them normally. Hence they develop the sense of fear and isolation which make them to live in the street where they join bad gangs who are engaged in criminal offenses.*

Also, one of Social Workers I focus group discussion, said;

> *"Family conflicts are the major challenge of the children home-lessness. Children with the challenge of parental conflicts failure to get a basic need like, shelter, food, and clothes. This may also increase the number of street children, early pregnancies, diseases and immoral behaviours in the society"*

Besides these views, during interview with the police officer from police station, she had the opinion that;

> *More importantly parent conflicts, reduce the sense of security to children's feelings when their parents disagree each other. Seeing parents upset and out of control can make kids feel unprotected and scared. Anxiety, mental health, and hopelessness can be found in children who lost feeling of security. This situation leads many youths flee from their homes and become street children where cen-tres of crimes are found.*

In the same context, one of the youth who is homeless said;

> *I came from Mara whereby my father divorced my mother. After that my father decided to marry once again. I escaped with my young brother who has 14 years old after too*

much torture from our step-mother. We stole some money from her for a bus fare and made our way here. We joined children of our age we found at Mnazimmoja and started to do whatever they wanted us to do. They told us that "it is going to be your effort to survive in the city" so we engaged ourselves in stealing whatever comes our way.

The above information imply that children are leaving their homes to escape domestic violence or because of the breaking up of family structures which lead these children to commit crime. In regard to the above quotation, the information given implied that fam-ily conflicts contribute the challenge not only to the family but also to the society. Some of the youth people become aggressive due to lack of care, abusive language from the parents, harshness and lack of self-controlled behaviour even to under age children. These contribute to children's depression or frustration as a result they leave their homes and become homelessness in the streets. Being homeless they cope with other street chil-dren's behaviour of committing social crimes.

Also, Feantsa, (2020) added that Young people experiencing homelessness can often have poor relationships with their family. Youth homelessness is often marked with either experiences, or witnessing, physical, sexual or emotional violence and/or experiencing or witnessing substance use in the family home. These are important factors to consider when examining the potential of re-connecting young people to their social networks.

5.1.3 Discrimination and inequality based on cultural beliefs as a source of youth homelessness

The researcher found out that another reason for these youngsters to be homelessness give for their state is domestic violence and Discrimination and inequality based on cul-tural. During the interview, one of the youth who is homeless was quoted when she said;

I decided to run away from home after being harassed too much by been forced to marry hence my parents strongly believe in tradition that girls should not go to school instead she should be married. This reason kicked me out to here for domestic work. But when I got here I got the challenge of sexual harassment that led me to find life in the street. Unfortunately, I found myself involved in stealing, robbery and smoking marijuana. (Interviewed YH).

In the discussion with social workers, one of them said that;

In our daily routine activities, the reported cases reveal that most of the social crimes are committed by street children. These street children always live in unknown places. This is a contributing fac-tor` for homelessness youths to be humiliated and discriminated by the parents/guidance.

Moreover, one of the homeless youths in focus group discussion had this to say:

I found myself on the streets at the age of 12 due to the abuse I re-ceived from my parents and I decided to go in search of a better life. I am now 17-years-old and still on the streets. It got to the point where I was denied food and almost got burnt to death so I thought that the streets were a better option than the home where I was suffering torture. I am now selling marijuana I get from a per-son who hosted me.

Also, a small boy from Songea region said;

> *I came from Songea, where we escaped after increasing abuse from our step-mother. I am 11 years old. My brother is aged 9. We regret why we were born under the sun of extremely discrimination and abusive language as well as living without food and clothes. Me and my young brother, stole some money from her for bus fare and made our way here to find a better life. Sadly, we receive zero ex-pectation hence now, we are in the hands of police at Buguruni po-lice station because we committed social crime by stealing a do-mestic property- a Television set.*

In consideration of the above quotation, it implies that one among the factors leading youth homelessness in Ilala District is lack of parental care and guidance of behaviour change as well as cultural beliefs. It is true that a human needs self-esteem, security, so-cial interaction and self-actualization are part of basic needs. When the child is denied this need it makes him/ her to feel isolated, insecurity and creating anxiety as well as fear. These situation force youths/ children escape their homes as an alternative to avoid do-mestic violence and cultural beliefs.

This study correlate with the study by Daniel (2017) who said that homelessness among youths in sub-Saharan Africa has been caused by discrimination and prejudice, including discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other factors such as lack of access to education and training and unstable place to live. Daniel emphasizes young people to struggle to attend school or access training programs to improve their lives and break the cycle of homelessness.

5.1.4 Joblessness

The findings of the currents study found out that youth homelessness resulted from job-lessness and natural hazards. During the interview one of street man shared an opinion that;

> *Unemployment is among the sources of homelessness committing in social crime. Youth people from other regions think that Dar es sa-laam especially in Ilala is simple to fight for life. Thus many youths live their homeland and come to the city hence life becomes tough-er as a result of being homelessness with no job or official activi-ties.*

In another opinion of a homeless youth, he said while he was crying:

> *I am crying due to the lack of employment in my country Tanzania. I completed my degree four years ago. I am living with a friend who was my college mate and now sharing a room with him in Ilala. He pays everything for me as a dependant. I cannot go back home to be a dependant to my parents. It is a big shame and guilt of being in debt for the money spent for my studies. Speaking of self-employment does not help because I cannot afford to run any enterprise without capital or money. I am looking for a prison be-cause I do not have a job to earn me an income, I suffer because the day begins, I don't know how I will eat, where I will sleep, and I don't know my future. Everything I try is a failure. I decided to commit robbery to feed my stomach but at end I ended up arrested as a robber. I was jailed for one year. For sure the world has no mercy.*

To clarify the above quotation, the information given implied that unemployment is the factor among others that is pushing youths who are college graduates to leave into town like Ilala in Dar es salaam from their homeland to fight for life. Unfortunately, they are able to work but they find no jobs or they cannot afford self-employment for the reason that they have no funds or capital facilities. In this case, these friends are sharing a room. Therefore, they are experiencing homelessness, they cannot afford to pay rent or the basic needs, they move from homes with hope that they will be comfortable but end up to be dependants to their hosts eventually some of them end up as criminal offenders or prisoners.

The findings of the current study are closely related to those of Rachel et al, (2015) who argue that, many young people find themselves unable to secure stable employment, leading to poverty and eventually homelessness. Rachel et al, (2015) suggested that un-employment, lack of affordable Housing to be the leading cause of youth homeless in Nigeria. Accordingly, this situation makes youth people fighting out of motherland which they think that it is affordable to find stable living arrangements.

5.2 The best ways to overcome youth in Ilala District

In this objective, the researcher wanted to know different ways to overcome youth homelessness in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam. The aim of the researcher in this objective was to tell the community the appropriate strategies to diminish or reduce the problem. The findings of this study found that the Tanzanian government and different NGOs should open centres that enable homelessness people by providing them with safe and secure places to stay, providing they appropriate education and moral support to over-come the challenges they come across. Also enacting strict laws to combat against street wanderers. These were explained bellow as follows:

5.2.1 Provide them a safe and secure place to stay

While having interview with the police officers at policy station, one of the police officer said;

> *Homelessness youths are often victimized to every physical and moral danger/crime and as they grow older they often become a thorn to others even to the next generation by inheriting evils left behind. After such precarious childhood, most of them are con-demned to spend their lives without care, and supportive environ-ment. Thus the government and other organizations should give them a safe and secure places which will settle their problems.*

In a session with youths who suffers from homelessness through focus group discussion, one of the victims pointed out that;

> *We are accused by the community that we are thieves, rapists and murderers. But it should be noted that not all homelessness youths are involved in social crime. Some of us are homelessness because we are running away from unsafe as well as insecure environment. We are running from the motherland to the city to find jobs/money for food. I ask our lovely government to help us by setting friendly and safe environment for instant health matters and other basics to reduce the problem of homelessness and temptations to crime*

In reference to the above quotation, it revealed that providing homeless youths, a safe and secure places to stay will in turn diminish youths' homelessness problem. This will create self-independent, good health services to the homelessness as well as good rela-tionship among the society. Also, it will help homelessness earning legitimate income.

The findings relate with the study by Elizabeth (2015) who suggest that in overcoming homelessness among young people in Nigeria the government has provided them with a safe and secure places to stay. This has been done through government-run homeless shelters or through partnerships with non-profit organizations. This helps to break the cy-cle of poverty and homelessness that so many young people in Nigeria faced.

4.5.2 Providing education

In solving social crime which caused by youth homelessness, the researcher found that provision appropriate or suitable education may be among the best strategy of eliminat-ing youth homelessness in Ilala district. This was evidenced in the interview and focus group discussion with the research participants.

In the interview with police officers from station A, one of police officer said;

> In making sure we fight in this issue, we are working with various stakeholders to educate the community, especially at the family level to raise education, self-awareness for children through insti-tutions like schools, families, workplaces as well as at the general community. This will help to change our children's behaviour

Also social worker in focus group discussion said; "

> The biggest help to give these children is seminars that will train them to stop living in gangs while helping them develop necessary skills. The government should set the appropriate training through VETA schools in order for them to become more skilled and aware."

In the same context, one of the community member was the opinion that;

> I was the victims of homelessness youth. Thanks to God who brought me a sponsor. The sponsor from NGOs took us as a group and sent us to different training. For me, I learning electro motor mechanics hence nowadays I earn the real income. So, the govern-ment and other Non-Governmental Organizations should focus on vocational training as primed to help these kids develop their technical skills and put them out as constructive citizens

The comments from the participants of this study imply that education and trainings is a cornerstone of diminishing the challenge of youth homelessness in Dar es Saalam, Ilala district particularly. It is noted that, for a developing country like Tanzania, such pro-bono training may not be such a bad idea for the government to engage in if there is any hope to reduce this problem.

The same to The Citizen News (2021) as they quoted Abeli who is the founder of Azaria Foundation as he suggests that the biggest help to give these homelessness children is seminars that will train them to stop living in gangs while helping them develop necessary skills. At Azaria Foundation, we give training much like VETA schools in order for them to become more skilled and aware.

4.5.3 Moral support to overcome the challenge

Moreover, during data collection, the researcher found that provision of moral support to the youth homelessness will help to overcome the challenges. During the negotiation with social workers, one of them quoted when he was the opinion that;

> *Providing support to families, youth homeless as well as the com-munity at all including counselling and family negotiation, can help to prevent homelessness and support young people as they work to overcome their challenges. Many of them escape from their home land because of too much harshness of the parent, pa-rental conflict and so many factors. Thus advice and counselling may reshape them.*

In addition, police officer from station D was an outlook that;

> *Homeless youth in Ilala often face legal issues, including issues re-lated to immigration, poor child care, and abuse. Thus, the gov-ernment and NGOs has provided legal services to young people in order to ensure that they are able to access the support they need to overcome these challenges and build a better future for themselves*

On regards to the information above, it indicates that moral support play a role of changing people's lifestyle. The government needs to implement psychotherapy such as advice, counselling and friendly negotiation that led children come together as a family. Also the family member should not use too much abusive words instead they should care, show love and develop friendship with their children at the homes. This will prevent a wave of homelessness.

The findings of the current study relate with the study of Shapcott (2017) who argue that working together, with communities as well as good guidance can help to provide support and resources to young people who are facing homelessness and build a better future for all.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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